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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, September 14, 2006

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9 Time:

10 6:30 p.m.

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13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RMR

24 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MS. JUDY GATELLI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MS. JANET EVANS

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9 MS. SHERRY NEALON FANUCCI

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11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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13 MR. AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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15 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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17 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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1 MS. GATELLI: Before we begin the

2 regular meeting, we are going to conclude our caucus

3 that started at 5:30 with the mayor and business

4 administrator and PEL and the bond people and the bank

5 for the \$44 million loan.

6 (RECESS WAS TAKEN TO CONCLUDED CAUCUS.)

7 MS. GATELLI: Roll call, Neil.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

9 MS. EVANS: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Here.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

17 MS. GATELLI: Here. Mrs. Garvey.

18 MS. GARVEY: Third order. 3-A, AGENDA

19 FOR THE VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD

20 ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2006.

21 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

22 If not, received and filed.

23 MS. GARVEY: Okay. The only thing I

24 have in Clerk's Notes is our office received a call

25 today from Mr. Brazil from the Department of Parks of

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1 Recreation in response to Mrs. Evans' request of last

2 week to have the pedestrian walking lines at Nay Aug

3 Park in the area of the coal mine and parking lots

4 painted. Mr. Brazil said this will be taken care of

5 next week.

6 MS. EVANS: Oh, thank you. And,

7 please, if you can, send a thank you letter to

8 Mr. Brazil.

9 MS. GARVEY: Okay. I will.

10 MS. GARVEY: That's all I have. Fourth

11 order, citizens participation.

12 MS. GATELLI: Okay. I'm just going to

13 be really brief tonight, because the meeting lasted so

14 long.

15 I just want to let you know that the

16 trees have been cut down in Connell Park to make way

17 for the playground. It's going to be a community

18 playground put together by the neighbors in October,

19 and they will be starting the dog park in the spring.

20 Also, Lavish, a store that we've

21 granted a loan recently, has reopened on the corner of

22 Linden and Adams, and from what I hear, it's very

23 lovely, so we should all stop in and take a peek.

24 And the last thing I have is in order

25 for the grants to be applied for for the skate park, we

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5

1 need some skateboarders involved in the grant. So, if

2 the students, the Junior Council and Mr. McTiernan

3 maybe can make an announcement at Scranton High, and

4 I'll have Mr. Rogan make it at West, we need some

5 skateboarders involved in the design of the skate park.

6 It is a requirement for the grants. People that

7 skateboard have to be involved.

8 So, please solicit some help from the

9 skateboarders so we can get the applications going. I

10 know one is due at the end of the month. And that's

11 all I have. Andy Sbaraglia.

12 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, could I just

13 make a quick announcement before I forget?

14 MS. GATELLI: Sure.

15 MS. EVANS: It concerns leaf collection

16 this fall, because a number of residents had been

17 concerned as to the proper procedure for pickup, and

18 according to the DPW, citizens now have the choice of

19 either sweeping your leafs out into the street curbside

20 for the leaf vacuum to come and clear, or you may bag

21 your leafs.

22 Now, that doesn't mean that on your

23 trash pickup day those bags will be picked up. That

24 will be a truck that's different from our weekly

25 collection schedule. But they have indicated that they

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1 will pick up the garbage bags of leafs.

2 Now, my only concern is this, since

3 Mr. Seitzinger is taking a very proactive approach to

4 blight throughout the city, that as he and his

5 co-workers are traveling the areas of the city, they

6 would spot these bags of leafs believing them to be

7 garbage bags that are out in front of a home prior to

8 the 24-hour period permitted by ordinance.

9 So, I would ask that Mr. Seitzinger be

10 cognizant of the DPW policy this fall and not sight

11 residents unnecessarily.

12 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Maybe we can ask

13 Mr. Parker for a schedule.

14 MS. EVANS: I think Kay actually, if

15 you would like to elaborate on that, Kay did discuss a

16 schedule.

17 MS. GARVEY: I did talk to Kathy at DPW

18 who got her information from George, and evidently they

19 said the scheduling would be very difficult to

20 implement because it wasn't working out so well last

21 year, and in an instance, say, if they said a certain

22 week in October was going to be, say, North Scranton,

23 well then by the end of November, all the leafs have

24 collected again, because only Mother Nature knows when

25 they're going to come down she said.

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1 So she said, then we have to reissue

2 them back to another area. So she said that scheduling

3 is going to be difficult to do, but they will try to

4 inform the people some way, they haven't figured that

5 out yet, how they will inform the people when those
6 pickups will take place.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Kay.

8 MS. GARVEY: You're welcome.

9 MS. GATELLI: Andy Sbaraglia.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen

11 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I might as well

12 start off with the leafs, since you mentioned it. As

13 you know, they were piling them on the curb.

14 Unfortunately the wind blows and it moves the leafs

15 across the street everywhere. I have no leafs, I have

16 no trees, but every year I have to bag hundreds and

17 hundreds of leafs because the wind carries them.

18 I'd rather them see them bag them than

19 drop them on the streets. And even if they have to get

20 them special bags that biodegradable so they can just

21 toss them whenever they toss them and the bags and, of

22 course and the leafs biodegrade.

23 Now, I shouldn't actually tell anyone

24 that we found out we were bankrupt. Now, we knew this

25 years and years ago. People have been coming here year

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8

1 after year telling you you can't do what was being done

2 without going into debt.

3 You seen him spent millions of dollars

4 on the Hilton, you seen him take and have a --

5 Hailstone pay off the Hilton's debt and never tell you

6 anything about it, and yet have you take out the light

7 fixtures and the bedding at the Hilton and cost us to

8 lose \$5 million. This has been done since you've been

9 mayor.

10 You're all Democrats, the mayor is a

11 Democrat. What does that say to the people in

12 Scranton, that the Democrats cannot run a city? I'm a

13 Democrat. I've been voting Democrat all my life, I'm

14 not political, but that's what it looks like.

15 You have increased debt constantly. We

16 got money in the bank in Dunmore. I've been telling

17 you this over and over and over again. The money from

18 our golf course is up there. What are we getting, one

19 and a half or two percent interest on it?

20 Have you ever said to that Kresefski,

21 draw out that money and invest it somewhere where you

22 get a greater return on it?

23 MS. EVANS: Yes, I have actually, but

24 Mr. Kresefski works for the mayor, so he cannot take my

25 orders or suggestions, unless they're approved by the

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1 mayor first.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: So, we have to say it's

3 politics involved, and that's what's the city.

4 Politics is destroying Scranton. You got money that

5 was borrowed to pay off, I think, an A & C loan.

6 I mentioned that before and I gave you

7 all a copy of it. I said why can't this business

8 administrator take that money that's sitting in that

9 bank and see if we can buy back some of the bonds which

10 would save us millions and millions of dollars?

11 He said it couldn't be done, but it can

12 be done in the open market. I checked with the

13 brokers. It's even in the legislation. These bonds

14 could be bought on the open market. You borrow them to

15 sell them. That would save millions of dollars.

16 But still we're heading down a path of

17 destruction. He has no regard for the citizens. You

18 talk about per capita, that doesn't mean a darn thing.

19 It means people that own houses in Scranton and usually

20 they work in Scranton, but them two should be the only

21 thing you should look at, because they're the people

22 that have to pay it.

23 A child doesn't have to pay, people in
24 the high rise don't have to pay. I only pay real
25 estate. I pay no tax because I don't work. So, I only

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1 pay a real estate tax.

2 And these things have to be looked at.

3 All we had to do is take and take that money that comes
4 in that way and then divided it, instead of doing what
5 they did.

6 They showed you a big pie up on there

7 saying Scranton only has 17 percent. Well, I got news

8 for you. If the school board come and raise their

9 taxes, we would only have 16 there, even though the

10 money that we're getting is the same. It's just that

11 everyone else has raised their taxes. That's what

12 makes that \$0.17 look small, because everyone else has

13 raised the taxes.

14 The county, like, 45, and I think 15 or

15 20 for the school board, plus they're going to do it

16 again because they borrowed \$60 million from the same

17 PNC Bank.

18 But this is what's going on in the

19 city. I can stand here hours and go through all the

20 legislation. Even the street lighting. We borrowed
21 money for the street lighting, but nobody has been able
22 to come and say we saved a penny on that deal.
23 We own streetlights, but are we saving
24 money? And nobody knows or nobody cares to know, which
25 is a bad situation.

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1 But these are some of the things that
2 the reason why we're in debt. And every loan you
3 subordinate puts us closer to being deeper in debt.
4 Bye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

6 Mr. Jackowitz.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South

8 Scranton resident and taxpayer. It's nice to see that
9 Mayor Doherty is alive and well, and it's also nice to
10 see that he is a businessman. The only problem is is
11 his business is located in Maryland, so that means he
12 pays his taxes to the State of Maryland and to the city
13 in which his business is located at.

14 Observations and opinions: Washington

15 Plaza will be demolished and the property sold to
16 Lackawanna County. My hope is that the city receives a

17 fair price for the property. Do not be surprised or
18 stunned, Council, when this legislation comes before
19 you. They need dormitories.
20 Scranton Times and Tribune management,
21 in the last 24 months the newspaper has lost nine
22 percent of their paid circulation of newspapers. 5,051
23 paying customers lost. Possibly The Times-Tribune can
24 write an editorial about Mayor Doherty refusing to
25 appear and speak with the residents of Scranton,

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1 Pennsylvania. He did tonight, though.
2 Possibly a cartoon with the mayor and
3 Chamber of Commerce hiding in the vacant Southern Union
4 Building. That just might increase sales for one day.
5 These figures are accurate as of 5 August '06,
6 accurate.
7 The United States Department of Labor,
8 nine percent of Lackawanna and Luzerne County residents
9 earn minimum wage. The highest percent of minimum wage
10 earners in the State of Pennsylvania Department of
11 Labor, 23 percent poverty level in Scranton. Not
12 because of age or population, seniors are passing away.
13 3,100 jobs lost in one month,

14 July 2006, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Declining
15 population which equates to decline in taxpayers equals
16 less taxpayers, equals less tax money. Solution?
17 Raise the taxes. Wrong.
18 Increasing immigrant population,
19 residents means lower wages again, less taxes because
20 of lower wages.
21 A trip down memory lane starting in
22 1930. Remember The Great Depression? 1930, national
23 unemployment rate, 25.1 percent. Northeastern
24 Pennsylvania unemployment rate, 46.5 percent; 1960,
25 national unemployment rate, 5.1 percent, Northeastern
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1 Pennsylvania unemployment rate, ten percent; 1980,
2 national unemployment rate, 4.4 percent, Northeastern
3 Pennsylvania unemployment rate, 8.5 percent; 2000,
4 national unemployment rate, 4.8 percent, Northeastern
5 Pennsylvania unemployment rate, 5.3 percent.
6 Improvement has been made in 2000. Why? Smaller
7 population, fewer people unemployed.
8 Currently the
9 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton unemployment rate is
10 5.3 percent, the third highest unemployment rate in the

11 state. 4.8 percent is the state unemployment average.
12 Scranton residents, elected officials,
13 Scranton Chambers of Commerce, are you aware of the
14 fact that Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area is last in average
15 weekly earnings and also average hourly earnings?
16 For example, Allentown residents,
17 workers earn an average of \$15.08 an hour.
18 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre workers earn \$13.57 an hour. I
19 use Allentown only because Councilperson Fanucci uses
20 Allentown as her example.
21 Hourly wages, \$1.51 an hour less. Wage
22 taxes in Scranton higher. 2006 actual figures used,
23 Department of Labor, provided information along with
24 The Union News.
25 Where was The Scranton Times-Tribune?
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1 By the way, Mr. Lynett is board member of the Scranton
2 Chamber of Commerce.
3 Continuing on my trip down memory lane,
4 1960, average family income Northeastern Pennsylvania
5 was 16.7. That's lower than the national average.
6 Individual per capita income was 19.3 lower than the
7 national average.

8 2000, the average family income in
9 Northeastern Pennsylvania was 15.6 percent lower than
10 the national average. Individual per capita income was
11 17.1 percent lower than the national income. Forty
12 years, two percent improvement, disgraceful.
13 Summary, low wages equals crime,
14 blight, population decrease and family separations and
15 distressed city status.
16 Solution, it is the economy, stupid.
17 All figure recurs are factual and can be verified with
18 the Department of Labor.
19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Jackowitz.
20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Legion of Doom, fair,
21 honest, and open government. Thank you.
22 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Reverend
23 Simmons.
24 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening, Council
25 members and Youth Council. Peace onto each of you this
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15
1 evening.
2 My intent was not to come this week,
3 but I received 63 phone calls this week, and so in
4 trying to decide what the right thing was to do, I

5 thought, no, Reverend, when something is wrong, you
6 must go and correct it.

7 Last week I came and I guess I said
8 something that was disturbing to some people that were
9 here, and in doing so, I caused some problems, problems
10 that should have never surfaced, because God should
11 never cause a disturbance anywhere.

12 I'm a minister. It's not a choice of a
13 job, it's what I am, it's what I chose to be. I live
14 that in my life.

15 So, when I stand somewhere and I say
16 thank God for being alive, I'm telling you that that's
17 my life line.

18 I don't know what went on last week,
19 maybe everybody was up in arms and a little out of
20 sorts, but I'm going to tell you that I'm not ashamed
21 to use God's name wherever I go, and I will use him.

22 And this house might be one where it is
23 needed, for there is such hatred when you come in here,
24 such disparity. Sometimes I sit back there and I hear
25 people just confront, I know, they confront other

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1 people and sometimes they don't even know what they're

2 confronting someone about, they just lash out.

3 That's not the way we live a life, and

4 we certainly shouldn't be showing these young people

5 that that's how we live, and certainly that's not how

6 these positions are held.

7 We should want these young people to

8 want a seat in these positions when they grow up and

9 get older in life. I hope and I pray that all of you

10 represent all of us in the city.

11 And when I say all of us, I mean the

12 ministers, the rabbis, the priests. I sat with the

13 ministerium yesterday and they were upset that I was

14 told not to use God's name in these walls.

15 Yes, I know, it was quite quick. But

16 I'm going to use it, and if that's upsetting to

17 someone, well, what can I tell you? The separation of

18 church and state doesn't work for me. I don't have any

19 separation of church and state, for in my house church

20 and state are one. Thank you.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Reverend

22 Simmons. Attorney Minora, would you please look into

23 that for us so that we can see if Reverend Simmons, you

24 know, can do that?

25 MR. MINORA: The separation of church

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1 and state goes back to --

2 MS. GATELLI: I don't want to stop her.

3 I mean, I am a Catholic, you know, and --

4 MS. SIMMONS: God will forgive you.

5 MS. GATELLI: I don't think that's

6 funny. But I get calls, too, and I get calls from

7 people saying that you shouldn't talk about God or

8 religion at these meetings. They're insulted by it.

9 So, I'm confused as to what is allowed here and what

10 isn't.

11 MR. MINORA: The separation of church

12 and state goes back to the establishment of this

13 country. It was always a part of our Constitution and

14 it was meant to separate religion from government so

15 that government would not be in a position of being

16 accused even of establishing a religion.

17 It is a country of many, many different

18 religions, different sects of Christianity, Islam, e

19 Muslim, Jewish, probably a half a dozen I can't even

20 think of, and none of them are supposed to be

21 established by government.

22 This republic can was established so

23 that people could exercise their religion in freedom,
24 not in the courthouse, not in City Hall, in their
25 churches without interference by government with some
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1 other established religion, which has happened in

2 Europe. That's the history of it.

3 I mean, if you want two hours worth of

4 history, I can give it to you, but that's basically the

5 reason there's a separation of church and state.

6 MS. GATELLI: Can you possibly prepare

7 something for Council as to what would be acceptable?

8 I mean, I don't say a prayer when I start the meeting.

9 I have a moment of reflection, only because I was told

10 that the prayer should not be part of the meeting.

11 I, myself personally, have no problem

12 with prayer. You know, that's how I was brought up,

13 but I was told that it doesn't belong in the Council

14 meeting. It wasn't anything personal, Reverend

15 Simmons.

16 MS. SIMMONS: If I could just

17 interject. Congress and Senate are always started with

18 prayer. When you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you say

19 One Nation Under God.

20 MS. GATELLI: Yes, but we don't read

21 psalms at the --

22 MS. SIMMONS: But I'm not asking you --

23 I wasn't asking you last week -- I wasn't trying to

24 pull anybody into the AME Church. What I was telling

25 you was that a gentleman called my home, threatened

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19

1 myself and my family, and I was telling him that the

2 reason that I came here last week was because I wasn't

3 afraid to come here, because I knew that my God was

4 watching over me. I wasn't telling anybody, Come on

5 down to Bethel AME Church and take up membership.

6 MS. GATELLI: Well, I know that my God

7 watches over me, too, but I don't inflict that on

8 others, because it's not -- it might not be the same

9 God they adore.

10 MS. SIMMONS: Well, that's all right,

11 but I'm just telling you about me.

12 MS. GATELLI: All right. Well,

13 Attorney Minora, would you investigate that, because I

14 certainly don't want to stifle anyone from talking

15 about God or what they believe in.

16 MR. MINORA: I will.

17 MS. SIMMONS: Well, I think you are
18 going to have to stop any clergy person then from
19 coming, and I don't think you can do that. I think
20 that's against the law, but you do whatever you think
21 you have to do.

22 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

23 MR. MORGAN: Well, the first thing I
24 have here is that I have to say that I agree with
25 Reverend Simms, that freedom of speech shouldn't be
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1 restrained at any time, and I believe that she has a
2 right to recite her beliefs here in public, and I think
3 that The Constitution was written for a lot of
4 different reasons, and I happen to have a copy of it
5 with me right here.

6 MS. GATELLI: Maybe you'll want to give
7 it to Attorney Minora so he can study it.

8 MR. MINORA: I have a copy. I suggest
9 you read the federal list papers.

10 MR. MORGAN: I just think this, though,
11 that everybody is worrying about offending somebody,
12 and that's what's so great about America, freedom of
13 speech gives you that right, that you should never have

14 your speech controlled by other people's thoughts. And
15 I think that we're starting to go off on the wrong road
16 here.

17 But I'd like to go back to this, if I
18 could. I think the greatest thing that could happen to
19 this city, and I really think that, Mrs. Gatelli,
20 you're the real vote here, because Mrs. Evans, I think
21 she's on the right page, I think Mr. Courtright is on
22 the right page. They voted no so far for this -- for
23 borrowing this money, at least that's my belief.

24 And there has been some question as to
25 what way you're going. Now, I'm not trying to say that
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1 I know how Mrs. Fanucci is going to vote or how Mr.
2 McTiernan is going to vote, but you have some questions
3 that's been brought up in public that you may not
4 agree, and I just think that we have to finally realize
5 that this city is bankrupt, and some people on Council
6 brought this up about the amount of homes for sale, the
7 amount of money they're selling for.
8 You know the mayor can cite transfer
9 tax revenues, but is that because large buildings have
10 changed hands because they've been granted certain

11 statuses and forgiveness?

12 Because to be honest with you, the glut

13 of buildings for sale in this city is atrocious, the

14 amount of empty buildings in this city is atrocious.

15 I asked you when you first sat what was

16 the cause of blight, and in my opinion the cause of

17 blight is overtaxation, businesses flight from the

18 city.

19 The PEL brought up a couple issues

20 about wage tax, and, you know what, I think we really

21 need to take a look at the wage tax. I think the City

22 of Scranton's wage tax is much too high, 2.4 percent.

23 I think that we should never look to

24 the school district in deciding how to run the city. I

25 think the school district is a flawed plan, because I

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22

1 think they're also in heavy debt.

2 I'm hoping that you, yourself, will

3 vote no. All the bonds or most of the bonds that this

4 city has are all insured. We've paid insurance

5 companies to guarantee these bonds.

6 Our salvation is not in our ability to

7 borrow money, it's in our ability to alter the budget,

8 and that's the thing that should be done. Cuts have to
9 be made to the budget.

10 The city's employees have to realize
11 one thing, also, that this city can't do without any
12 more employees. We can't cut firemen. That's my
13 opinion. I think we don't have enough firemen. I
14 think East Mountain only has two people up there.
15 I believe we can't cut any more
16 policemen. The DPW is cut to the bone, the clerical
17 staff. I think that now we have an assistant public
18 safety director in the city. I think the mayor has
19 padded the payroll to the point where recovery is
20 impossible.

21 I also think, like I said last week,
22 and I think the phone number for Council is 348-4113.
23 I think that people have to get up off their sofas and
24 come to the telephone and start calling this Council
25 and trying to reach out to this Council, because you

23

1 are the eyes and the ears of this city.
2 And the mayor, I find that the mayor,
3 like I said last week, is a reincarnation of Huey Long,
4 and the carpet baggers were here with him.

5 The bankers are making a lot of money
6 here. They're going to present everything is good for
7 the city. But the truth of the matter is, we've tried
8 borrowing into success, it hasn't worked. We can't
9 borrow into the future. We've got to pass something on
10 to people. And we're not leaving them anything but
11 debt.

12 And the people that have to eat this
13 debt are people my age, your age, the adults here. A
14 lot of people in this city have sat down on their sofas
15 and watched TV and figured somebody else is going to
16 solve the problem, and they're not. They've got to get
17 involved.

18 And I'm hoping, Mrs. Gatelli, that you
19 will vote no and let's bring the mayor and the staff up
20 and five Councilpeople sit down and let's find a path
21 to progress, because borrowing money is just a
22 deception to destruction. Thank you.

23 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan, you reminded me
25 of a question that I neglected to ask tonight. I

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1 wanted to know from PEL if they knew of any other city

2 in Pennsylvania that's borrowed its way out of debt. I

3 think we will be hard pressed to find one, and I don't

4 believe we're going to be the first.

5 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Bolus.

6 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

7 Bob Bolus, Scranton. You know, from what everything I

8 listened to tonight from all the gentlemen that were

9 here, you know, I think I have only really one good

10 comment for this, it's that I fear we are a floundering

11 ship headed for fiscal disaster. That's where we're

12 going. There's no turning around. The rocks are right

13 there, and we're going to them.

14 The only ones making money in approving

15 the debt were all the bankers here tonight. We have a

16 25 percent tax increase. There's no account for

17 interest rates, on energy prices, higher costs of

18 living, the taxes by the county. None of that is taken

19 into consideration here. We have a ProForma, which is

20 the best guess you can give it. It's not the way to do

21 business.

22 We need to generate tax revenue from

23 assets, not create debt. That's what they're doing,

24 creating more debt.

25 Doherty was the finance chairman during

1 the last administration when he questioned it. He sat
2 here, yet he was part of the problem and now he's the
3 leader of it.

4 Unions have not received a dime. How
5 are they responsible for the debt that Doherty claims?

6 Reduced labor, but increase in other areas. Like
7 legal. Just look at the fees paid to Carl Greco and
8 other lawyers and other outside fees here.

9 So let's give him \$40 some million and
10 let's see how many new cars they buy and where they
11 vacation and the new homes they buy. We can't compare
12 a city to a business. A business cannot tax. And they
13 have to be resourceful, or they go out of business.

14 If you took this business plan here and
15 gave it to one of those bankers tonight, you would have
16 come in that door and they would have shipped you out
17 the other door, because you have no way to pay it back.

18 Future mayors will be hard pressed to
19 clear the fiscal mess created by Doherty. There's no
20 way to get off it. What are steps? He talked about
21 steps to reduce debt and increase the tax base. Talk
22 is cheap. We haven't seen that.

23 Everyone that was here tonight are like
24 sharks in the water. They're just waiting to feed on
25 the people of this city, because Doherty opened the
26

1 floodgates through the fiscal mismanagement and made us
2 the bait.

3 Mr. Miller, the plan is a joke. PEL
4 has been asleep at the switch, and they've been asleep
5 for a long time.

6 The train has jumped off the tracks,
7 they just haven't realized it because they're receiving
8 a heck of a lot of money to stay asleep.

9 Under the Doherty Administration, let's
10 eliminate the police department. We don't need them
11 anymore, because we can't pay them. Let's get rid of
12 the fire department, we can't pay them. They haven't
13 been getting raises, they're surviving.

14 DPW, well, we'll pick up our own
15 garbage. Let's get rid of the clerical, because we
16 don't need them to keep track of what goes on here, and
17 then we can balance the budget, because we have nobody
18 left in the city.

19 Mayor Connors was here six years ago,

20 and since then we have bought literally a one-way
21 ticket from the Doherty Administration on the Titanic.
22 He can say what he wants, he can blame Mr. Connors all
23 he wants, but the last buck stops here and Doherty is
24 standing on it. Don't blame what happened six years
25 ago when you have created this debt continuously.

27

1 Growth in Allentown? Yeah, because
2 they're a business down there. That area runs.
3 There's business growth down there, there's jobs coming
4 in there. What do we got around here? KOZs,
5 non-profits, empty building, like on Lackawanna Avenue
6 and he wants to demolish and take out taxpaying
7 businesses.

8 Some of the hotels may be KOZs and they
9 may be exempt from taxes. Nobody ever thought of that,
10 but that's something we have to look into.

11 The garbage fee is a taxation, as far
12 as I'm concerned, without representation. Taxes we pay
13 are to have our garbage picked up, not have a fee
14 created to pick up garbage and let the landfill get
15 away with what they're doing.

16 Health care, maybe we should try and

17 partner with the state on it. Let's look at other
18 areas, instead of doing it ourselves.
19 Cross train our police and fire
20 department. Some towns do that, some cities do that.
21 Now we have a cop who's a fireman or a fireman that
22 could be a police officer.

23 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Bolus, please wrap up
24 your thoughts.

25 MR. BOLUS: Pardon? I am. One quick
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1 question I have, we have a police officer here tonight,
2 and it's nice to see that, but I think we would be
3 better off if the police officer was on the street
4 instead of guarding us here tonight.
5 And the last thing, you know, I'd
6 really like him to do is, Mr. Doherty said tonight he
7 wants, he wants, he wants, it's his way, he wants it,
8 well, maybe on the Griswald Family Vacation he learned
9 how to open ballparks, but he should have showed
10 everybody how he's closing them and destroying the
11 income of this city and destroying the pride we have in
12 ourselves here, because he wants and doesn't care where
13 he gets it from, as long as he gets it.

14 And I'm asking this Council to table
15 anything regard this budget, know where you're going,
16 and it's not \$20 million, \$10 million or \$5 million,
17 it's zero, and let him tighten the belt that needs to
18 be tightened and then let him figure out where he's
19 going from there. But you give a drunk a glass of
20 wine? No, you send him to a rehab. Thank you.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

22 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening City Council
23 and staff and Lisa. Erik Johnson, resident and
24 taxpayer of Scranton.

25 I agree very much as Mrs. Gatelli

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1 stated that it is not City Council's responsibility to
2 come up with an alternative to a balance city budget.
3 We have new members of City Council who haven't been
4 here for four years like the administration and the
5 unions have been for over four years.
6 So, the administration and unions, you
7 two, along with the PEL, need to work out any different
8 alternative changes of agreement.
9 But we definitely need more police
10 personnel than we do fire personnel. I can't

11 understand why we are the only city in Pennsylvania
12 that has more firemen than policemen.
13 What is best for the Scranton progress
14 now or what is best for the Scranton future? These are
15 two important questions. Are there any perfect answers
16 to the two questions that concern Scranton?
17 Posttraumatic distressed syndrome of
18 warlike conflicts between Scranton city administration
19 and the Scranton employee unions concerning city unions
20 disputed contracts to be settled.
21 Last week I must have upset some real
22 concerned people when I expressed my opinion on a
23 neutral basis that -- when I expressed my -- which led
24 to an unfavorable comeback and to one extent a
25 retaliation.

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1 Come on. I know for a long, long time
2 how games are played on a hardball level and your
3 sneaky ways at retaliation which can be viciously
4 damaging to person or his family.
5 I've worked through one of the most
6 vicious labor strikes in Rochester, New York, Stromberg
7 Carlson Corporation, and before the strike, I was a

8 union organizer until they wanted to use me for violent
9 purposes, which I indeed refused and no longer was a
10 part of the inner circle.

11 Anyway, as I told most people there at
12 that time, the Swedish ownership told me if there's no
13 reasonable settlement, we would sell out, go back to
14 Sweden where every industry plant is unionized without
15 strikes.

16 Sure enough, the general dynamics
17 bought them out and it became a warehouse, and they
18 also thanked me, the management, for not being that
19 violent person and persuaded me also not to -- also
20 persuaded others not to go through the violent way.

21 I'm not saying Scranton city unions are
22 violent, or even the administration, thank God for
23 that, but if I were a violent natured person, I
24 wouldn't have been trusted or invited to the Stromberg
25 Carlson executive's home or dated their beautiful

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31

1 daughters. As they told me, I wouldn't want that label
2 on me by any police agency.

3 I have been a police advocator with the
4 firefighters for a long, long time supporting their

5 causes for wage increases, their rights, conditions,
6 new police headquarters against crime, drugs and
7 patronism.
8 But what reward did my son, a police
9 officer, and me, an advocate, get, but lies and a no
10 FOP support unjust termination of my son's Wilkes-Barre
11 police job on nights where crime is the highest and
12 lied to me on the incident that cost me a lot of money.
13 I don't have that kind of money, but they do, the
14 police officers.
15 I still would like the police and
16 firefighters contracts to be settled, and the only way,
17 as I stated last week, would go to the loan approval
18 way.
19 I predicted it's the only bitter
20 solution left. And if you want to wait to the last
21 coming decision, you may lose any favorable decision
22 coming to you all.
23 The worse could be bankruptcy, then you
24 would have no representation, like my son didn't get
25 with the police department in Wilkes-Barre, which I am
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32
1 very bitter with. And it would be another Stromberg

2 Carlson disaster.

3 As for the loan and bank, how can you

4 tell me that First National Community Bank doesn't have

5 the money or facilities to finance \$44 million?

6 It's a very wealthy local bank, better

7 for Scranton's interests, instead of Pittsburgh based

8 PNC Bank. In case of problems and troubles, FNC Bank

9 would work with Scranton, instead of PNC Bank. I

10 guarantee you that.

11 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

12 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Wardell.

13 MS. WARDELL: Good evening, Council.

14 My name is Mary Ann Wardell, and I'm a resident of this

15 city.

16 I have to say after listening to the

17 mayor and listening to PEL and listening to the bankers

18 tonight, I have heard nothing of substance from them.

19 I have heard a lot of double talk, shall we say.

20 PEL, as far as I'm concerned, is

21 useless. We have paid them millions of dollars. And

22 what have they done in the past 12 or 14 years for us?

23 They have done absolutely nothing.

24 I think it's time to hold this mayor's

25 feet to the fire and let him accept responsibility for

1 the financial shape that this city is in.

2 This city did not go into the debt it's

3 in overnight. It has been going on for -- this is the

4 second administration, the second four years, that we

5 have been borrowing money and borrowing money and

6 borrowing money.

7 I did not hear any plans tonight to

8 increase revenue or cut expenses, except to increase

9 taxes on our property.

10 Keep in mind when you talk about

11 increasing taxes on property, 37 and a half percent of

12 the people in this city are homeowners, the rest are

13 renters. So, you are going to increase the taxes of 37

14 and a half percent of the people in Scranton.

15 And you know what, it's okay to

16 increase the taxes, because this is the way that we're

17 going to have to get ourselves out of debt. Borrowing

18 money is not going to do it.

19 We need -- and you need -- you can sit

20 down as a Council, I know it's not your job, but most

21 of you are fairly intelligent, and I will say, if you

22 sat down as a Council and came up with a budget for

23 next year where you could cut costs and increase
24 revenue, I'm sure that if you stuck together, you could
25 get that budget passed, and I think that's what needs

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1 to get done.

2 I don't think borrowing a dollar more

3 is the answer. Sooner or later we've got to pay the

4 piper. And you know what, if we don't it, our kids

5 will do it or our grandchildren will do it. So, I

6 think you need to think very seriously about this

7 before you vote on this.

8 And I need your help on one thing, I

9 have been calling the engineering office for -- I've

10 been trying to get a hold of them for weeks. I talked

11 to them a few weeks ago. I have a problem on the

12 Shawnee Avenue side of my house with buildup of water

13 whenever it rains and it runs into my property.

14 Somebody was supposed to come over and

15 look at it. Well, nobody has come over. And every

16 time I call, the line is busy. I don't know if they

17 take it off the hook or what. But if somebody could

18 please try to get a hold of them and ask them to come

19 over and look at that mess I have on Shawnee Avenue,

20 the Shawnee Avenue side of my house, I'd very much

21 appreciate it, okay?

22 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Garvey, will you

23 take care of that for Mrs. Wardell?

24 MS. WARDELL: Thank you. Thank you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Marie Shumaker. Les

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1 Spindler.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

3 Les Spindler, city resident. Mr. Bolus stole my

4 thunder a little bit. I asked this police officer what

5 would she be doing if she wasn't here? She said,

6 Patrolling the streets.

7 And, Mrs. Gatelli, don't you think she

8 would be better served protecting our streets and our

9 citizens than being here wasting her time?

10 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler, the mayor

11 had her come here.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Why?

13 MS. GATELLI: I don't know why. You'll

14 have to ask him.

15 MR. SPINDLER: I think it's a waste of

16 our services. She would be much better served

17 protecting our city instead of here just falling

18 asleep.

19 MS. EVANS: Why did we then have one

20 last week? Yes, we did.

21 MS. GATELLI: He had one here last

22 week, too.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Well, why didn't we have

24 one in all the previous years when Mr. DiBileo was

25 president? We had no problems here.

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1 MS. GATELLI: There was only one week

2 that I requested one.

3 MR. DAVIS: That was three weeks ago.

4 MS. GATELLI: That was three weeks ago

5 that I requested one just for that meeting. And

6 please, no talking from the audience.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Mrs. Gatelli, could you

8 suggest to the mayor that maybe we would be better

9 served with a police officer on the street?

10 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I certainly will.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Here's a

12 question to ask ourselves, in 12 years, Mayor Jim

13 Connors never raised taxes ones penny. He inherited a

14 \$4 million deficit. In 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, the
15 Connors budget was balanced and certified and signed by
16 an outside independent auditor.

17 When he left office in 2002,

18 Mayor Connors left a \$3 million surplus and very little
19 long-term debt, and there were police officers in every
20 neighborhood on foot, on bicycles, on motorcycles and
21 in patrol cars.

22 Now we have a multi-million dollar

23 deficit, a huge long-term debt, the promise of a large

24 tax increase and a budget that realistically will not

25 be balanced, and the police officers have disappeared

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37

1 from our neighborhoods.

2 In addition, the city budget has

3 increased over \$10 million, and the administration has

4 hired several staff people, as well as several

5 high-paid lawyers and consultants.

6 Meanwhile, our children are paying to

7 swim. So the question is, are you better off now than

8 you were in 2002? I don't think so.

9 And speaking about Mayor Doherty, it

10 was nice to see him tonight. Where's he been the last

11 four years and nine months?

12 May Tom Leighton of Wilkes-Barre

13 attends every City Council meeting in Wilkes-Barre and

14 has a good working relationship with their City

15 Council. Maybe if Mayor Doherty came here every week

16 and sat down and worked with this Council, we wouldn't

17 be in the financial mess we're in now.

18 Next thing, I'm sure almost everybody

19 heard about the gentleman that was attacked by a pit

20 bull in Taylor a while back, he needed 60 stickers to

21 close a wound. Well, about two weeks ago a woman was

22 attacked by a pit bull in Scranton. Is this Council

23 going to do anything about the dangerous dog situation

24 here? Is anybody going to answer that?

25 MS. GATELLI: I thought -- is Amil

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1 there?

2 MR. MINORA: Yes.

3 MS. GATELLI: I can't see you behind

4 that pole.

5 MR. MINORA: Sorry. Right here.

6 MS. GATELLI: Did we investigate that

7 at all? I know I had some stuff I think here from

8 Pittsburgh.

9 MR. MINORA: The last I understood it,

10 Mr. Spindler raised this several weeks ago, maybe

11 longer, in the summer, and the comments from Council,

12 and I don't remember who, was that there didn't seem to

13 be a groundswell for that kind of ordinance, and that

14 he had been the only person that was complaining about

15 it, and based on those comments --

16 MR. SPINDLER: No. Mr. Morgan has

17 complained about that for a long time.

18 MR. MINORA: Let me finish. Will you

19 please let me finish?

20 MS. GATELLI: Let him finish, Les. It

21 won't cut into your time. Hold his time, Mrs. Garvey.

22 MR. MINORA: Based on those comments, I

23 didn't do any further research.

24 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Amil, those are

25 things I've gotten from the American Kennel Association

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1 and there's something there from Pittsburgh.

2 MR. MINORA: Okay.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Mrs. Gatelli, I was in

4 touch with the city manager's office in Pittsburgh and

5 their city clerk's office, and I received 16 pages of
6 information from Pittsburgh.

7 MS. GATELLI: Would you like to bring
8 it?

9 MR. SPINDLER: I will. When I get more
10 information. I'm getting it. I'm also in touch with
11 Monroeville, which also has legislation.

12 MS. GATELLI: All right. Bring it into
13 Mrs. Garvey and then she'll get it to Attorney Minora.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. And I guess what
15 do we have to wait to happen, like somebody to get
16 killed or severely injured for legislation to be done?
17 There's proof that people have been attacked. Does
18 something tragic have to happen for legislation --

19 MS. GATELLI: I'm just going to
20 interrupt you for a minute, and you can have your time.

21 I think that we do have a leash law and laws to
22 restrain dogs. If Kay could pull that out for us.

23 It's not that we don't have anything.

24 MR. SPINDLER: I know there's a leash
25 law.

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1 MS. GATELLI: You know, there are laws,

2 and there is an animal control officer. Would you like

3 to -

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Spindler, I think

5 I had said this to you before, I'm not in favor of

6 banning any one type of animal.

7 I think if we're going to do something,

8 we need to do it to the animal's handler, the owner of

9 the animal.

10 Because as I said, today it's pit

11 bulls. I can remember when I was younger it was

12 Dobermans people were complaining about.

13 So, I think we need to do something

14 with the animal owner, not any one particular breed.

15 Because what happens if we ban pit bulls in the City of

16 Scranton and two years down the road it comes back as

17 Doberman or German Shepard? Are we going to ban every

18 animal?

19 MR. SPINDLER: I'm not asking to ban

20 just pit bulls. I'm saying dangerous dogs.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, that I agree

22 with, then we've got to determine what is dangerous,

23 all right?

24 MR. SPINDLER: All right. I have one

25 more thing. The 900 block of Euclid Avenue, I think it

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1 was back in July, the Sewer Authority dug that up, they

2 put a new line.

3 MS. GATELLI: We got a written letter

4 on that.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Was that ever going to

6 be fixed?

7 MS. GATELLI: They're going to be

8 repaving it.

9 MR. SPINDLER: I drive that way every

10 single day, and it's just rock and dirt.

11 MS. GATELLI: We just got a letter from

12 Mr. Barrett that it's going to be repaved.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Do they know when?

14 MS. GATELLI: Does it say when, Bill?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: The bids will be

16 opened -- they had to do a bid, that's what the holdup

17 is. Legally they had to go out and do a bid, and the

18 bids will be opened up September 18 at two o'clock.

19 And it says, After review of the bid submission by the

20 Scranton Sewer Authority, the successful contractor

21 will be notified and asked to complete this project as

22 quickly as possible.

23 And while I'm on it, we have a similar
24 situation on the 1400-block of Rundle Street and they
25 will be doing the same thing there. So, hopefully in
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42

1 the very near future.

2 MR. SPINDLER: There's so much that has
3 been washed out. The holes are huge. You have to --
4 if there's traffic coming one way, you've got to wait
5 and drive around it. Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. I can't read
7 the person's last name, but the first name is Bob.

8 MR. BANKS: Bob Banks. Good evening,
9 Madame President, members of Council. I thank you for
10 allowing me to come to your podium and speak to you
11 tonight.

12 First off, I'm not a lawyer, I'm not an
13 accountant, I'm just an average person, actually
14 finally a retired person, senior citizen.
15 And I didn't come here to cause any
16 problems or to try to tell you how to do your job. The
17 only reason I'm here is to try to make some suggestions
18 that maybe you've looked at before, maybe you haven't,
19 on how we can raise revenue, because that's what we

20 have to do.

21 My big concern, that \$44 million should

22 never happen. One thing, in the Home Rule Charter

23 Article 9, Section 903 on the budget, the last sentence

24 says, The total of proposed expenditures shall not

25 exceed the total estimated funds available.

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1 I would take that to mean that you

2 can't have a budget that would cost any more than what

3 you take in in taxes and income. Attorney Minora,

4 would you agree with that?

5 MR. MINORA: No. I'm sorry. You can

6 borrow money.

7 MR. BANKS: Okay. But that doesn't say

8 that, but okay. Really, we spend too much, way too

9 much. Our biggest expense is manpower.

10 And I know there's nobody that wants to

11 see anybody lose their job, but by the same token, do

12 you really want to see a lot of people lose their

13 homes? Nobody wants to see that neither.

14 What we have to do is cut. If we have

15 a manpower utilization authority, somebody that could

16 just go through every department in the city

17 government, maybe they could find ways to save money.

18 One thing, attorneys, how much do we

19 spend on that? How many lawyers do we have on our

20 payroll and what is their job, what do they do?

21 Another thing, up until a few years ago

22 we never had a safety director. Now along with a

23 public safety director, we have an assistant. If we

24 didn't need the job before, why do we need an assistant

25 now?

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1 But somebody, as I say, somebody should

2 do that survey and somebody should look at all the

3 departments and all of our services.

4 Another thing that we could use is a

5 risk manager. We spend a lot of money on claims and

6 disability claims. If we had a risk manager to find

7 out what causes the accidents, less accidents, less

8 claims, but that's getting more and more bloated all

9 time.

10 If we were to take and look to the

11 state on how they could help us pay the claims we now

12 have and maybe see if it's feasible for us to get into

13 the state's workman's compensation, it might be

14 cheaper, then again, it might not, but it would be
15 worth looking into.
16 Another thing you could have is
17 employees show you how to cut expenses. They work in a
18 department. They know where the fat is. Give them
19 some kind of incentive, maybe monetary or something
20 like that.

21 Another thing you can do is ask the
22 advice of the business community. We have great
23 colleges, we have the University of Scranton, we have
24 Marywood, Lackawanna County, you have the Chamber of
25 Commerce, you have a lot of people that could help us.

45

1 I guess I better talk faster.

2 MR. MINORA: You have another minute.

3 MR. BANKS: Even things we can do --

4 like, we have a lot of billboards. Did anybody ever
5 think of taxing them or -- why not? The same we have
6 taxi cabs. All your big cities, not the cab drivers,
7 but they tax the taxis themselves. We can do that same
8 thing.

9 Along with that, you've got public

10 safety concerns to where there's safe vehicles on the

11 road and they would be maintained better.
12 You could even ask citizens' input and
13 maybe give them some kind of an incentive, like maybe
14 you can get some businessmen to give them some kind of
15 moneterial or some kind of -- something from their
16 business if they had any good ideas that you could use.
17 And I guess that's all I have time for. I thank you
18 very much.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much. Jim
20 Davis.

21 MR. DAVIS: Assalaam Alaikum, peace and
22 blessings of Allah be with you. I'm not here to cause
23 problems, I'm not here to vent past problems that may
24 have existed, I'm here because of the present and the
25 future.

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1 Our present looks very dim, and it
2 doesn't mean just for me, myself and I, because the
3 kids laugh at me all the time. They say, Well, Mr.
4 Davis is older than the dirt at Scranton Tech. Well, I
5 am.
6 I remember when it was a community. I
7 remember when it was a very firm community.

8 Mr. Singleton, check it out. We have a very rich
9 history in Scranton. We as a black people have a very
10 strong, very honorable relationship with this city.
11 I hate to say that the unemployment for
12 the rest of the city, for the rest of the races in the
13 city, is 5.4 percent, but for minorities it's
14 17.3 percent. That's for those between the ages of 24
15 and 17, those who are applying for work. I'm not
16 talking about people who are not applying for work.
17 But this permeates down through the community.
18 Now we also have a problem with
19 Washington West. The latest word out was that
20 Lackawanna Junior College was going to buy it, which
21 will save the city a lot of money, but I don't know
22 what's going on here.
23 Does the Scranton Housing Authority
24 have the ability, have the right to take away property
25 that was deemed to them by the state for those of under
47

1 economic developed persons and give it to someone else,
2 a private non-profit organization like Lackawanna
3 Junior College? Now, this is what I'm hearing.
4 You know, the grape vine is what we

5 call -- back in the ghetto we call it the grape vine.

6 We get the word through the grape vine first and then

7 we go out and we try to investigate it and try and find

8 out if it's true.

9 I bring my information directly to you.

10 You are our source of information. We don't get

11 information from you, though. And -- excuse me. Not

12 all. I can't say that totally.

13 Ms. Evans, you have done a yeoman's job

14 of trying to get information from the administration,

15 from different places to us, and I admit to that, and I

16 hear it all the time.

17 I have tapes of you going back to 2002,

18 2003, when you were expressing yourself the very same

19 ways you're doing now, questioning, the same way as

20 you're doing now, expenditures, the reason we're using

21 this money, where are we using these monies, and some

22 sort of accountability.

23 We kept hearing that word

24 accountability, accountability, but nobody else on the

25 stand is working that way .

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1 I remember all the way back to

2 Kevin Murphy when he was the president of the City
3 Council, and he talked about accountability, but he
4 never brought it forth.

5 We've never had accountability in this
6 city, that I know of, in the last eight years. I don't
7 complain about the mayor. I say that we get what we
8 deserve.

9 And as long as only 20 percent of us go
10 out and register to vote and vote, maybe that's all we
11 deserve. I'm requesting to the minorities of Scranton,
12 get out there, register to vote.

13 It was something that we had when we
14 came out of high school at 18 years old, we did two
15 things, we registered for the draft and we registered
16 to vote. It was our passage, it is our passage into
17 manhood, responsibility.

18 These are things that were taught to us
19 in our churches. Yes, we learned it also in civics
20 class. Pennsylvania civics class taught us, these are
21 your responsibilities as citizens of this particular
22 democracy, of this world, and this was our total world
23 at that time, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

24 And we learned to love it, we learned
25 to appreciate it, we learned to respect it through

1 BYTU, through our churches.

2 Everything was taught to respect. We

3 didn't always get respect in return, and this is what

4 our kids are not getting now.

5 I think you're just socking it to them

6 for the future to the point where they're not going to

7 be able to stay in this community.

8 I'm losing kids every day. They can't

9 wait to get out of here. And these are talented kids.

10 I'm not talking about run of the mill troublemakers.

11 No, I'm talking about people who really want to be.

12 MS. GATELLI: Can you wrap it up,

13 Mr. Davis?

14 MR. DAVIS: Excuse me. Excuse me.

15 MS. GATELLI: Well, there's other

16 people that are waiting to speak, Mr. Davis.

17 MS. EVANS: Just three quick points.

18 The first question you posed concerning Washington

19 Plaza, at the meeting we attended, and I believe you

20 were present --

21 MR. DAVIS: Yes.

22 MS. EVANS: -- I posed questions

23 similar to those expressed by you this evening, and the
24 response I received was this, that HUD will recommend
25 to the Scranton Housing Authority whether, A,
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1 Washington Plaza should be raised and new housing built
2 in its place, or B, the housing project would be raised
3 and nothing is built in its place, or C, that it can be
4 sold to a private entity.

5 So, there are, it appears, three
6 options at play here. And as I said, HUD will make
7 that recommendation to the SHA board, and then they
8 must vote on whether to accept that recommendation or
9 not.

10 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. I spoke to a
11 friend of mine from HUD tonight, this afternoon, as a
12 matter of fact, at two o'clock this afternoon, and he
13 said they're very much in play. They already are on
14 the case and they're making their decision as we speak.
15 They're dismissed -- they're very
16 miffed by some of the things that have gone on thus
17 far. And all I can say for those of you who are
18 residents Washington West who hear me, keep praying.
19 MS. EVANS: The other thing I wanted to

20 point out to you since you mentioned voter
21 registration, at Scranton High School the PTA does
22 conduct, I believe biannually, voter registration
23 drives for students who are of age, and that is I think
24 a tremendous service that they provide, and it's
25 located in the cafeteria during all the lunch periods,
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1 so it's available to all students.
2 And then finally when you talk about
3 your kids losing, I think what we've got to be
4 concerned about, as well as the big picture, and that
5 is this is an economic issue, and all of our kids are
6 losing because of the financial abyss this city is in,
7 all of our children due to economic reasons.

8 MR. DAVIS: Well, I guess -- I'm
9 working from a point of view of my kids versus your
10 kids, our kids --

11 MS. EVANS: They're everyone's kids.

12 MR. DAVIS: They're everybody's kids.

13 We have to live that way in Scranton. There's no such
14 thing as my kids versus your kids, because we're all --
15 we're a small pot, we're a very small pot of people.
16 We're not a lot of people at all, but our kids are the

17 biggest part of our responsibilities in life.

18 I don't care who you are or what you

19 are, I don't care how much time I have, the thing is if

20 we don't do something properly, our kids are going to

21 fail, and that we don't want. It's not our godly deed.

22 And that's what we're responsible for by God, to take

23 care of our children. I know we shouldn't use the

24 word, but --

25 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else who

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1 cares to speak?

2 MR. ELMAN: Ronny Elman again. I'm

3 sorry I was late. I went out to Mr. Schabo's little

4 auction in Olyphant and then I came over here, so I had

5 my cake and eat it both today.

6 You know, I was listening. I got a

7 whole bunch of notes here, but one thing that I heard

8 Mr. Morgan say was our mayor is comparable to Huey

9 Long. I think you can compare him easily to B.T.

10 Barnum, because he's just the B.T. Barnum of American

11 mayors. He just pulled the wool over people's eyes for

12 -- since his election, and now it's coming to a head

13 where he's going to be the only one at the party, I

14 think.

15 I bet you don't know the first thing --

16 you don't remember the first movie made when he took

17 office. He invented that high paying position for the

18 man that helped him in the election that lived on

19 Roaring Brook or someplace, do you remember? The first

20 thing he did. Check it out.

21 And it's kept on, just like Mr. Morgan

22 said, it's been nothing but padded payrolls ever since

23 and inventing positions. And you still can't get

24 nobody on the telephone that is a head of any of these

25 departments. The staff runs the -- you know, no matter

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1 who you phone, you've got staff members. You don't get

2 nobody on the phone. You get an answering machine.

3 I mean, as of last week I got an

4 answering machine when I tried to phone someone. When

5 I came up here, I had a little girl do the work that I

6 needed.

7 You know, we got all these consultants.

8 You either should let the consultants take over and

9 fire the staffs or get rid of the consultants. It

10 would save some money. I don't know. They're wasting

11 money.

12 I was listening to all of these --

13 you've got a bunch of bankers here. They're stuffing

14 their pockets full of taxpayer money. Of course they

15 want you guys to keep on borrowing and borrowing and

16 borrowing. It's never going to stop.

17 And these people cannot handle the

18 taxes when they -- it's impossible. It's impossible

19 for these people out here right now to pay the taxes.

20 I never seen nothing like it. And it's political

21 suicide to go along with this vote. Something got to

22 stop, and it's got to be now.

23 You know, two of you won't be here.

24 You'll be the only one coming up for re-election, I

25 guess, if you stay here and want that post.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Who me? No, I just got

2 here. I'm here for three and a half more years.

3 MR. ELMAN: I know that.

4 MS. GATELLI: Thank God. It's

5 Mr. Courtright and Mr. McTiernan who will be running

6 next year.

7 MR. ELMAN: Mr. Doherty, it's like I

8 said, he is so detached from the people of this city.

9 I promise you, I guarantee you, I've talked to more
10 people this week than since he's been in office at the
11 grocery store and JC Penney.

12 My bride told me to sit on that white
13 bench in JC Penney and stay out of trouble. I don't
14 know. There's three or four people came over and
15 talked to me. And today I went to the Chinese
16 restaurant next to the Price Rite, and there was two
17 ladies recognized me. And they both said they voted
18 for Doherty and they didn't care what he runs for next
19 time, they're through. He's losing his Irish vote that
20 kept him in.

21 I've talked to them at the Taurus Club.

22 You can't go along with him no more. You've got to put
23 your foot down.

24 I mean, everybody keeps talking to
25 these people. They'd be fools to stay here. I've got

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1 a son that's packing up and leaving town right now. He
2 had a hundred dollar a day job that was a gravy job.
3 He just doesn't want to stay here. He doesn't want my
4 house for nothing.

5 You know, if I give him the house, he
6 said he doesn't want to stay here. That's the
7 attitude. My other son closed his business, I told
8 you, and he wants to leave town. He wants to go to
9 Atlanta, and this one said he might go to Vegas and
10 work.

11 You know, these are the people we need
12 to stay here. You know, for somebody that doesn't want
13 a free house that's probably, I don't know what my
14 house is worth, you know, it's insured for way over
15 \$100,000, it could probably be sold at 80 or 90. He
16 doesn't even want it anymore. That's the attitude of
17 people around here. You just can't keep going along
18 with this borrowing plan. It's got to be terminated.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

21 MS. SUETTA: Hi, Billy.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Jean.

23 MS. SUETTA: Jean Suetta, Scranton

24 resident. I just want to know what the city ordinance

25 is for starting construction, what time it is in the

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1 morning.

2 MS. GATELLI: I believe it's seven.

3 MS. SUETTA: At twenty after five

4 yesterday morning I heard -- now you can open the

5 windows, the air condition ain't on. Beep, beep, beep,

6 beep, beep. They had the pave loader going over the

7 bank. I'm not against progress, but at twenty after

8 five in the morning, I am.

9 I called the dispatcher, no French, no

10 nothing, took a new leaf on life. He told me he'd get

11 back to me, he was going to get with licenses and

12 permits.

13 So, I waited until the afternoon, I

14 called the desk again. Officer West something, he said

15 he would get back to me. Now, I know I paid my phone

16 bill. Nobody called me. What do I do at quarter after

17 five in the morning besides go nuts?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Did you talk to

19 Mr. Parker?

20 MS. SUETTA: This morning they gave me

21 a break. At 6:48 they started, and then their started

22 their hammering. This is coming in my house at 6:49

23 (UNTRANSCRIBABLE), that loud.

24 I have a 17-year-old dog that we

25 thought was deaf. They woke him up.

1 MS. GATELLI: Well, that's a good
2 thing.

3 MS. SUETTA: Yeah.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Is it the city, Jean?

5 MR. SUETTA: No. I think it's Louie.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Who?

7 MS. SUETTA: Fidelity Bank.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ut-oh.

9 MS. GATELLI: What kind of a project is
10 it?

11 MS. SUETTA: Putting a bank in.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: They're building a
13 bank on Green Ridge Street, right?

14 MS. SUETTA: I mean, but twenty after
15 five in the morning? I don't need it. I mean, we need
16 this bank so bad.

17 MS. GATELLI: I will find out and I'll
18 call you tomorrow, okay?

19 MS. SUETTA: What do I do tomorrow
20 morning? (UNTRANSCRIBABLE)

21 MS. GATELLI: You won't be able to get
22 up early tomorrow because we're here late.

23 MS. SUETTA: I know. I should be
24 sleeping because I get up so early. So, do I call the
25 dispatcher?

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1 MS. GATELLI: I'd call again, yes.

2 MS. SUETTA: Because this is what's
3 happening.

4 MS. GATELLI: I'm pretty sure it's
5 seven. I don't know.

6 MS. SUETTA: I thought jack hammers
7 were eight.

8 MS. GATELLI: I don't know, but we'll
9 find out for you.

10 MS. SUETTA: Well, I worked for DPW and
11 eight o'clock is jack hammers. And that banging I
12 heard at 6:49 this morning was a jack hammer.

13 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

14 MS. SUETTA: Okay. That's all. Have a
15 good night. Get out of here.

16 MR. UMVARSKI: Good evening, City
17 Council. My name is Tom Umvarski. I'm a resident of
18 the city.

19 As you can see, I do not have a

20 prepared speech, and I have never spoken with

21 Mrs. Evans.

22 On several occasions I've heard

23 Mrs. Gatelli say that the City Council has no power.

24 Well, tonight when you vote on 6-C, you can show your

25 power. And that's it.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

2 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Good evening,

3 Council Charlie Newcomb, Scranton, PA.

4 MS. GATELLI: Before you start, I want

5 to ask you, how's your granddaughter?

6 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Very nice, very

7 enjoyable.

8 MS. GATELLI: I told you it was great.

9 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Yes. You know why?

10 Because you can sugar her up and send her home at the

11 end of the day, that's why. Yeah, she's adorable. We

12 love her.

13 Just a few different points. The mayor

14 and his -- some of his staff members were here or

15 cabinet members. I'll give the people out there just

16 some figures to think about.

17 Mr. Kresefski has been with us now
18 since the Doherty administration, and our last business
19 administrator we paid \$76,000, we pay Mr. Kresefski
20 right now \$85,000, so there's a difference of a \$9,000
21 raise, not that he got, but \$9000 we're paying more for
22 him to be in that position.

23 We have a public safety director at
24 \$65,000, Mr. Parker makes \$65,000, who doesn't live in
25 the city. So, these are some ways, I mean -- and I
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1 believe Mr. Fiorini and parks and recreation
2 Scopelliti, I believe there was \$10,000 raises there in
3 the beginning when this all took place.
4 So, the mayor should be cutting back on
5 a lot of his staff, too, instead of saying, you know,
6 it's the unions, the unions, the unions.
7 And I am so sick and tired in The
8 Scranton Times reading about 72 percent of the people
9 voted for the referendum. I'm going to give you some
10 figures.
11 Since April 15, which was tax day of
12 this year, I took just asking different people I work
13 with and different people on the street, 452 people I

14 took a poll of and I asked them one thing, in 2002,
15 these were city people, of course, did you vote for the
16 Recovery Plan, yes or no? They said, Sure, we did.
17 These were union people, non-union people, people of
18 all ages, all races.
19 And I said, Why? Did you read the
20 whole Recovery Plan or what did you vote for? And they
21 said, I voted for it because I don't want my taxes
22 raised. That's why I think 72 percent. So, I'm sick
23 of hearing that figure. They had no idea what was in
24 that Recovery Plan.

25 So, Mr. DiBileo was here and talked

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1 about a referendum. Well, I asked these people if it
2 was on the referendum again about a Recovery Plan,
3 would you vote for it the same way you did before? And
4 they, not all of them, but the majority of them said,
5 I'd absolutely would not vote for the way I voted
6 before, because nothing has changed, and what's going
7 to happen right now is we don't know how much until the
8 figure come out, you're going to raise our taxes and
9 we're going to have less public safety. The mayor
10 admitted tonight that he wants less firemen.

11 So, my question is to those people, if
12 it was on the referendum, would you vote for it again?
13 Because even if you voted yes or no, next year we're
14 going to have public safety, I don't know what you want
15 to call them, layoffs, cut backs, if the mayor has his
16 way.

17 So, we're going to have less firemen, I
18 believe that he's not going to cut the police, but
19 we're going to have less firemen and we're going to pay
20 more in taxes. So, that's about the referendum.

21 People didn't know what they were voting for.

22 I do unfortunately feel that the
23 Housing Authority, Washington West, those people's
24 lives are going to be disrupted, because I believe that
25 there's a higher entity there that wants that building,

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1 those buildings.

2 As far as \$44 million goes, I'm going
3 to give you some figures, just the kind of people that
4 have to pay this back. Like the figure came up 36
5 percent of the homeowners in the City of Scranton,
6 well, the mayor mentioned about wage tax. Now we do
7 have a 3.4 percent wage tax in the City of Scranton,

8 but how many people pay wage taxes? How many people
9 are retired?

10 I'm going to give you a figure. I

11 spoke to a woman, I'm not going to mention her name,

12 she makes \$600 a month on Social Security, \$600 a

13 month, that's \$7,200 a year. That's all she has. She

14 has no husband, no nothing. She owns a home. Her

15 taxes on that home are \$1200. She had to pay all those

16 taxes, that leaves her with \$5800 for the year, for the

17 year, to spend on everything else.

18 And these are the homeowners -- these

19 are the kind of people with this \$44 million he expects

20 to pay this money back.

21 Because anybody that has a good job

22 with any common sense, as soon as they get out of

23 school and they go to college, they're not going to

24 stay here to pay this debt.

25 So, I do ask you when you do make your

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1 decision on voting, please look at -- those are the

2 people that you're relying on to pay this back.

3 And as far as Mayor Barletta with his

4 new ordinance, I know what Mr. Doherty's response to it

5 was, and unfortunately he didn't agree with it, but I
6 can -- I'll sum this up -- I do believe in what Mayor
7 Barletta's doing, and he wouldn't have the problem if
8 our federal government did three things, close the
9 borders. Thank you.

10 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, City
11 Council. I don't know where to begin tonight. I can
12 probably use five hours to rebut what was said up here.
13 I can't believe some of these people, including the
14 mayor, was up here saying those things with a straight
15 face. I just jotted down a few things.

16 I'd like to at least hand it to the
17 mayor. Finally for the first time in five years he
18 admitted he's going to get rid of 38 firefighter
19 positions, and I think that maybe it would behove this
20 Council to get our superintendent here to let him
21 explain to the people how he's going to run the fire
22 department with 38 less firefighters.

23 The mayor made a point on health care,
24 that he fired the health care consultant because she
25 wasn't doing a good job and nothing much is happening

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1 now.

2 Well, the truth is that she did do a
3 great job, and all you have to do is figure out how
4 much we're paying per person right now than we did in
5 1992 you will find out that we've cut our expenses
6 drastically.

7 And the reason why our new health care
8 consultant isn't moving forward is because his own
9 people on his own administration have been holding
10 things up, messing things up and completely goofing the
11 whole thing up, or we would be making progress at this
12 point.

13 The other thing, we've have had a guess
14 here in the fire department, we've all been talking
15 amongst each other and said that, you know, the mayor
16 is probably asking for \$44 million, but he's probably
17 looking for twenty.

18 I believe Mrs. Gatelli or Mrs. Evans
19 asked him that question. The bottom line was 19, so we
20 were off by a million. Sorry. I told you guys he's
21 probably looking for about 20.

22 He made the statement that this is the
23 only town of comparable size that has more firemen than
24 police officers. Well, I guess if you knocked off 18
25 police positions, you might get it down to where it

1 might be more firemen. He did that.

2 He likes to compare us to Bethlehem.

3 It's funny, because some past Councils used to compare

4 us to Allentown when we had 200 firefighters and they

5 had 178, and he liked to go to Bethlehem's 112.

6 Well, we're a lot bigger than

7 Bethlehem, not in population, in size, we have a much

8 older housing stock, our average median age is much

9 older than the people that live in Bethlehem.

10 Maybe he should compare us to -- he

11 doesn't mention Reading, Allentown or Erie, which are

12 the next three most comparable, who has 149

13 firefighters, 178 firefighters, and 160 firefighters.

14 Oh, and by the way, all four cities, they make much

15 more than we do.

16 He talked about not being adverse to

17 entertainment tax or new revenues. Well, are we going

18 to trust him again this time because we brought 38

19 different revenues enhancers, including an EMS system

20 that you brought up, Mrs. Gatelli and Mr. Courtright,

21 and he hasn't done anything in five years because he,

22 quote, has to get his own house in order before he

23 looks at any new ideas.

24 Well, it's been five years. He hasn't

25 looked at any new ideas, and are we going to trust him

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1 that he's going to do it right after you give him \$44

2 million?

3 I sat here and watched the bankers and

4 the bond salesmen. That was really great, a couple

5 guys trying to sell us a Mercedes when we live on a

6 Volkswagen budget.

7 Of course it sound really great,

8 because correct me if I'm wrong, PNC Bank is going to

9 make \$40 million on this deal over the next 28 years?

10 MS. EVANS: At least.

11 MR. GERVASI: Okay. So, of course it's

12 a great idea. The other person that -- who sat there

13 basically stone silent when Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Evans

14 asked him a question was Harry Miller from PEL that

15 we've been coming here railing against for the last

16 five years because they've been here for 14 years, and

17 we're in worse financial condition now than we were

18 that got us into the situation we were in.

19 You asked Harry Miller, how come you

20 don't go after this mayor like you went after the last
21 mayor? Well, let me tell you. That was a \$600,000
22 raise city wide that Mayor Connors gave us after we
23 took massive hits in the prior contract. And they
24 sanctioned us.

25 And you're right, Mrs. Evans, I

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1 remember reading the paper. Councilman Doherty is the
2 one who wanted him sanctioned. Let's cut him off,
3 because he was running for mayor. Let's make Mayor
4 Connors look bad, just my opinion, though. You ask
5 Harry Miller --

6 MS. EVANS: I thought I had read he

7 traveled to Harrisburg over the issue to meet with
8 state officials.

9 MR. GERVASI: I believe so. It was

10 okay to sanction Mayor Connors, but please don't
11 sanction me.

12 But then when you ask him the question

13 about the raises, the new hires and everything else,

14 that had nothing to do with the unions, because we

15 received nothing, once again, I don't want to be

16 redundant, but nothing in the last five years, you

17 asked him how about all those things? And he sat there
18 in stone cold silence, but the mayor jumped right in to
19 talk about his wonderful vision of the city and didn't
20 exactly ask the question.

21 You know why they can't do it, in my
22 opinion? Is because they are controlled by DCED. DCED
23 is controlled solely by the governor, and the mayor and
24 the governor happen to be really good buddies.

25 I think if these guys go after the
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1 mayor like they did for the last prior eight or nine
2 years, they're going to be in big trouble with their
3 boss.

4 To close, my personal opinion, my
5 personal opinion, you have an independent audit that
6 should be out in -- should have been out in May. It's
7 not out yet. How can you possibly even consider, even
8 consider, giving this mayor another dime until you see
9 the independent audits and find out exactly where it
10 is? Because the truth will be there.

11 Study it. Table this thing. Stop it
12 right now. Don't worry about payless paydays. They've
13 been railing against us for five years on that trying

14 to threaten everyone and we're not going to get paid.

15 We'll take care of that if they don't pay us. We'll

16 handle that quite nicely.

17 MS. EVANS: Mr. Gervasi, the mayor I

18 think on the issue of the audit stated that the auditor

19 works for me, meaning me. Well, the auditor works for

20 you, meaning me.

21 MR. GERVASI: Right.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, I didn't hire the

23 auditor, that was prior to my taking my seat on City

24 Council, and as a result, I can't say to the auditor,

25 you work for me, as the mayor can say to his management

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1 team, but that's really beside the point.

2 The fact of the matter is that the

3 auditor needs information from every city department,

4 city authorities, banks, the tax office, et cetera, and

5 each year that we have been seated here, they have

6 experienced problems obtaining the information from

7 either authorities or city departments, and, of course,

8 these authorities are appointed by the mayor, so he

9 controls them.

10 Then we have the departments, the

11 department heads, who are hired, selected and can only

12 be fired by the mayor. So, again, he controls them.

13 And in this case, however, it appears

14 according to a letter we all received this evening,

15 that it's the single tax office this time who's holding

16 up the audit.

17 MR. GERVASI: What a surprise.

18 MS. EVANS: There seems to be a great

19 disparity between figures produced from that office

20 from one year to another, and the office for whatever

21 reason has failed to respond to our auditors.

22 MR. GERVASI: I'm not surprised. I'm

23 not surprised. But, again, I think you need to look at

24 the independent audit, study it, give yourselves time.

25 Don't let this be like that Council

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1 when I asked Councilman Murphy to please just delay the

2 vote from one week so we can all get together in a room

3 and I'll ask questions of the mayor and so he can

4 answer them properly to everyone's satisfaction. They

5 wouldn't do it.

6 And just like we said, this recovery

7 plan process has been a disaster, a complete disaster.

8 Give yourselves time to study this. Get outside help,

9 independent help, and find out if we truly need to

10 borrow any more money. That's all I have to say.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Next speaker,

13 please.

14 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. My

15 name is Nancy Krake. I was also aware of that letter,

16 Mrs. Evans. I was particularly concerned, because I

17 had brought this to Council previously.

18 I know that the workers at the Single

19 Tax Office, who I represent, have not been allowed to

20 do their jobs since the current tax collector has been

21 in office. So, they've been bringing these concerns to

22 me over the past five years. They haven't been able to

23 get a contract, but more importantly, they haven't been

24 able to do their duties, and frankly they were afraid

25 of the outcome, and apparently it's finally come to

.

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1 light. This is just a disaster.

2 And this letter, even though the mayor

3 said he wasn't aware of anything, was sent to Len

4 Kresofski. And I do believe they know each other.

5 That is his business administrator. Apparently they

6 talk to each other.

7 I would hope, Mrs. Gatelli, I know he

8 gave you -- the tax collector an answer that he was on

9 vacation, but maybe we can continue asking him again.

10 I know we recessed then as, you know, what exactly is

11 going on.

12 I'd have to revisit the exact question

13 that I asked you, but it probably is in the minutes.

14 And since you have this letter, I'm sure you're going

15 to be looking into it yourselves anyway.

16 There's no way you can do a budget

17 without an accurate audit obviously, and it's quite

18 frightening when the entity that's supposed to collect

19 our taxes isn't doing it, and I wish you a lot of luck

20 with this, because I think that's going to be a big

21 part of your decision in borrowing the money. I would

22 hope that you would definitely put it all to the side

23 until this --

24 MS. EVANS: I would imagine, also,

25 perhaps if the mayor would talk with Mr. McDowell, the

.

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1 tax collector, and ask him to produce the information

2 so that the audit can be completed and distributed
3 among Council, perhaps that might facilitate the
4 process.

5 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

6 MS. EVANS: Because, you know,
7 evidently the tax office doesn't feel under -- feel
8 itself under any particular pressure at this point in
9 time, though we bypassed the deadline, according to the
10 Home Rule Charter, by months.

11 MS. KRAKE: And I also believe if you
12 were to talk to any of the outside communities, that
13 they're having horrendous difficulties in getting their
14 monies distributed to them. There's many, many
15 difficulties. And it is too bad, it is too bad. It's
16 a disservice to that office and to the people of this
17 community.

18 I'd like to say that I thought it was
19 very important to have that open caucus forum tonight.
20 I think there were excellent questions asked by
21 Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Gatelli and Mr. Courtright.
22 In fact, there were so many interesting
23 answers presented by the people here tonight that I
24 only have a few things to address. The first is the
25 audit.

1 Probably the next couple weeks we will
2 be addressing the rest of them. There was so many
3 interesting remarks made.
4 One of the other things that was
5 curious to me that the mayor wasn't familiar with this
6 auditing firm was that he actually hired someone for
7 the business administrator's office that he bragged
8 about the job here, and he knows the person worked for
9 Rossi, I'm sure. So, that's quite interesting.
10 I believe one of the big things that
11 you said, Mrs. Evans, that it's about philosophy, and
12 that probably is the crux of the entire thing.
13 The mayor's philosophy is that might
14 makes right. His entire administration embraces that.
15 He needs to have total management rights instead of
16 longstanding labor laws that allow negotiations for
17 employees with their employer.
18 The other part of his philosophy he
19 told us tonight is that this is America, and I am a
20 businessman, and it's all about the money. The
21 translation, the rich get richer and the poor get
22 poorer, and then it's okay, because this is America.

23 One other point that struck me

24 Mr. Sbaraglia brought it up earlier in the evening, and

25 this is my final point, if it's \$15.37 per capita, that

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1 should be per taxpayer, not per person.

2 It's very important to understand that

3 many people in our community do not pay either a wage

4 or a real estate tax, so, therefore, the burden greatly

5 increases on those that pay either one or both of those

6 taxes. So, it's not quite as simple as they're saying.

7 And I do hope, I also agree with

8 Mrs. Wardell, that Council will pursue their own

9 budget. Thank you.

10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else

11 care to speak before Council?

12 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, Council.

13 I'm Nelson Ancherani, resident, taxpayer, financial

14 secretary of the FOP. And I'm here tonight exercising

15 my First Amendment Rights.

16 Before at the caucus, Mr. McTiernan

17 wanted to get from Mr. Kreseski I guess the cost

18 comparison for the 38 firemen that they want to

19 eliminate and the money that would have been used for

20 the new hires and raises.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: That's not what I asked

22 him for.

23 MR. ANCHERANI: That's not what you

24 asked for? Okay. That's what it sounded like to me.

25 That's what it sounded like, you wanted to get the

.

75

1 difference between -- or the \$6 million that was the

2 deficit. Could that have been it?

3 MR. MCTIERNAN: No. What I'm looking

4 for is the difference between the past reductions in

5 staffing compared to the recent additions to the

6 administrative staff so that we can find out the net

7 costs increase or decrease regarding those clerical

8 positions and other administrative positions in this

9 building.

10 MR. ANCHERANI: Okay. That's what I

11 thought, that that was the new hires and the raises.

12 All right. I don't know if the question was answered

13 here tonight, but I thought it was.

14 And the mayor never answered the

15 question why he gave raises to some and not to others,

16 why there were raises to the tune of well over \$5

17 million cumulatively over the last five years, and I
18 want to know how he justified that.
19 I'm just going to read something from
20 the paper that quotes some people and what they say and
21 then I'm going to answer it it's city business, and
22 I'll go with 9/12/2006, City Gets Arbitration Backing.
23 One part says, While PEL oversees
24 Scranton Recovery Plan. That's a laugh. I don't know
25 what they oversee, but they sure don't oversee the
.
76

1 Recovery Plan. I don't know where they've been. I
2 know they were here tonight, but I don't know where
3 they've been. One guy, he skirted around the question.
4 He wouldn't even give an answer.
5 Anyway, Scranton was declared a
6 distressed city in 1992 and has not implemented its
7 state mandated Recovery Plan because of unresolved
8 union contracts, however, union officials maintain that
9 the Recovery Plan has repeatedly been violated by the
10 Doherty Administration in what they call illegal hires
11 and raises.
12 Yes. One example, the director of
13 public safety and his office to the tune of one half

14 million dollars since 2002, and now the new hire of a
15 deputy director and the secretary to the tune of
16 \$75,000 to \$80,000 a year.

17 We want it clear that arbitrators
18 cannot deviate from the Recovery Plan, said DCED,
19 Attorney Clifford B. Levine. This is not being mean
20 spirited, but the recovery plan reflects money
21 available for a municipality to survive, and if union
22 contracts break the bank, it could have severe
23 consequences.

24 Where was DCED Levine when Doherty
25 violated the Recovery Plan? He turned a blind eye.

77

1 You have to remember the unions got
2 nothing, but yet our debt service has to be well over
3 \$200 million. And with that other \$81 million, we're
4 over \$300 million in debt up to 2034.

5 This is the one I like. We cannot
6 afford to pay these rewards, Mr. Kresefski said. Great
7 guy. But I'm going to say this, we cannot afford to
8 pay these awards.

9 In 2001, Mr. Kresefski was earning
10 \$76,900 a year. In 2002, his salary increased to

11 \$85,000 a year, an \$8100 a year approximate increase,
12 and he has gotten that \$8100 for the years 2003, four,
13 five and six. That's \$40,500 increase over those
14 years.

15 He is getting that increase in
16 violation of the Recovery Plan, and he has the gall to
17 say we cannot afford to pay these awards.

18 What I'd like to do right now is
19 commend Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright for standing up
20 and being opposed to the borrowing of the \$44 million
21 that is going to sink this city in a sea of long-term
22 debt. You truly have the concerns of the citizens and
23 taxpayers on your minds.

24 Again, thank you. Stand firm. The
25 buck stops here. Money has to come from somebody, the
.

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1 mayor said. So, the poor are going to get poorer and
2 the rich are going to get richer. Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else care to
4 speak? Thank you, Mr. Ancherani.

5 MR. SCHREIBER: Good evening, Council.

6 Dave Schreiber, firefighter, resident of the City of
7 Scranton.

8 I'd just like to comment on some of the
9 statements made in the earlier caucus. Like Dave
10 Gervasi spoke about earlier, 13 years ago, 15 years ago
11 we were compared to Allentown repeatedly. Now that
12 we're down below that mark, we're compared with
13 Bethlehem.
14 I mean, I don't know what's next, maybe
15 Dunmore or somebody else. We need to really have some
16 short-term and long-term planning here how we're going
17 to operate these departments.
18 To come out with a budget number and
19 try and fit a department into that scope of a number,
20 we're working the problem backwards. There's a
21 systematic approach to this, it's a scientific
22 approach.
23 The first plan that came out, it was in
24 the first plan that there would be a national
25 consulting firm to come in and do an actual study,
.
79

1 somebody with the credentials. That was done away with
2 this latest plan.
3 We're obviously talking about safety
4 here, safety of obviously the firefighters and also

5 more importantly the public, which is us, our families,
6 my parents, my relatives, all of us. I mean, we really
7 have a vested interest. This is our community.

8 And when something as important as the
9 fire department -- I know it doesn't impact most
10 people, say as like the police department does out
11 there, but when it does, it's a very big thing.

12 I can attest as one person here
13 tonight, Mrs. Wardell, I was one of the first people on
14 scene the night she was tragically injured. It was our
15 people that provided first aid and EMS service, a very
16 crucial and important part of fire departments all
17 across the nation.

18 Here it seems it's neglected. Why? I
19 don't know. It's the right thing to do. It's a value
20 added service going to be incorporated into a
21 department that's already here. We're out, we're in
22 the neighborhoods, why not do it?

23 Any revenue that's produced from a
24 system like that goes against your cost obviously, so
25 you're -- yeah, you might not be paying for the whole

80

1 department, but you're offsetting your costs. It's

2 just a smart thing to do.

3 Everybody else in this nation is doing

4 it. I don't know why we're not seriously, seriously

5 considering it. I mean, it's not a business, true, but

6 you're offsetting your costs, and that's your goal.

7 You're going to provide a better service.

8 If for some reason we are cut to the

9 Bethlehem standard, if that's what we're going to go by

10 this week, the Bethlehem standard, how we going to do

11 this?

12 I mean I hear talk super stations.

13 What neighborhood wants to do without fire protection?

14 Get in your car, drive from right here today at five in

15 the afternoon to South Side or Minooka. You tell me

16 how long it takes to get there.

17 And just because we're in a fire truck,

18 believe me, people don't get out of your way. It's no

19 faster really than anybody in their own vehicle. It's

20 a long, long run.

21 There's a whole scientific process to

22 how a fire department should run. It's demographics,

23 it's a geoinformational system study. You have to take

24 into consideration rivers, railroads, size of the road,

25 the type of traffic that road is designed to carry.

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1 Pittston Avenue could carry a vehicle
2 like a ladder truck. Try and run a ladder truck on
3 some side streets all the back. It's not a doable
4 situation.
5 Run Webster Avenue where it's all stop
6 signs. It's not a realistic corridor to run on.
7 There's a lot of things that impact that.
8 Our city is not laid out in a grid
9 pattern. We're not Fort Lauderdale, Florida. We're in
10 a valley. We have a river, we have roads. Go over to
11 North Scranton, roads that stop and start. There's a
12 reason fire departments are situated in neighborhoods.
13 It's to get the response there.
14 We were cut back in '93, and that was
15 through negotiations, and that's truly where things
16 need to be today, negotiated.
17 We did what was right in '93. We're
18 more than willing to do it again. We just want to be
19 treated with respect and sit down and have true
20 negotiations. That's all.
21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.
22 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Hi, Bill.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris. Yeah,

24 bring it down.

25 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Hey, Jude, another win

.

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1 this week, huh?

2 MS. GATELLI: Yeah. Are we going to

3 win tomorrow night?

4 MR. SLEDZINSKI: If weather permitting

5 tomorrow.

6 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

7 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Janet, I wish you guys

8 luck with the season. Scranton, good luck this season.

9 I really mean it, Janet, from my heart. I really mean

10 it. I really mean it. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chris.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

13 MS. STOKER O'MALLEY: Good evening,

14 Council. Well, for me tonight it is a good evening.

15 The mayor was here. And, yes, I came in here to say

16 the same thing I always say, I'm paying taxes on land I

17 can't use.

18 Well, tonight Sherry took me by the

19 hand, walked me right over to the mayor and said, Help

20 this woman. And I thank you, Sherry, from the bottom
21 of my heart, because I don't know what I would have
22 done. He's promised to have a meeting with us this
23 week.

24 And if I come back, don't ask me,

25 Mr. Courtright, why I'm back here, talk to Sherry. But

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1 this is where I'm at. This is what's going to happen.

2 We're going to -- this week we're going in and we're

3 going to talk to the mayor and he's going to help me.

4 Sherry, from the bottom of my heart,

5 thank you. I hope I don't have to come back.

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: We would like you

7 not to come back, not because we don't want to see you,

8 because we really want this problem solved. I mean,

9 there's not one of us up here who feels anyone should

10 pay taxes on property that they certainly can't use or

11 live in. It's a sad situation. Hopefully we can get

12 to the bottom of it and finally be finished, you know?

13 MS. STOKER O'MALLEY: Amen. And I mean

14 no disrespect. Don't find me out of order. Thank you,

15 thank you. And I hope I don't have to come back.

16 Thanks everybody for listening to me and putting up

17 with me. And thanks again.

18 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

19 Okay.

20 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, motions.

21 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Good evening. Tonight I

23 ask you to please remember in you prayers Fred Arnold

24 who passed from this life recently and his dear family

25 members, as well.

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1 Also, please pray for my very good

2 friend, and I think he's really a friend of everyone in

3 Scranton, Mr. Dick Laske, who is hospitalized.

4 I also wish to announce that the Upper

5 Hill Ecumenical Committee will host Friendly's Family

6 Night at Friendly's in Dunmore on Wednesday,

7 September 20 from five to 8 p.m. all proceeds will

8 benefit the Upper Hill Food Pantry at ICC. Please come

9 to Friendly's and eat so we can feed the poor.

10 Because I am seeking information from

11 OECD regarding loans, delinquencies, and loan payment

12 procedures, I ask my honorable colleagues to join my

13 request for this information, therefore, I move that a

14 letter be sent to the mayor and Director Hailstone

15 requesting responses to letters of request from

16 July 6, 2006 and August 24, 2006.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second. On the

18 question? All in favor?

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

23 ayes have 4-0.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And, Kay, then

25 if we could please send an amended letter to the mayor

.

85

1 tomorrow advising him that Council has made the request

2 for that information, and you can provide all of the

3 backup.

4 MS. GARVEY: Okay.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Also, when we

6 discussed earlier the matter of leaf collection, we

7 forgot to mention an important detail, Kathy at DPW

8 said they, you, the public, can call DPW at 348-4180 on

9 Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays when she's in the office

10 and she will try to address your concerns particularly

11 with regard to leaf collection.

12 I also have a few citizens requests.

13 Ward Place in Bulls Head was patched, not paved, and I
14 know it's located very near the DPW complex and they've
15 paved numerous courts and allies over the last few
16 months, and I'd like a memo to DPW inquiring why Ward
17 Place was not paved.

18 And 1625 Hawthorn Avenue, a property is
19 overgrown and is housing rodents. Scaffolding remains
20 on the house for an extended time period. The neighbor
21 had to hire an exterminator to protect her home at her
22 own cost of course.

23 I request a written report on this
24 property. Also, a letter to Mr. Fiorini requesting a
25 complete breakdown of the \$31,5000 charge for
.

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1 demolition at 203-205 Charles Street.

2 In addition, what was the total for the
3 demolition at the corner of Green Ridge and Sanderson
4 Avenue.

5 Also, at 1122 Ash Street, there is a
6 condemned house and the neighbors are complaining that
7 it's falling down, it's a safety hazard, so if the

8 inspectors could please go out and take a look at that,

9 or perhaps Mr. Dougher could let us know if and when

10 that's scheduled for demolition. I have for Mr.

11 Minora, is he there? There he is. I can't see him

12 behind that pole either.

13 MS. GATELLI: We are going to have to

14 move that table.

15 MR. MINORA: Okay.

16 MS. EVANS: I think last week post

17 meeting we had a discussion about non-profits and

18 finding the proper hammer, et cetera. Anyway, this is

19 information for you that I promised I would pass along.

20 MR. MINORA: Is this from Woerster,

21 Massachusetts?

22 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

23 MR. MINORA: Oh, okay. So they're

24 going to have a completely different legal system and

25 tax structure than we have here in Pennsylvania

.

87

1 presumably.

2 MS. EVANS: Well, you know what, like

3 Mr. Doherty says, it's all about money and it's time

4 for the non-profits to pay their fair share.

5 And I don't care if you live in
6 Woerster, San Diego or Pittsburgh. If they can find a
7 way to do this, we need to find that magic card or
8 ticket. Also --

9 MR. MINORA: I'll be happy to take a
10 look at it. I sense when you give me something from
11 another state, that we're comparing apples and oranges,
12 which, as you know, is always a bad idea.

13 MS. EVANS: Oh, I agree in terms of the
14 law, but there could be ideas in there that --

15 MR. MINORA: Well, yeah, that's what
16 I'm going to look form.

17 MS. EVANS: -- that could be
18 implemented.

19 MR. MINORA: That's what I'm going to
20 look for.

21 MS. EVANS: Here.

22 MR. MINORA: Okay.

23 MS. EVANS: And I also wanted to say,
24 Mrs. Gatelli, that I agree with your statement in
25 today's newspaper. You know, it really isn't Council's

.

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1 responsibility to clean up the mayor's mess, in fact,

2 in 2004, as I indicated earlier tonight, I did try to
3 help the mayor by slashing a budget and balancing it,
4 and I proposed just to name a few, and I know it's
5 repetitive, Workers' Comp. buyouts, cutting funding to
6 non-profits and other non-essentials, eliminating jobs
7 in departments created since 2002, returning management
8 wages to 2002 levels.

9 But I think it's clear that the mayor
10 doesn't listen to me. I made another offer tonight
11 sitting down with him together and cutting the proposed
12 2007 budget, if he would sit down with the unions and
13 work out a compromise, a contract that's agreeable to
14 all three municipal unions. I noticed he didn't
15 respond to that, so I assume he has no intention of
16 sitting down with the unions.

17 As for that budget that was presented
18 in 2004, very likely it wound up in the garbage. There
19 was something else.

20 Well, I think the bottom line is, the
21 Doherty debt continues to rise at an astronomical rate
22 and the Doherty poor are faced with an endless stream
23 of tax increases.

24 And as for PEL, I think it's very easy
25 to take this contortionist stance, if you will, because

1 they're not responsible to you, but we are responsible
2 to you. And so, we have the responsibility to listen
3 to your cries, your pleas, your suggestions, your
4 concerns. We don't make the decision for ourselves or
5 for bankers or lawyers.

6 And as far as I'm concerned, there's
7 only one person who's going to benefit from this
8 \$44 million. And please don't forget, you have much
9 debt accumulated at this point than you must add to
10 that.

11 It's not \$3 million a year. I spoke
12 with Mr. Kresefski before he exited this evening. It's
13 closer to or beyond \$8 million a year in debt service,
14 including the \$3 million that we are considering.

15 Now, once again, there's only one
16 person who's going to benefit from this, and as far as
17 I'm concerned, I cannot believe he has any concern for
18 successive mayors, because by borrowing, he is
19 postponing the inevitable and he is placing on the
20 shoulders of not one mayor or two future mayors, four
21 to five future mayors the job of having to levy harsh
22 significant tax increases against the people that he

23 will represent to pay for what one person has done, and
24 only he will benefit because he can walk away without
25 ever having to pay the Doherty debt, and that is
. .
90

1 Mr. Doherty. That's it.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I want to thank
3 DPW for this week. They were very quick to respond on
4 some requests I had made, and they really did a
5 wonderful job the residents. They're a great bunch of
6 guys, and it was a last minute deal and they really
7 came out and they pulled through for me, so I just want
8 to say thank you.

9 I received a letter regarding the West
10 Nile virus in South Side. I just wanted this -- I
11 thought someone was talking back there. I just wanted
12 -- this has been an issue that we've all heard about,
13 read about, it's been an issue for all of us. It is
14 unfortunately come close to home.
15 I first want to send out my sympathy to
16 the family who have suffered the loss. It is
17 absolutely tragic. I had received a letter online from
18 one of the residents concerned, what happens now. You
19 know, here we are, we're faced with knowing the virus

20 is in our area.

21 And what I can tell them is Lackawanna

22 Conservation District comes out and they will spray

23 now. Unfortunately they have to wait until they

24 discover a large, you know, adult mosquito before they

25 can spray. It is not like they can treat it

.

91

1 beforehand. But they are on it. Once there's a

2 report, they are on top of it and they will make sure

3 that the vector monitoring goes on and they will spray

4 and keep it under control.

5 They do usually treat just water, and

6 that is something that they do normally and on all the

7 time, but now they are treating, and it is under

8 control. So, please know that they are in your area

9 and they're going to try to get this thing under

10 control for us. Hopefully we will not have any other

11 cases.

12 I also want to report on a meeting I

13 had with Michael Handley this week. He is the United

14 Neighborhood Centers, he's in charge of that. And a

15 group from the county and all of the people in charge

16 with the homeless were there.

17 This was nothing -- I believe, Mrs.

18 Gatelli, you were there a few weeks prior to this.

19 They have these meetings trying to decipher what are

20 the problems, how are we going to stop this homeless

21 situation.

22 Unfortunately there's, like, 300 people

23 who are homeless in our area. It doesn't sound like a

24 heck of a lot of people, but when you think of mothers

25 and fathers and children, it is -- it's hard to believe

.

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1 that this even happens around here.

2 I explained to them my biggest part of

3 being in a shelter that probably touched me the most

4 was the fact that I got there and realized these people

5 were working people.

6 These were not people who were just

7 sick or addicted to drugs or alcohol, these people were

8 actually people who worked, tried to maintain a

9 wonderful life for themselves and could not make it

10 because of rents or whatever. They just couldn't do

11 it.

12 We're trying to set this task force

13 together and they would like Mrs. Gatelli to appoint

14 someone to this task force to help try to find some
15 solutions to these problems.
16 Now, do I believe that we would
17 eliminate the homeless problem altogether? No, I don't
18 think, but I do believe if everyone works together,
19 maybe we can come up with some solutions that maybe we
20 can help out. We need a lot of housing, we need a lot
21 of help. These people need jobs, and not just jobs
22 that are low paying jobs, but to be able to move up.
23 They need the training to be able to better themselves
24 and be able to become better citizens and be able to
25 live on their own, and that's something that was

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1 discussed. So, I wanted to inform Mrs. Gatelli and
2 maybe we can have a liaison that is there all the time
3 to really help out.
4 Okay. Now, the phone call problem, you
5 know, I was pretty interested in hearing about the
6 phone call problem in City Hall when you call and you
7 cannot get someone to answer.
8 This is not unique to, I don't believe,
9 any of us, but at what stage -- what do we do? It's my
10 idea that we get together and figure out what we do.

11 Do we get one person to answer the phone and direct it
12 all over City Hall? How do we accommodate this
13 problem?
14 We can legislate this to be taken care
15 of, but how? So, that is something that I just want to
16 pose to my fellow Councilpeople. Maybe we can figure
17 out some reason that we can actually make someone
18 answer the phone in some department and decide where
19 the phone calls go and field that. Maybe that's
20 something we need to do.

21 So, that is an issue that I was glad it
22 was brought up tonight, because I know that it's major
23 for the residents of the city.

24 I have a strong belief on PEL and the
25 -- you know, I don't believe they're here because we

94

1 want them here. This was done because we had declared
2 distressed. We didn't have to declare it. I believe
3 we opted to declare to be a distressed city. This has
4 been an awful endeavor, I believe, for all of us.
5 My fear is that if we just let things
6 go, you know, I'm not for payless workdays, I'm not,
7 I'm really not, I am not for defaulting on a loan, I am

8 not for \$44 million either.

9 But I can tell you that if we decide to

10 just let everything go and say, Okay, well, you know,

11 we don't have any other options but let's say no, we

12 are going to create even more of a mess, and that is my

13 fear.

14 So, it is not good enough just to say,

15 you know what, don't give him the money, don't give

16 anybody the money, because that to me is not a great

17 option right now.

18 I don't want people sitting where we

19 are ten years from now trying to figure out how they're

20 going to get out of the mess of deciding that we didn't

21 pay the \$6 million deficit that we have or the \$10

22 million deficit by then. God knows with health care.

23 This is just some of the numbers that

24 are staggering to me. The health care costs for the

25 people in our city is \$12 million and they're climbing

.

95

1 every day. Pension, we decided tonight, what, 2.3

2 million to the pension, which is something that we have

3 to do. This is not an option for us.

4 Worker's Comp, \$3.9 million. To run

5 our police and fire department, totally need this, we
6 have to have this, \$13.9 in \$14.1 million. Filling the
7 gap in our budget and our services for our residents.

8 We have to do it.

9 I don't like it. I don't want to
10 borrow money. I don't think anybody wants to borrow
11 money. My fear is just like your bills at home, you
12 can act like it's not there, you could, we could all do
13 it. We could say, All right. Well, we didn't get the
14 bill yet, we didn't get our audit, we know. We didn't
15 get our bill, but we know it's coming and we know we
16 have to pay the people.

17 Now, I am not ready to jump into this,
18 and I have listened to people tonight and I can
19 honestly say that I am not ready to make this decision.
20 I am but going to say the obvious to me, we have to
21 borrow to pay our bills.

22 I don't care. The unions blame, you
23 know, the administration, administration blames the
24 union. It's part of the deal. Does that matter? No.

25 What matters to me -- at this point it

.

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1 doesn't matter whose fault it is. We have to fix it.

2 So, I don't really care whose fault. I
3 just know that we need to pay these bills, and I don't
4 want people not to have the money.
5 I want to fix the problem. I don't
6 know about a Band-Aid, you know, putting a little
7 Band-Aid on, you know, a huge gaping hole, I'm not sure
8 that's going to help any of us.
9 But I know I won't compromise the
10 services of our city, I will not let there be, you
11 know, people not get paid, and I can't default on the
12 loans.
13 My reasons are simply this, I do not
14 want to be worse off than distressed. So, I'm not
15 making my decision tonight, but that is my feeling on
16 how I feel and where I am in my thoughts.
17 \$44 million, there's --I'm sorry, but I
18 can honestly say there is no way I am going to give \$44
19 million. I would love to give everyone \$44 million,
20 but this is not happening.
21 I want to be -- I still want to be in
22 good standing with the banks and investors, though, so
23 that's something I have to consider, especially being
24 as passionate about the economic development as I am.
25 But I am not going to make a decision.

1 And I am listening to everyone. You
2 all came up here tonight in a very respectful, smart
3 and encouraging way to make me see other solutions, and
4 maybe we just need to look into those, and I want to
5 thank you for that, and not jumping to conclusions
6 about what is going to be done or what is not going to
7 be done, because we are all in this together. This is
8 not the city's debt, this is our debt, whether we like
9 it or not. And that's all I have. Thank you.

10 MS. GATELLI: Mr. McTiernan.

11 MR. MCTIERNAN: Nothing at this time,
12 Mrs. Gatelli. Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: For once, Bob, I'm glad
14 that you didn't have anything to say. Mr. Courtright.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. Kay, Linda sent
16 this memo into us today about a pothole that's been
17 there for two years and we sent the letter out on 6/1
18 of this year at Augusta and Gaston Place. If we could
19 send that down to Mr. Parker and ask him if something
20 can be done either tomorrow or Monday. Two years is a
21 long time to wait for that.

22 I do want to thank Mr. Barrett for

23 sending the letter on Euclid Avenue. It's gone on for
24 a long time, and hopefully very soon these people will
25 get relief.

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1 Last week I spoke about the CRF because
2 I had a taxpayer ask me some questions, and one
3 question I wanted to ask and I forgot to ask when I
4 sent over for that information was how much money was
5 remaining and we had given out the loans, so I called
6 over to OECD and I got a returned phone call yesterday.
7 They didn't have a figure for me right off the top of
8 their head, but they said they would get me a figure,
9 and I also asked if the money is in interest bearing
10 accounts, and they said it is.
11 Some of the money that's in interest
12 bearing accounts, though, has to go back to HUD, the
13 interest, and some we get to keep. So, hopefully by
14 next week I will have the figure and how much money is
15 left from the CRF loans.
16 I'd just like to thank Father Fran.
17 They had another 9/11 event up at St. Ann's this past
18 Sunday. It wasn't as well attended as the years
19 previous, but it's the third year I've been there, and

20 I want to thank him for allowing me to participate.

21 And, Kay, I will ask this on behalf of

22 Mr. Sbaraglia, I know we've sent a tremendous amount of

23 letters out of this office in the last couple weeks,

24 and I hate to add to that, but he wants to know where

25 the money is from the golf course, and I don't think

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1 that's an unreasonable request.

2 And evidently, we can't get the answer

3 unless we ask the mayor to give us the answer and

4 release that information. So, I respectfully ask the

5 mayor that he give us that information on where the

6 golf course money is, because it comes up at least once

7 every two weeks.

8 So, I'll make a motion that we send a

9 letter to the mayor asking him to give us full

10 disclosure on where the golf course money is.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

13 MS. EVANS: Yes. Could you add to that

14 the number of C.D.'s, the maturity dates, the interest

15 rates, so that we might be able to ascertain, you know,

16 what we've earned on it?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. So, we'll
18 just say the information on where the golf course money
19 is and all information pertaining to it, interest,
20 bonds, whatever.

21 MS. GATELLI: Roll call. Neil, are you
22 still awake? I know, honey, I'm tired too. I'm good
23 tonight. I didn't even yawn.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I know, you really
25 didn't.

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1 MS. GATELLI: I'm proud of myself. I'm
2 getting a little punchy, but --

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

12 MS. GATELLI: Yes. Unanimous.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Now, one thing I'd

14 like to bring up, it's a little disappointing to me, if
15 I could find what I did with my notes, I received a
16 call this week, and I'm going to ask once again, Kay,
17 and I hate to keep with all these letters, but I'm
18 going to ask that we do send a letter out, and first I
19 need to explain what it is I'm asking.
20 This gentleman called me because he
21 knew I was interested in what's going on down in the
22 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue. I've made a couple
23 visits down to Buona Pizza to see what's going on down
24 there, but he called me with information to me that's
25 very disturbing, and I just want to make sure that it's

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1 correct information. I'm hoping it's not correct.
2 He's told me, and I need to take my
3 glasses of so I can read here, I wrote down when he was
4 talking to me, he said that there's has been no work
5 done on the project in the 500 block of Lackawanna
6 Avenue since the first quarter of this year, no work.
7 He said the architect has not done any work since the
8 first quarter of this year, because they have not
9 received any payment since July of '05, and he also
10 said that no money has been put into this project,

11 other than what the city has, I believe, through OECD.

12 And if that's the case, then that

13 really upsets me, because I know the previous Council,

14 the five of us, were very much in favor of this

15 project.

16 This Council has asked to have the

17 developer come in here on more than one occasion and we

18 haven't been able to get the developer in here.

19 So, I would ask this. I would ask that

20 we send a letter to the Rinaldis, who I believe are the

21 developers, to the architect, and I have his name here

22 somewhere, Alex Bellavitz, and to Mrs. Hailstone and

23 ask if these accusations, for lack of a better word,

24 are true.

25 And I would like that letter to go out

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1 as soon as possible, because if that's the case, that's

2 very upsetting if this project is on hold.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, didn't the

4 governor himself visit the 500 of Lackawanna and

5 present quite a handsome multi-million dollar check to

6 the Rinaldis?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Absolutely. And my

8 understanding again, and this is just what I'm being
9 told, and before I make any comments, I want to know
10 the truth, but what I'm being told is that that money
11 hasn't been released, the developer hasn't put any
12 money in, the only people that are putting money in was
13 the city, and Mrs. Fanucci is shaking her head. Is
14 that true?

15 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: That's true.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Do you know that for a
17 fact?

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I know that for a
19 fact. The money from the state has not been released
20 yet because of the lack of compliance. There was, I
21 guess, six separate issues that they had to comply
22 with. They have not done that.
23 I believe that they have actually put
24 in now to prove that they have complied, but as far as
25 the money being released, I can say that it has not
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1 been released yet, but I know that's because of the
2 sanctions that the state said, until you come up with
3 this criteria, we're not releasing any of the money.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Are you knowledgeable

5 now as to the architect?

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No idea about the
7 architect. I have no idea.

8 MS. GATELLI: I think the developer is
9 paying the architect.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right, and he hasn't
11 since July of '05, so the architect isn't doing any
12 work, and that's really the question. I'd like to have
13 that answered, because if that's the case, how is the
14 project going to move forward without an architect?

15 And I hope to God I'm wrong on this, but --

16 MS. GATELLI: But the \$9 million, Bill,
17 from the state is strictly reimbursable money.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right.

19 MS. GATELLI: They don't get it unless
20 they spend it, so it's not like they're going to get
21 the money upfront.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, no, I know that.

23 MS. GATELLI: They have to spend it to
24 get it, and it's a percentage.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: My concern is for the
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1 project itself, is the project on hold, which I hope it

2 isn't. And I believe that's all I have. Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. I have a

4 letter to read from, I should have done it before, but

5 I was trying to expedite the time, but, Hey, we're here

6 now, we might as well go for the gusto.

7 This is from our state representative

8 elect in the 112th, Ken Smith. He wrote to us pursuant

9 to our request about the Meadow Avenue sound barriers,

10 and he's committed to the project, and he's already

11 contacted state and federal officials to assist him in

12 trying to expedite the barriers that were promised for

13 Meadow Avenue. He will communicate any information

14 regarding this project and will keep us apprized every

15 step of the way. So, I'd like to thank Ken for doing

16 that. He's the only one that responded to our letters.

17 I'd like to make an announcement since

18 many of us have been on the radio lately, I don't know,

19 I think Mr. McTiernan, you're the only one that hasn't

20 been on there.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Silence is golden.

22 MS. GATELLI: There's a new radio

23 station, 92.1 with Chris Barnes, and he's usually here

24 up in the balcony, but he must have had a better offer

25 tonight.

1 But tomorrow night is his grand opening
2 performance at the Cultural Center where he has been
3 teaching comedians. So, that's tomorrow night at eight
4 o'clock, and it's \$10.00 at the Cultural Center.

5 When Mr. Davis talked about the Housing
6 Authority taking the project down and not rebuilding
7 it, I'm not sure if the Housing Authority has the same
8 rules, but when we were in OECD and in community
9 development, when a house was condemned or a house was
10 demolished, the city was obligated to replace the
11 housing unit. Any units that you took down had to be
12 replaced if they were low to moderate income.

13 So, maybe we can send a letter to Sara
14 and have her find out through HUD or baker or somebody
15 if the same rule applies.

16 MR. MINORA: The Housing Authority, I
17 would assume, knows that. It's their jurisdiction.

18 MS. GATELLI: I'm sure they must know
19 the regulations. But that's what they were for the
20 city. I'm assuming they must be --

21 MS. EVANS: That was Mr. -- or rather
22 Attorney Cognetti's opinion based on all of the legal

23 information that he had available, he gave me a copy of
24 that, and I think maybe we can call HUD and ask the
25 questions.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Because it was the law

2 back then, and I don't think it changed.

3 I'd like to make a motion to have

4 Mr. Minora, Attorney Minora, draw up legislation for a

5 hotel tax and an amusement tax. We did give you

6 several copies of --

7 MR. MINORA: Yeah. I've done some

8 research. We cannot exact a hotel tax because the

9 state has already done that. We can --

10 MS. GATELLI: The state has a hotel tax

11 in Scranton?

12 MR. MINORA: They have it across the

13 state and that precludes any local municipality from --

14 MS. GATELLI: I didn't know that.

15 MR. MINORA: Well, that's what the case

16 law said that I've read. I would be happy to show you

17 the cases, but the amusement tax is available to be

18 extracted.

19 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

20 MS. EVANS: Let's get ready.

21 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'll second.

22 MS. GATELLI: I'm very sad about that.

23 I didn't realize there was a tax on hotels.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: We must not go

25 away in Pennsylvania.

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1 MS. GATELLI: I did. When I went to

2 Pittsburgh on the conference, it was a substantial

3 amount on the room, the hotel tax.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: That was the

5 state.

6 MS. GATELLI: Second. On the question?

7 All in favor.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

13 have it and so moved. Unanimous, Lisa.

14 Also, I was thinking, and I really

15 don't know how to go about it, other than to invite

16 people to set up a meeting and invite people, but I

17 think that it's time that the three taxing bodies have
18 a meeting together.
19 I think we're all on a different page.
20 The school district is building schools, we're
21 borrowing money, the county has us so far in the hole I
22 don't think we'll ever get out, so I think that we
23 should set up some kind of a meeting, all of our
24 budgets, I'm sure, are going to be due very shortly,
25 and just see where everyone's coming from, what their

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1 intentions are, is the school district going to build a
2 school, when, how much money will they borrow, how does
3 it affect the taxes, what do we plan on doing, what
4 does the county plan on doing.
5 So, I think, you know, maybe we can
6 pick a date among ourselves and then have Kay send a
7 letter to the commissioners and the president of the
8 school board and we can have a -- like a summit meeting
9 to discuss this, because I think going on an island
10 isn't working.
11 We need to all be together, because if
12 they're going to raise it and we're not, the same
13 people are still suffering.

14 So, we'll just get together ourselves

15 and pick out a date, and then, Kay, we'll have you

16 invite the other parties. And that's all I have.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. No business at this

19 time. Sixth order. 6-A - READING BY TITLE - FILE OF

20 COUNCIL NO. 45, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX

21 DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 530-532 BROADWAY STREET,

22 SCRANTON PENNSYLVANIA, TO KEVIN SHAUGHNESSY, 1004 RILEY

23 STREET, TAYLOR, PENNSYLVANIA, 18517, FOR THE SUM OF

24 \$4,000.00.

25 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by

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

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: So moved.

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

5 those in favor.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

9 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Abstained.

11 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it, one

12 abstention, four ayes, and so moved.

13 MS. GARVEY: 6-B, READING BY TITLE -

14 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 47, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING

15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 162, 2005, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED

16 GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2006 BY TRANSFERRING

17 \$4,700.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.051.00082.4210 (SERVICE

18 AND MAINTENANCE FEE) TO ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.10030.4299

19 (ZONING BOARD OPERATING EXPENSES) TO PROVIDE FUNDING

20 FOR ZONING BOARD EXPENSES THROUGH YEAR END.

21 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by

22 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-B

24 pass reading by title.

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

2 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

8 have it and so moved. Unanimous. Before we read the
9 next item, I'd like to make a motion that we table 6-C
10 until we receive all the information that we requested
11 this evening.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes. I think that's

15 certainly a very good idea. And this just came to my
16 mind when Mrs. Gatelli was discussing intergovernmental
17 cooperation.

18 I think the city actually is learning
19 from the school district, because from my tenure on the
20 school board I seem to remember rather well each fall
21 because the school district operates its budget on a
22 calendar year, our business manager would come in with
23 a hair-raising deficit and amount of money that would
24 be needed and the mills that would be increased in
25 terms of our taxes, and we were always told to calm

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1 down because that's the wish list and they will get
2 together and will this down and remove what's, you
3 know, not absolutely essential, and little by little as
4 the work sessions continued right to the eleventh hour,

5 it was always paired down.

6 And, in my opinion, paired down to

7 exactly what the school district was looking for

8 initially, and it just made everyone look like heroes.

9 But I'm not going to fall for that same

10 story once again. You know, I think fool me once shame

11 on me, fool me twice -- or no, fool me once shame on

12 you, fool me twice, shame on me. It's a long night.

13 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: It is.

14 MS. GATELLI: It is.

15 MS. EVANS: Also I'd say, you know, we

16 have no 2005 audit, so we have no clear picture of the

17 city long-term debt, we had no budget, so we had no

18 projection of revenue and expenditures.

19 There has been no cuts made to this

20 forthcoming budget or any other for that matter.

21 There's no mention of American Water Services, and that

22 was another question I neglected to pose to the mayor

23 tonight, where in all of this vision lies our

24 \$5.5 million payment to American Water Services?

25 We really don't have any financial

.

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1 projections for the city, and I'm going to agree to

2 table this in the hopes that the information provided
3 between now and the following vote may actually
4 influence one or more of my honorable colleagues to
5 vote appropriately. But as for me, I still say no to
6 all borrowing.

7 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the
8 question?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Gatelli, I'd just
10 like to note, we haven't gotten the audit, and I don't
11 think it's Robert Rossi & Company's problem. I don't
12 think they're to blame.

13 They've stated in this letter to us why
14 they can't complete the audit, so I just want to make
15 that known that I don't think that we should put the
16 blame on the Robert Rossi Company. If they're not
17 given the information, they can't do the audit.

18 MS. EVANS: Exactly, nor do I think
19 Council should receive the blame for that either.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't think Council
21 should receive the blame for anything really.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, in this case
23 specifically, I just don't think THAT the mayor can
24 point that finger.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. And so, I

1 mean, hopefully we can send a letter out and get this
2 information so they can complete the audit, because
3 without it, we're not going to get an audit.

4 MS. EVANS: Well, I think we have
5 Mrs. Gatelli on top of this situation, that she's going
6 to ask the mayor.

7 MS. GATELLI: Attorney Minora, can we
8 subpoena those records from Ken McDowell if we have to?

9 MS. EVANS: They're not a department
10 under our jurisdiction.

11 MR. MINORA: Yeah. We have some
12 subpoena powers, but I don't think they're -- we don't
13 have any contempt powers. They're in the Home Rule
14 Charter, there's -- let me talk about that, you know,
15 without having --

16 MS. EVANS: Take a look at it, would
17 you please?

18 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, because it really
19 puts the city in such a bind that we don't have the
20 information.

21 And maybe we can even ask Accountant
22 Rossi what impact that will have on it. I mean, maybe

23 it's negligible and we can get the rest of the report,
24 like a temporary report.

25 MR. MCTIERNAN: Mrs. Gatelli, when I

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1 was talking to some of the original bidders on our
2 next contract for the independent audit, they did, the
3 folks that were proposing to bid on the new contract
4 did indicate preliminary reports were available, so
5 that's probably the case. It just wouldn't be a full
6 audit.

7 MS. GATELLI: So I think we can ask for
8 that, Mrs. Garvey, at least get a preliminary report
9 from Mr. Rossi.

10 MS. EVANS: They're just now available?

11 MS. GARVEY: I'm sorry. I didn't hear
12 you. Could you report that --

13 MS. EVANS: Now, as finance chair,
14 remember I had asked --

15 MS. GATELLI: If you can call Mr. Rossi
16 and maybe get a preliminary report.

17 MS. EVANS: -- that they provide a
18 preliminary report during the first quarter of the
19 fiscal year.

20 MS. GATELLI: Absolutely. I don't

21 think that office is --

22 MS. EVANS: -- but that was never

23 followed up on.

24 MS. GATELLI: -- going to have that

25 much of an impact on it. Okay. Anyone else on the

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1 question? All in favor?

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

7 have it and so moved. Unanimous.

8 MS. GARVEY: Seventh order. 7-A, FOR

9 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - RESOLUTION

10 NO. 85, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

11 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

12 PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON

13 AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF THE

14 TREASURY, FOR THE INVESTMENT OF FUNDS IN THE INVEST

15 PROGRAM.

16 MS. GATELLI: What is the

17 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
18 finance?

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-A.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

22 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll
23 call.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

8 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

9 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. GARVEY: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

11 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

12 86, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

13 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND

14 ENTER INTO AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH
15 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE
16 OFFICE OF THE BUDGET, CONTRACT NO. ME 300-155 FOR THE
17 MULBERRY CENTRAL REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL
18 PROJECT IN THE CITY TO EXTEND THE TERMINATION DATE FROM
19 OCTOBER 31, 2006 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007.

20 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the
21 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-B.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll
24 call.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

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1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

9 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

10 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

11 MS. GARVEY: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION BY
12 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - RESOLUTION NO. 87, 2006 -
13 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS
14 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL
15 SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF HOURIGAN, KLUGER
16 & QUINN, P.C. FOR LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LEGAL SERVICES.

17 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the
18 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-C.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

21 MS. EVANS: Was this contract put out

22 to bid?

23 MS. GATELLI: I believe so. It was in
24 the packet last week. Was it? Don't quote me.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: I didn't think it was.

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1 I'm not sure.

2 MS. GATELLI: Do you remember, Attorney

3 Minora?

4 MR. MINORA: I don't know whether it

5 was or not. I didn't see this.

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes, it was.

7 MS. EVANS: We're seeing from the

8 audience, yes, it was. Thank you.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: One bidder only?

10 Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: One bidder only. Thank

12 you. Well, I am very pleased that --

13 MS. GATELLI: I'm glad someone's paying

14 attention out there.

15 MS. EVANS: But we really can't afford

16 to hire any more attorneys, and I think -- you know, I

17 don't think it's a matter of, for example, just saying,

18 no, I'm not going to borrow money. There are many,

19 many, many alternatives that have been given already.

20 Let's see if they're accepted.

21 And one of these alternatives is very

22 easy, sit down with the unions, negotiate, get this

23 over and done with and, you know what, use your four or

24 six solicitors that you employ right now.

25 I hear that there are even some whose

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1 services aren't even utilized very often, and I know

2 among those attorneys there's at least one who happens

3 to be one of the top attorneys in this area, this

4 state.

5 You don't need anyone else. You have
6 more than enough now, and all it's waiting for is the
7 mayor to sit down and talk.

8 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the
9 question? Roll call.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: No.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

13 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

19 MS. GATELLI: No. I hereby declare 7-C
20 legally and lawfully adopted by a vote of 3-2.

21 MS. GARVEY: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.
23 88, 2006 - ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A POLICE VEHICLE, VIN
24 NUMBER 2FAFP71W83X217888 FROM POLICE OFFICER PATRICK R.
25 GILMAN FOR USE IN THE CITY'S FLEET PURSUANT TO A LEASE

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1 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND OFFICER GILMAN.

2 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

3 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-D.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

6 call.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

17 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. GARVEY: 7-E, FOR CONSIDERATION -

19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION

20 NO. 89, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

22 LEASE/POLICY AGREEMENT WITH OFFICER PATRICK R. GILMAN

23 GOVERNING THE USE OF OFFICER GILMAN'S PRIVATE CRUISER

24 AS DEFINED HEREIN.

25 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

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1 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-E.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

3 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

4 call.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

15 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

16 MS. GARVEY: 7-F, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

17 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

18 90, 2006 - ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A POLICE VEHICLE, VIN

19 NUMBER 2FAFP71W33X130657 FROM POLICE OFFICER PHILIP

20 CONDRON FOR USE IN THE CITY'S FLEET PURSUANT TO A LEASE

21 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND OFFICER CONDRON.

22 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

23 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-F.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

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1 call.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

12 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

13 MS. GARVEY: 7-G, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

14 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

15 91, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

16 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE/POLICY

17 AGREEMENT WITH OFFICER PHILIP CONDRON GOVERNING THE USE

18 OF OFFICER CONDRON'S PRIVATE CRUISER AS DEFINED HEREIN.

19 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

20 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-G.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

22 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

23 call.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

8 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

9 Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. GARVEY: 7-H , FOR CONSIDERATION BY

11 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

12 92, 2006 - ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A POLICE VEHICLE, VIN

13 NUMBER 2FAFP71W53X203074 FROM POLICE OFFICER ROBERT

14 KEIPER FOR USE IN THE CITY'S FLEET PURSUANT TO A LEASE

15 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND OFFICER KEIPER.

16 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

17 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-H.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

19 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

20 call.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

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1 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

6 Item 7-H legally and lawfully adopted.

7 MS. GARVEY: 7-I, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

8 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

9 93, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

10 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE/POLICY

11 AGREEMENT WITH OFFICER ROBERT KEIPER GOVERNING THE USE

12 OF OFFICER KEIPER'S PRIVATE CRUISER AS DEFINED HEREIN.

13 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

14 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-I.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

17 call.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

21 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

23 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

2 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

3 Item 7-I legally and lawfully adopted.

4 MS. GARVEY: 7-J, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

5 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

6 94, 2006 - ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A POLICE VEHICLE, VIN

7 NUMBER 2FAFP71W23X196911 FROM POLICE OFFICER ROBERT

8 STANEK FOR USE IN THE CITY'S FLEET PURSUANT TO A LEASE

9 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND OFFICER STANEK.

10 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

11 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-J.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

14 call.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

20 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

24 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

25 Item 7-J legally and lawfully adopted.

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1 MS. GARVEY: 7-K, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

2 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

3 95, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

4 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE/POLICY

5 AGREEMENT WITH OFFICER ROBERT STANEK GOVERNING THE USE

6 OF OFFICER STANEK'S PRIVATE CRUISER AS DEFINED HEREIN.

7 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

8 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-K.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

10 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

11 call.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

15 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

17 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

21 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

22 Item 7-K legally and lawfully adopted.

23 MS. GARVEY: 7-L, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

24 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

25 96, 2006 - ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A POLICE VEHICLE, VIN

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1 NUMBER 2G1WF55K639387382 FROM POLICE OFFICER PAUL

2 STAFURSKY FOR USE IN THE CITY'S FLEET PURSUANT TO A

3 LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND OFFICER STAFURSKY.

4 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

5 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-L.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

8 call.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

14 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

18 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

19 Item 7-L legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. GARVEY: 7-M, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

21 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

22 97, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

23 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE/POLICY

24 AGREEMENT WITH OFFICER PAUL STAFURSKY GOVERNING THE USE

25 OF OFFICER STAFURSKY'S PRIVATE CRUISER AS DEFINED

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1 HEREIN.

2 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

3 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-M.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

6 call.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

17 Item 7-M legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. GARVEY: 7-N, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

19 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

20 98, 2006 - ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A POLICE VEHICLE, VIN

21 NUMBER 2FAFP71W33X139262 FROM POLICE OFFICER SCOTT

22 MORAN FOR USE IN THE CITY'S FLEET PURSUANT TO A LEASE

23 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND OFFICER MORAN.

24 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

25 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item

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1 7-N.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

3 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

4 call.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

15 Item 7-N legally and lawfully adopted.

16 MS. GARVEY: 7-O, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

17 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

18 99, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

19 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE/POLICY

20 AGREEMENT WITH OFFICER SCOTT MORAN GOVERNING THE USE OF

21 OFFICER MORAN'S PRIVATE CRUISER AS DEFINED HEREIN.

22 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

23 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-O.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

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1 call.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

12 Item 7-O legally and lawfully adopted.

13 MS. GARVEY: 7-P, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

14 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, FOR ADOPTION -

15 RESOLUTION NO. 100, 2006 - APPROVING THE MODIFICATION

16 OF EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON SOUTH MAIN AVENUE

17 (SR3013) AT ST. ANN'S STREET/LANDIS STREET TRAFFIC

18 SIGNAL PERMIT NO. 6356.

19 MS. GATELLI: What's the recommendation

20 of the chairperson for the committee on public works?

21 MS. EVANS: As chair of the committee

22 on public works, I recommend final passage of Item 7-P.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

25 call.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

6 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

10 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

11 Item 7-P legally and lawfully adopted.

12 MS. GARVEY: 7-Q, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

13 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION

14 NO. 101, 2006 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO

16 THE 2006 AMERICAN DREAM FUND CONTRIBUTION AWARD

17 CONTRACT AND ACCEPT A FUND CONTRIBUTION AWARD IN THE
18 AMOUNT OF \$6,000.00 FROM FANNIE MAE.

19 MS. GATELLI: What is the
20 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
21 finance?

22 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final
23 passage of Item 7-Q.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

132

1 call, please.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

12 Item 7-Q legally and lawfully adopted. Motion to

13 adjourn.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MS. GATELLI: Second. All in favor.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye. We're adjourned.

21

22 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED)

23

24

25 C E R T I F I C A T E

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2 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

3 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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

5 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

6 to the best of my ability.

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8

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LISA M. GRAFF, RMR

10 Official Court Reporter

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