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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, October 26, 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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4 MS. JUDY GATELLI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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6 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT, VICE-PRESIDENT

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8 MS. JANET EVANS

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10 MS. SHERRY NEALON FANUCCI

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12 MR. AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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14 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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16 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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1 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Please stand for

2 the Pledge Of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

3 moment of reflection. Roll call.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Here. Dispense with the

12 reading of the minutes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Third order, 3-A, RECEIPT

14 OF \$1000.00 DONATION FROM SANOFI PASTEUR TO THE CITY OF

15 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BE DEPOSITED TO SPECIAL

16 CITY ACCOUNT #02.229544 (FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS) TO

17 BE USED FOR FIRE PREVENTION & EQUIPMENT.

18 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

19 I'd just like to thank them again. That's the second

20 donation that we've received. Last week we received a

21 thousand from the police department, and this week a

22 thousand for the fire department. Sanofi Pasteur is to

23 be commended. They are taxpaying citizens, residents,

24 and a business in our community, and they have -- are

25 stepping forward, as should others that haven't stepped

4

1 forward. Anyone else have any comments? If not,

2 received and filed.

3 MS. GARVEY: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE

4 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27,

5 2006.

6 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

7 If not, received and filed.

8 MS. GARVEY: 3-C, MINUTES OF THE

9 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON

10 SEPTEMBER 27, 2006.

11 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

12 If not, received and filed.

13 MS. GARVEY: 3-D, AGENDA FOR THE

14 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON

15 OCTOBER 25, 2006.

16 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

17 If not, received and filed.

18 MS. GARVEY: 3-E, AGENDA FOR THE ZONING

19 HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2006.

20 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

21 If not, received and filed.

22 MS. GARVEY: 3-F, AGENDA FOR THE

23 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER

24 27, 2006.

25 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

5

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. GARVEY: 3-G, AGENDA FOR THE

3 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON

4 SEPTEMBER 27, 2006.

5 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. GARVEY: That's all I have.

8 MS. GATELLI: There will be a benefit

9 this Sunday evening at Faccia Luna on Main Avenue in

10 West Side for a teacher's son who was paralyzed in an

11 accident. His name is Ryan Rugar. It will be from
12 four to five at Faccia Luna in West Side.
13 On Saturday night at the Green Ridge
14 Club starting at seven o'clock, there will be a benefit
15 for a South Scranton resident who has lost her leg
16 several years ago and is in the process of possibly
17 losing her second leg. Her name is Mary Ann Sposito.
18 And the buffet is at seven, and the Mark Mack Orchestra
19 is at 8:15.
20 The Art and Culture Ball is November 4
21 at the Masonic Temple at nine o'clock. The proceeds
22 benefit The Cultural Center and The Everhart Museum.
23 The Tram of Terror, this is the last
24 weekend at Nay Aug Park, sponsored by the UNICO and the
25 City of Scranton, it will be Friday through Sunday

6

1 seven to eleven at night. It's \$5 for adults and \$3
2 for children. And I took my grandchildren there, and
3 it was very worthwhile. So, anybody who has little

4 children, it's certainly worth the price. It's an
5 excellent presentation of spooky things for Halloween.
6 Just some items. Potholes were filled
7 on Division Street between Lucky Run Road and Lookout
8 Drive. They were filled on Yesu Lane finally and Cross
9 Drive, Foster Street, 2000 of Sanderson, 600 of
10 Electric, Harrington Avenue, the 2100 of Brown, the
11 2000 of Boulevard.
12 Houses were boarded up at 748 South
13 Main, 912 South Ninth and 2931 Birney Avenue. Inlets
14 were repaired at 100 Popular Street, 1400 Von Storch,
15 1000 Harrison, Amelia Avenue, 400 of Depot and Luzerne
16 Street.
17 There was curbing repaired on Crown
18 Avenue and Gibbons Street, trees trimmed at Nay Aug
19 Avenue, and a lot was cleaned at Nay Aug Park.
20 I just have several letters, one to
21 Fiorini with a copy to Seitzinger for 122 North Edwards
22 Court and 136 North Evans Court. They're in deplorable
23 condition. They're both abandoned properties. There's

24 vandalism at the Green Ridge Teener League. They are
25 pulling on the doors and destroying the building.

7

1 There's a lot of cars there going back
2 and forth, so maybe we can have the police department
3 go out there a little more frequently to check it out.

4 Also, Mike Wallace to go to 508 Race

5 Street, there's a heavy-duty parts place located in

6 that neighborhood that's causing a very big disruption,

7 fumes, noise, trucks, and see if he can check it out.

8 I know they had a zoning variance, but

9 I think they're going beyond what was done there

10 previously. And that's all I have for right now.

11 Doug Miller and the Junior Council

12 would like to pull their raffle winner this evening.

13 Would you like to come up? They're doing a raffle for

14 a handicapped swing set at Nay Aug Park.

15 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

16 And, yes, we will hold our drawings tonight. Over the

17 Labor Day weekend or since Labor Day weekend we have
18 been selling raffle tickets to raise money for a
19 children's handicapped swing set, so tonight we'd like
20 to hold our drawing and announce the four winners. We
21 had four top prizes, so Jimmy is going to pick our
22 fourth prize.

23 And the winner is Ed Marazzi, and
24 that's fourth prize, a gift certificate to Alfredo's
25 Pizza Cafe. The third prize, Ian will pick that.

8

1 Third prize Joe DeSantis, and that is a gift
2 certificate to The Ground Round. And second prize by
3 Katrina Organ. Neil Furosi, and that is \$25 gift
4 certificate to Scooter's Hot Dog Hut. And first prize
5 Kalen Casey, and that is a two -- a mid-week stay at
6 Cove Haven.

7 So, again, thank you to all those who
8 supported this project. We raised a total of \$550.

9 So, again, thank you to all those who supported this.

10 MS. GATELLI: Wonderful. Thank you.

11 You didn't pull my name, Douglas. I was supposed to

12 win the Cove Haven.

13 MR. MILLER: I know. Sorry. I just

14 have one more comment.

15 MS. GATELLI: Sure.

16 MR. MILLER: I know tonight on the

17 agenda we have the loan, the borrowing issue, and I

18 just want to say simply don't gamble our future because

19 of politics. Thank you.

20 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Andy

21 Sbaraglia.

22 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, before Andy

23 begins, can I make one quick announcement, please?

24 MS. GATELLI: Sure.

25 MS. EVANS: I'd like to invite everyone

9

1 to attend a fundraising event to benefit Channel 61.

2 It will be held on Friday, November 10 from 5:30 to

3 9 p.m. at the Scranton Cultural Center. The donation
4 is \$10, and for that \$10, you will be privileged to
5 listen to live bands, see juggling and magicians, as
6 well as clowns for the children, you'll enjoy desserts
7 and coffee, and for those of you who choose, there will
8 be a cash bar available, as well.

9 So, please, I encourage each and every
10 one of you come out and support Channel 61. And I hope
11 this is just the first of many fundraisers to come.

12 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Andy Sbaraglia.

13 MR. MINORA: Mrs. Gatelli, before we
14 have the public comment section, we've got interviews
15 for the City Council seat on Saturday, so I'd ask
16 everybody from refraining from advocating a particular
17 person that they may like.

18 Everybody is going to get a fair
19 opportunity on Saturday to be heard. We're reviewing
20 resumes in the next couple of days, and hopefully we
21 can come to some decision with Council on Saturday.

22 So, I'm just asking that nobody --

23 please try not to advocate a particular client. We
24 haven't allowed that in the past, we're not going to
25 allow that now.

10

1 If you are a candidate and you have
2 your name in, please refrain from speaking tonight.
3 You'll have your time, if you're among those chosen, on
4 Saturday. Thank you.

5 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, I'm one of the
7 lucky ones, I'm not on that list, so I can speak. But
8 the decision for this fifth member of this Council is a
9 very important one, and it affects the whole city to a
10 depth that people don't even realize it.

11 This is the first chance in five years
12 we have to correct all the wrongs that were done by
13 that first Council that the mayor was on and then he
14 became mayor.

15 One thing was we can finally roll back

16 the \$20,000 freedom they have now back to ten where he

17 has to come before Council. The bidding process should

18 have been \$10,000. He upped it to \$20,000.

19 You have the interdepartmental

20 transfers that could be erased, too. This is the only

21 opportunity we have to get four people that can

22 actually care about the city's financial problems.

23 These are the things he did, and these are the things

24 that led up to where we are now.

25 I'm not going to waste all the time and

11

1 effort to run through them all again. I said it many,

2 many times for five years that this day was going to

3 happen, and it happened, because he just wanted it to

4 happen. He didn't care.

5 And I heard rumors, I don't like rumors

6 like this, that the mayor may be thinking of jumping

7 the sinking ing Scranton and moving to Harrisburg,

8 which I don't like to hear either.

9 I think if a man made these problems,
10 he should stick around to clear them up and should not
11 think about leaving. These are things -- some of the
12 things that are coming before us.

13 Now, if that should happen, that seat
14 there becomes a political football, and I hate to see
15 that. I would like to see a person there, whether he's
16 Republican, Democrat, Independent or whoever, has the
17 best interest of the city at heart.

18 That's the only qualification you can
19 really have to really care about the city and all
20 aspects of the city, which are many.

21 You heard me many times speak about the
22 children swimming free. You tried to do it, but it
23 didn't go. That fifth man may make it possible for
24 them kids to swim free.

25 It hasn't really done it. That money

12

1 that we spent for the free swim program would pay off

2 more than all the money we're paying to dog kennels and
3 to people, pizza parlors, all these loans you make out
4 that are small and really they only affect that
5 individual and his family mostly.
6 But that fifth vote could really
7 overturn a lot of these things that are wrong within
8 the city, maybe even get our parks back, which I doubt
9 whether it will or not, because I think it's too far in
10 the courts to really go back that far.
11 But maybe now we can force the
12 administration to come forward. I asked how many of
13 our loans are in default, many times I've asked this,
14 and, Judy, I mean, Janet, you asked it, too. You get
15 no reply. Maybe that fifth man up there will make the
16 difference. You finally will get replies to all these
17 questions.
18 And there's many, many more. I can go
19 back -- all the way back to when this man took office
20 and go through all the legislation he enacted that were
21 detrimental to the city.

22 I don't care what you say. There was
23 no big improvement. I told you that loan -- he cost us
24 to lose \$5 million out of our general fund to pay for
25 the hotel. We got to pay that debt, and God knows how

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1 many more because we can't get that information.

2 And his loans he made, like, Boscov's

3 loan that we're paying off, too, I don't understand why

4 we're paying off that Boscov's loan, whether it's

5 because he's in default, don't want to pay it, or it

6 was actually in the contract. That's one contract I

7 don't have.

8 But he took CommD money, and then I was

9 told you can't use CommD money to pay off debts, that

10 has to go for projects. So, in that case, that money

11 has to come from the general fund pushing us lower and

12 lower.

13 No wonder why we got a Triple B minus

14 rating. There's no way in heck we can not have that,

15 because there's only so far you can spend your money.

16 You're going after non-profits and so forth and so on,

17 which they probably would do, but the only way they're

18 going to do it is if you show them that you're very

19 serious about curtailing the spending within the city.

20 I thank you.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Les Spindler.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council,

23 Les Spindler. The first thing, Mrs. Gatelli, what the

24 solicitor had to say about if you're a candidate for

25 the vacant seat, you can't speak tonight, it doesn't

14

1 affect me, because I'm not one, but I think it's a

2 violation of your First Amendment Right.

3 And your solicitor told me out in the

4 hallway, that's my opinion, well, that's not my

5 opinion, that's the law. The U.S. Constitution is the

6 law, and it says you have a right to get up here and

7 speak.

8 It doesn't say if you're a candidate
9 you can't get up here and speak. So, I think
10 preventing those people from getting up here is wrong.
11 And as I said, it's the law, not my opinion. That's
12 all I'm going to say on that.
13 I forgot to state this last week, a few
14 weeks ago there was an immigration attorney here saying
15 how difficult it is telling an illegal person from a
16 legal person . Well, all I have to say there is that
17 the INS has no trouble telling who's legal and who
18 isn't legal, so maybe we should call them in if there's
19 a problem.
20 Moving on. Mr. Courtright, did you
21 check about those right turn on red signs?
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. Les, I only got
23 an opportunity to speak to one individual, and he
24 showed me a book that has the laws in it, and it states
25 as long as it's posted, it doesn't say where it has to

1 be posted. So, that was the book that he showed me,
2 and I did only get to go to one person, but I'll check
3 for it.

4 MR. SPINDLER: I was told by two
5 separate police officers.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I could be wrong,
7 but he pointed out, I forget the name of the book, I
8 don't want to ask the officer standing back here, but
9 it's a book that a lot of them carry in their car and
10 it says right in there, as long as the sign is posted.
11 And I'll check further for you, if you want.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're welcome.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, something else.

15 Mrs. Gatelli, I know last week you said about how bad
16 Washington Avenue is down here in town, well, the 1700
17 block is pretty good.

18 Okay. Last week the mayor was here,
19 and I could be wrong, but I'm almost positive he said
20 that George Parker has never gotten a raise. Well,

21 here it is in writing. In 2001, he was making a total
22 of \$39,800. In 2002, it went up to \$65,000, which he's
23 still at, but I think that's a pretty hefty raise. The
24 mayor was wrong.

25 The next thing, as everybody knows,

16

1 Council has a very important decision to make to fill
2 the vacant seat. And as President, Mrs. Gatelli, I
3 think it's up to you to make sure we don't have a
4 deadlock, because as everyone knows, if there's a
5 deadlock, the mayor gets to pick the choice, and we all
6 know what happened the last time that happened, he
7 picked just one of his stampers.

8 And as I said, Mrs. Gatelli, I think
9 it's up to you to make sure we don't have a deadlock.
10 It's a very important decision. I don't think it's one
11 the mayor should make.

12 Lastly, I might get gaveled for this,
13 but we're told not to talk about the candidates, but

14 this candidate has spoken about me, and I don't know if

15 this is true or not, Mrs. Gatelli, but there is a

16 candidate who is a disk jockey, and I heard he was

17 telling his fans on the radio to E-mail you to vote for

18 him. I mean, is there any truth to that?

19 MS. GATELLI: No, I didn't get any

20 E-mails.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Well, this same

22 disk jockey said something about me on the radio, so

23 I'm just going to say is what we don't need on City

24 Council is a washed-up comedian named Chris Barnes,

25 because we've had enough jokers up there already.

17

1 MR. MINORA: All right. We agreed not

2 to --

3 MR. SPINDLER: I'm done.

4 MR. MINORA: Thank you very much.

5 MS. GATELLI: Andrew Porter.

6 MR. PORTER: Good evening, City of

7 Scranton. My name is Andrew, I'm a resident of

8 Scranton, a Veteran, and a citizen of the United

9 States.

10 I'm still convinced that the City of

11 Scranton will never be a great town until it is

12 inclusive of all its residents.

13 Last week I came to Council meeting, I

14 think it was at midpoint of the meeting, as I said last

15 week, I was compelled to come to the meeting. I found

16 out later that the mayor was here, and so I did review

17 the recording, and I listened to him speak, and I

18 listened to Council.

19 While admirable of the mayor to attend

20 last week's meeting, it would be even more encouraging

21 for the residents of Scranton to see the mayor of whom

22 they have elected continue to work in concert with City

23 Council.

24 Since Mayor Doherty has been in office,

25 there has been visible improvements in the city. We

1 must encourage this mayor and not posture ourselves to
2 argue, fuss, and fuss about issues that will never be
3 resolved under duress. Only positive energy will best
4 serve this community.

5 When your children do a good job, be it
6 at home, be it at school, you encourage your children,
7 and if they were to do a bad job, you'd also let them
8 know.

9 City Council meetings must never turn
10 into dumping grounds. He didn't fix it, she can't fix
11 it, maybe they, meaning City Council, can fix it.

12 There's not enough hours in a day or years -- or hours
13 in a day or days in a year to fix a problem that can't
14 be solved, especially those problems presented to City
15 Council without the support of its residents and the
16 mayor of Scranton. Council is not Houdini, and this is
17 not magic. This is our life.

18 I came in last year and I talked about
19 fairness, equality, that's what I'm about. We're all

20 God's children. I'm still trying to develop a

21 business. I still need your help.

22 I'd like to take people off Welfare

23 rolls, I'd like to see people do good, not just people

24 like me that look like me, but all people.

25 With that said, if there is a vacancy

19

1 for a City Council person, tonight I make the

2 commitment to serve the City of Scranton free of

3 charge. As a Councilperson until such time as another

4 is appointed or voted in, the only condition I would

5 like to see enacted is all monies that a City Council

6 makes be put in a fund for disadvantaged persons or

7 groups whose intent is to be a positive influence in

8 the City of Scranton. All funds should be voted on and

9 dispersed by this Council. I have a resume and a

10 letter of reference at hand, if you would like to see

11 it. Do you have any questions?

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Ron Elman.

13 MR. ELMAN: Well, I only got a couple

14 things here, and they're probably unimportant anyway.

15 I don't know.

16 I got a message from a bunch of people

17 said for you all to hurry up and vote. You know,

18 whoever comes in is going to know how they're going to

19 vote.

20 There's just no way in the world you

21 can clean up this mess that the mayor has got us in.

22 We cannot make the bad look good. A loan is not going

23 to do it. These loans have got to stop.

24 Like I said, I started talking to

25 people that are living where their rents have doubled

20

1 and all. It's a bad situation in town, and it's

2 getting worse, not better.

3 You know, I'd say a third of the people

4 anyway are on fixed incomes here, and I've had some

5 people say they don't computers to talk to you all and

6 they'd like to participate, and I was wondering if
7 there wasn't some way maybe we can have a telephone
8 with an answering machine, like all the other people in
9 this building got, you know, and have some phone calls
10 from these people, because most of them can't get down
11 here.

12 You can say it, but there's a lot of
13 people that watch the program and they're interested
14 evidently. You know, you could have topics only or
15 something, but there's some people said they'd do that.

16 And the next thing is about this darn
17 trees. I had a friend of mine ask me what I'm talking
18 about with these trees. You know, I just guess I'll
19 start over with my accusations here against -- right
20 under your noses is a subcontractor allowed by the
21 administration completely unsupervised to run around
22 here cutting trees down.

23 And you think it's no big issue, a tree
24 is a thousand dollars or more. He can cut down all the
25 trees he wants. And like I told you, I asked what in

21

1 the world they're doing to the cemetery, they cut them
2 down for paychecks, no other reason. Big healthy
3 trees, not near power lines, are being cut down in
4 parts every place for people's paychecks, and this
5 needs to be terminated immediately.

6 I've talked to one of these guys on the
7 phone, and it's not right that this keeps going.

8 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Elman, excuse us for
9 a moment, Kay, but were you here last week?

10 MR. ELMAN: No.

11 MS. GATELLI: Because Mr. Santolli, the
12 city forester, called me, and --

13 MR. ELMAN: I talked to him, also.

14 MS. GATELLI: And he informed me that
15 those trees at the cemetery were dead --

16 MR. ELMAN: No.

17 MS. GATELLI: -- and he marked them,
18 and a private contractor was hired by the cemetery to

19 remove them.

20 MR. ELMAN: I went by that cemetery

21 every day for ten years, and you can go look at the

22 base of those trees they cut down. They were good,

23 healthy trees. There's no rot on them.

24 And you tell him that, because I

25 already did on the phone. They cut four beautiful big

22

1 healthy trees. I don't know how old they were, you

2 know, 50, 60 years old. They were big around

3 (indicating), you know?

4 But there wasn't no power lines and

5 they were full of leaves and branches. There was no

6 dead branches fell off of them, because I walked my dog

7 Lump through there, you know, like I said, for ten

8 years.

9 MS. GATELLI: He told us that they were

10 dead trees.

11 MR. ELMAN: Of course he wants to

12 protect himself. It's a terrible thing.

13 MS. GATELLI: He does not get

14 compensated for that position.

15 MR. ELMAN: You drive down the streets

16 and you'll see a big red mark on a big healthy looking

17 tree. That means they going to cut it down, and

18 they're all over the place. I don't know, you know, if

19 you ever noticed it. That's what they're for.

20 You know, a lot of you think that I'm

21 very opinionated maybe and too direct, but you never

22 seen nobody come back here and confront me about some

23 of the remarks I've said.

24 The past couple months my car has been

25 keyed three different times real bad. You know, I have

23

1 a Cadillac, that doesn't help the resale value of it.

2 And I'm just going to say, I don't know who in the

3 world's doing it, but I'm not going to stop coming up

4 here and talking.

5 And you know, I think grownup should be

6 above that. And I'm glad that we have a policeman back

7 there for in here.

8 A couple of weeks ago when I was here

9 you should have told him to stop that hot-headed slum

10 lord that's up here bragging about he could good to the

11 bank and get \$75,000. Thank you.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Elman.

13 Bob Bolus.

14 MR. MINORA: Mr. Bolus is a candidate.

15 MS. GATELLI: I'm going to let him

16 talk. There's only two candidates, so --

17 MR. MINORA: There's three.

18 MR. BOLUS: I disagree with you, Mr.

19 Minora. As a candidate --

20 MS. GATELLI: Bob and Lee, they're the

21 only two on the list.

22 MR. MINORA: And Mike Dudek.

23 MR. BOLUS: I'm, you know, object to

24 that under the Sunshine and the right of speech. We've

25 been here in the past over this, whether you're a

24

1 candidate or not.

2 MR. MINORA: You don't have to address

3 it to me. The President is going to let you speak, so

4 speak.

5 MS. GATELLI: I'm going to let you

6 speak.

7 MR. BOLUS: Okay. Thank you. Bob

8 Bolus, Scranton. First off, on the agenda tonight on

9 6-A, I hope it finally ends tonight instead of being

10 table. That will finally put this out, and let Chris

11 Doherty come in and tell us where he's made major cuts,

12 not superficial cuts to the city, and what his intent

13 is to make a major cut to give us a balanced budget by

14 cuts, not by borrowing the money and further impeding

15 the growth of this city.

16 On Wintermantle Avenue there's a ditch

17 just past the Irish Cultural Center. As you head up

18 there, they put a pipe across there and they put some

19 fill on it, but it's a bad ditch, it's got to be

20 finished.

21 I think we need to take a major effort

22 in enforcing or instituting an ordinance in the city on

23 a smoking ban. It's long overdue. I don't think we

24 need to be hit over the head about secondhand smoke or

25 being in an area where we want to eat, sit down, start

25

1 eating your dinner, and people light up a cigarette.

2 But as soon as their food comes, they're the first ones

3 to put them out. So, I think we need to do that for

4 the health and safety of this community.

5 We need to pursue the KOZs and the

6 non-profits, and we've got to stop talking about it.

7 We need to do something, and that's not walking with

8 our hat in our hand.

9 As I brought up on CMC, Mr. Hartman's

10 resigned. His salary is going back in the pot, yet the

11 county commissioners gave him \$40,000 each year. Mrs.

12 Gatelli, you and I both objected to that. They should

13 give us the money back now. They don't need it.

14 They got \$400,000 instead of \$40,000 or

15 \$80,000. We don't need to sit here and patronize

16 private businesses that have the ability to raise rates

17 and do what they want and they're not even paying

18 taxes. No matter what they provide to the community,

19 they're still getting a free ride, while the senior

20 citizens and the other people have to pay their way.

21 On the illegal issue, illegal is

22 illegal, aliens are illegal, but I think we need to

23 find a way to fix the system that's broken. You could

24 be standing on a corner, you could be Latino, you could

25 be Italian, you could be Arabic, Jewish, whatever you

26

1 want to be, and you're singled out as being part of

2 something else that's illegal because of your

3 nationality.

4 So, we need to find a way to simplify
5 and break the system. I mean, illegal or not, these
6 people spend money in America. You call up at night
7 and check your American Express Card or your other
8 credit cards, and I can get somebody in India. They're
9 not spending the money American Express is paying with
10 the dollars we spend here. They're spending it in
11 India. They're not coming to Scranton to buy something
12 downtown.

13 So, I think we need to find a way to
14 take illegal aliens, give them an amnesty. Maybe we
15 need to start it here in Scranton. Give them a right
16 to come here, become legal and become part of the
17 society paying the taxes and getting the rewards.
18 Because even though they're illegal,
19 they pay taxes, they pay Social Security, but they
20 never get to collect it. So, let's figure out a way to
21 fix the system. And I think we can do that right here
22 in the city. So, it's something I would like to see
23 happen.

24 Now, an individual during the week,

25 well, last week we had people coming in here saying how

27

1 great the mayor was, and the one guy came in here

2 talking about business and everything he's done, but

3 it's his wife who borrowed the money, not him.

4 A guy wrote -- a guy named William

5 Sweeney from Taylor, and it was in The Scranton Times,

6 Turn For the Better, he said he was a contractor,

7 electrical contractor working on Chris Doherty's house,

8 a crony.

9 He goes further on here, I guess this

10 is what ticked me off more than anything about the guy,

11 I know the Council gallery clowns will be in full force

12 fighting this one, but this is the right time for these

13 bold moves.

14 Well, he goes on a little more to say

15 that Scranton is a booming metropolis smack dab in the

16 middle of New York City and Philadelphia.

17 I don't know if he ever went from
18 Philadelphia to New York, but Scranton sure in heck
19 isn't in the middle. So, I think he's got to sit down
20 and look at a road map.
21 And I've drove trucks all over the
22 country, and I never went from Philadelphia through
23 Scranton to New York City, so he's got a lot to learn.
24 But what he did is he would be more
25 than happy to return to my great city, he was born and

28

1 raised here, left, if things keep going the way they
2 are, I should be house shopping within the next five
3 years. Thank you, Chris, for all you have done
4 changing our city for the better.
5 Well, if it was changed so much and
6 he's so proud of our city, it's not his city because he
7 lives in Taylor, drive through the city, see all the
8 for sale signs, call his buddy, Uncle Chris, and tell
9 him to pay more money for the contracting work and he

10 could afford to buy the house in the city, he's a
11 contractor and he can pay the business privilege tax,
12 and then he can call it part of our city and his city,
13 but he exited the area. Thank you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Tom Ungvarsy.

15 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City
16 Council. My name is Tom Ungvarsy. I see on tonight's
17 agenda that the loan is coming up again. I realize you
18 have a tough decision, and I'm not here to give you any
19 kind of advice, but I'd like to explain how it affects
20 me.

21 In the last seven years, the tax on my
22 home has gone up \$589. If these taxes go through now,
23 the first year my taxes will go up \$118, the second
24 year they will go up \$148, and the third year it's
25 \$184. There's just so much that the people can stand.

29

1 Now, most every year there is more
2 money coming into this city. I don't know why we have

3 to keep raising the taxes. I realize it's not all city
4 taxes, and I know you people have a tough decision to
5 make.

6 The only thing we can ask is that you
7 use your best judgment and do what's right for the
8 taxpayers of this city. Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. JW Caldwell.

10 Lee Morgan.

11 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

12 Well, I'm going to be really brief. I think everything

13 I have to say I'll say most of it Saturday, but I'd

14 just like to say that I appreciate you standing up,

15 Mrs. Gatelli, for freedom of speech and not trying to

16 stifle the conversation here, and I think that that's

17 one of the most important things that we possess here

18 in America is freedom of speech.

19 But I do have a question for Attorney

20 Minora, Solicitor Minora. He stated that The Scranton

21 Times said misquoted him in the newspaper about

22 bankruptcy and about, you know, the whole article was a

23 misquote, and I'd like to know if Attorney Minora could
24 explain to us exactly what he was trying to express to
25 The Scranton Times and where they misquoted him so we

30

1 can have a better idea what message he was trying to
2 convey when he was speaking to The Scranton Times. And
3 basically that's about it. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. John
5 Williams.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: John Williams, taxpayer
7 in Scranton. I'd like to say something on this loan.
8 City Council is supposed to be overseers of what
9 happens in the city; am I correct?
10 Well, why would you want to take a \$44
11 million loan, being that we're in trouble that we're
12 in, and then later in a year or two try to figure out a
13 way to pay it back?
14 We got stuff here that has to be done.

15 He's spending money foolishly, to my opinion, in places

16 where he shouldn't be.

17 If you took a ride over the Lackawanna

18 Avenue Bridge, it's deplorable, you can't even drive

19 over it, but yet we got a bridge going over the gorge.

20 What's more important, going over the gorge or going

21 over Lackawanna Avenue? Think about it.

22 And I just hope that when the vote

23 comes up, that everyone up there uses their head, and

24 let's not go back to the puppet system, okay? That's

25 all I have to say.

31

1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. I can't read

2 the next name. It looks like Frank something. I'm

3 sorry, sir.

4 MR. WEBB: Yeah, my name is Frank Webb.

5 I'm a very confused taxpayer in Scranton. There's a

6 couple issues about a piece of property that was sold

7 next to my house. It was sold in 2003. It was never

8 published in the newspaper.

9 I was calling the City Hall, everybody,
10 for two and a half years to clean the property up.
11 Nobody knew who owned this property.
12 So, I went down City Hall, I was going
13 to purchase the property myself. Oh, this Mr., I can't
14 say his name, but a guy that lives right across the
15 alley from me who bought the property.
16 So, I went down City Hall, I said, how
17 come it was never in the paper? I said, You know, when
18 he purchased it, they told me. I said, Well, I would
19 like to put a bid on the property. Get your attorney.
20 I said, What newspaper was it in? A reputable
21 newspaper.
22 I asked the girl three times, she gave
23 me the same answer. And then another thing, every time
24 we went down the courthouse, the people that bought the
25 property, got a phone call from the courthouse . So,

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1 what was going on there, I don't have the slightest

2 idea, but get two and a half years of free taxes.

3 We're hurting for money and everything? The person

4 gets two and a half years free taxes on this land, and

5 nobody knew who owned it for two and a half years.

6 And within five minutes after I went

7 over there to find out about it, they knew who owned

8 the property. And now there's a driveway. It's a

9 parking lot really. It's 30-by-50, and the man won't

10 even let me put my ladders up on the property because

11 it's right next to my -- adjoining my property to do my

12 roof, because I have to put a roof on, and he won't

13 even let me do that.

14 So, I would like to know where I'm

15 supposed to get the information to find out how I could

16 get permission to put my ladders on his property and

17 everything. And I would like to get a piece of

18 property for two and a half years for tax free, you

19 know, totally abandon it and make it look like a dump.

20 How do you do that? What kind of friends do you have

21 to have? That's all I got to say.

22 MS. GATELLI: Ren Schmidt. James

23 Davis.

24 MR. DAVIS: Assalaam Alaikum, peace and

25 blessings of Allah be with you. I'm coming back to

33

1 speak to you because of two reasons, number one, we had

2 one of the best financial Councilpersons when Ms. Evans

3 was there in that position some four years ago, she

4 kept everybody on their toes, she asked for the right

5 things, although there was no backing as far as the

6 City Council was concerned as far as her getting the

7 things, but she tried to do the best that she could do

8 in that position.

9 I think, number one, she should go back

10 to that position, the financial chairman. She is the

11 biggest vote getter of any of the Council members,

12 including the mayor could not overrun her voting, as

13 far as the voting is concerned, the public is

14 concerned, and I would like to nominate -- I would like

15 to nominate Janet to be the financial director, but I'd
16 like to vote for Andy.
17 I've seen him here for ten years
18 easily. He's probably one of the most knowledgeable
19 people as far as the rules and the work of the finances
20 in this city. He has researched things that I have
21 never heard existed, he has informed us, he has taught
22 us more about this government than any other individual
23 that I know that came to these portals or has talked
24 to you from this podium, and I think he should be
25 placed on this City Council, just because he has been

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1 persevering and because he loves this city, and you can
2 tell it in the way he speaks to us. He not only loves
3 it, but he respects it.

4 And if you pass him up as a person for
5 that Council, I think we are doing a misjustice for the
6 rest of the residents of this city.

7 I think we should have the very best

8 people, and he's one of the very best people that I
9 have met in this arena, and this is an arena.
10 I sat home and watched this Council for
11 two weeks just to see what I was missing, because I
12 don't like to come here and become endangered or become
13 out of sorts, as we used to say, but there are things
14 that go on here that you don't realize cause people who
15 have come here with their problems and we ignore them.
16 They have no other way to go but to become angered or
17 to become disappointed.
18 And I know that it's a part-time job,
19 and maybe he's right. Andy said about two weeks ago, I
20 think I remember in a tape, maybe this position should
21 be full-time, because that's a lot of work you have to
22 do. I do not doubt it at all.
23 Mr. Courtright, I said to you one day
24 about the lines out here on the street, and you said,
25 Yeah, I talked to them about it, Jim, but they don't

1 have the people.

2 Let's hire some kids. Teach them how

3 to do it. Put them to work. It doesn't cost that

4 much. Put them on part-time just to get the lines

5 done, because the older people that travel Washington

6 Avenue, and they don't have cars, that's the only way

7 they have of going down, and that might be their only

8 exercise, also, but it's unsafe.

9 Look out there yourself. You can see

10 it. There's so much traffic that comes through

11 Mulberry and Washington Avenue every single minute of

12 the day, it's almost impossible for older people to get

13 across the street. I've seen people standing out there

14 for two lights to go by before they go down.

15 Okay. My esteemed attorney, you have

16 been asked to come forward with something for

17 bankruptcy, and so far everything I've read and

18 everything I've heard that you've said doesn't make a

19 lot of sense to me, but I think we would like to know,

20 I would like to know, because I brought up the term

21 myself over the years, maybe it's the second or third
22 time I'm saying this, I would like to find out exactly
23 what happens to this city if we claim bankruptcy, what
24 happens to the power that is invested in our Council,
25 in our mayor, in our finances? How does it change from

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1 what we have right now with this overload of debt That
2 we cannot so far find a way to play or pay?

3 And this is a play for pay, I

4 understand that, or play for -- how did you say it,

5 Janet, pay for play positions?

6 MS. EVANS: Pay to play politics.

7 MR. DAVIS: Pay to play politics, and

8 we're tired of it. We really are. I don't know how

9 you got that job, but you hit the bell well, but I

10 don't hear the --

11 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Davis, your time is

12 up. Thank you. Would anyone else care to speak before

13 Council? Come up, Mr. Dudek.

14 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek, 608

15 Depot Street, Scranton, PA. I live here in The Plot.

16 And I would like to continue on from the point I made

17 the last time when I was here talking about

18 immigration.

19 Paul Tucker, the publisher of The Union

20 News, asked me to run some material down for Council.

21 We didn't get it down here until very, very late

22 yesterday, but the City of Allentown is taking an

23 intelligent look at one stream to this that does have

24 to be looked into.

25 Nationally Wal-Mart hires people called

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1 coyotes to go into Mexico, Central America, South

2 America trying to recruit people to bring them up north

3 of the border to work in their stores, and thousands of

4 these workers were hired illegally, okay?

5 I was not addressing that kind of

6 situation when I talk about immigration. I still stand

7 that Pennsylvania is a model for this country as far as

8 immigration is concerned.

9 I would rather stand on the words of

10 William Penn than Rush Limbaugh when it comes to us

11 making immigration policy. But the bottom line is,

12 this is a topic for the federal government.

13 I had an interesting phone call from a

14 state trooper who happened to see me on Channel 61 when

15 I talked about this, the State Police, or at least many

16 of the troopers are of the one mind that illegal

17 immigrants ought to be required to get driver licenses.

18 The reason is because there are so many illegal

19 immigrants running around the roads throughout this

20 country without proper driver training that they are

21 causing a disproportionate number of traffic accidents,

22 and I wasn't aware of this.

23 His thinking is, even if they're

24 illegal, if they are given driver training and required

25 to get a Pennsylvania driver's license, they will at

1 least operate on the highways safely, and the photo ID
2 that they get in return would be one way to help the
3 federal government keep a better track on some of the
4 people who are illegal.

5 There are a lot of little aspects to
6 this that are beginning to surface now that, you know,
7 it's beginning to be talked about. I just wanted to
8 point this out.

9 But in raising the fear of immigration,
10 you may remember that about two weeks ago, The Scranton
11 Times published a letter from a Mrs. McGovern, I
12 believe her name was Ross McGovern, now she's afraid of
13 the Hassidic Jews coming to the Hill Section thinking
14 that they're going to be a drain on social services and
15 all this kind of tripe.

16 I was surprised that The Times printed
17 the letter. And if I had -- I was about to accuse The
18 Times of being anti-Semitic, until I realized that The
19 Times endorsed editorially the sale of the East

20 Scranton School to this group of Hassidic Jewish

21 people.

22 This is something Council does have to

23 help with, because when you get a large influx of

24 people into the city, you will obviously are going to

25 be required to help in some certain way with everything

39

1 from zoning to providing all the other services that a

2 large group of people coming in would need.

3 I would say, Please help the Scranton

4 School District out on this one and help them sell that

5 building to those people.

6 I grew up among Hassidic Jews. One

7 thing about Hassidic Jews, the first thing that goes

8 down and disappears forever and never to be seen again

9 is the crime rate.

10 It is a remarkable thing. In New York

11 City, the Hassidic Jewish population is responsible for

12 less than one half of one percent of any of the

13 criminal activity found in that city. It's unreal how

14 that happens, but yet it does. Thank you.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Dudek.

16 MS. FRANUS: I wanted to address Mrs.

17 Fanucci on a couple issues, but she left. I wonder

18 why. Should I continue or come back or where should I

19 go?

20 MS. GATELLI: You can come back.

21 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

22 MS. GATELLI: You can come back, if

23 you'd like.

24 MS. FRANUS: She should be back soon,

25 right?

40

1 MS. GATELLI: She's probably gone to

2 the ladies room. She doesn't smoke, so --

3 MS. FRANUS: What else could we talk

4 about? She doesn't smoke, she went to the ladies room.

5 What else can we say?

6 MS. GATELLI: Well, just come back

7 then. Just wait and come back. There's other people

8 that want to speak.

9 MS. FRANUS: It's all right. She will

10 be back. It's Fay Franus, Scranton. I'm not running

11 for Council. You could all clap. I wanted to address

12 that issue.

13 I really think it's something that the

14 people, I think, in Scranton will be shocked if you

15 people pick someone that wasn't politically connected.

16 I'd like to see you shock the people,

17 because I would like to see that happen. I really

18 think you should pick somebody that's intelligent and

19 is not at all connected to anybody up here, someone

20 that never ran for office before, someone that never

21 held a political seat before, someone that's not in it

22 to get something done for their family, someone who is

23 not related to somebody, somebody probably that you

24 hardly ever heard of, but somebody with brains and

25 knows what they're doing. Now, what are the chances of

41

1 that happening? Slim to none.

2 I think when the person is picked we

3 are going to find out what kind of deals were made, if

4 there were deals. The proof will be in the pudding. I

5 just hope you absolutely positively pick someone

6 without any political connections, without any phone

7 calls being made to you, any promises made.

8 Now, as far as this loan is concerned,

9 Mrs. Fanucci, I wanted to ask her about that, but

10 that's another thing. I think you're going to vote no

11 because you're saying, Oh, I'm for the people. Are you

12 really for the people? If you're really for the

13 people, you'll vote no for anything. For three cents,

14 you won't give the mayor three cents.

15 Let him go after the non-profits.

16 He'll get the money, if he needs it. So, don't sit

17 there and talk out of both sides of your mouth and say,

18 Oh, we're not going to give him this money, but we will

19 give him \$7 million, we'll give him \$20 million, we'll

20 give him \$10 million. Don't give him a penny.

21 You didn't have to put this on the

22 agenda, Mrs. Gatelli, so if you really mean that you're

23 for the people, don't give him a penny.

24 He'll get the money. Don't -- there

25 won't be any payless paydays. So, let's see. We'll

42

1 see tonight. Are you going to vote on this tonight?

2 MS. GATELLI: Yes, we are.

3 MS. FRANUS: Okay. Then will you have

4 -- say, for example, you vote -- well, I can't even

5 imagine. If Mrs. Fanucci votes for anything, every

6 reason she gives is going to be an excuse. I find it

7 very odd that every time after people speak up here,

8 she always has some sarcastic remarks about you people,

9 these people, like we're a tribe, and then we can't say

10 anything back to her because it's too late and we have

11 to wait for a week, that's why I was hoping she was

12 here, but that's all right.

13 Anything that this woman says, Mrs.

14 Fanucci, to me, they're just excuses. She makes it

15 seems like she supposedly cares about the people.

16 Well, she doesn't. She cares about -- who knows what

17 she cares about, Mayor Doherty and taking care of her

18 deals.

19 I just hope Mr. Courtright and

20 Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Evans absolutely do not give this

21 mayor one penny. Sure, we'll get high taxes, but we're

22 going to get clobbered ten times more if you give him

23 any money.

24 You know darn well that when you get a

25 loan, your interest is a lot more than if you didn't

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1 have a loan. So, common sense. Use your head here.

2 If you're for the people, don't give this mayor a

3 penny. Enough of the scare tactics. We can survive.

4 We'll handle it, a lot better than we will if we give

5 him the money he wants.

6 He's going to be leaving here anyway.

7 Maybe. He doesn't care. I hope you do. That's about

8 all. Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Welby.

10 MR. WELBY: My name is Tom Welby, and I

11 saw a line this evening, a language, regarding the

12 residency restrictions that you went to establish. I

13 have some questions and concerns about that before you

14 take the vote.

15 Before I get to that, there are two

16 other things that have come up that I was thinking

17 about, and one is that I think Scranton is doing

18 extremely well, in particularly its downtown and its

19 neighbors, particularly when you look at the other

20 cities in our Commonwealth, when you look at

21 Wilkes-Barre, with all due respect, I don't mean to be

22 negative towards those cities, but Easton and Downtown

23 Harrisburg regions, and I think Scranton is doing

24 terrific, and we've a long way to go, but I think

25 Scranton really is doing really, really well, and I

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1 I think the downtown merchants and the merchants in

2 general, not just the downtown merchants, need our

3 support, and I'm proud to be a Scrantonian, and I think

4 we're doing terrific.

5 I do have some concerns when I was

6 looking at the agenda here. One is regarding a loan

7 for a business, and it just kind of rubs me a little

8 bit. I believe the business is a KOZ business, a

9 \$70,000 loan for -- the -- excuse me. 5-H, Uno

10 Fitness, aren't they located in the KOZ?

11 Just if -- whether or not they are,

12 what bothers me is that we might consider making no or

13 low interest loans to businesses that are KOZ

14 properties. I just find that objectionable. I think

15 that they have been given all the considerations that

16 they need, with the exception if they are providing

17 jobs that provide family sustaining wages.

18 If they are a KOZ business and they are
19 a business that is providing family sustaining wages,
20 then I think they do need our support and are deserving
21 of loans like that, family sustaining wages being a
22 minimum of \$12 or \$13 an hour.

23 But if they are a KOZ property and
24 they're paying people \$6 or \$7 an hour, I think that
25 that shouldn't be considered, and I think they have a

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1 lost of gall asking for support when they got that
2 consideration already. And that's just something that
3 I just had to mention.

4 But regarding the reason I came
5 tonight, that being the resolution establishing
6 residential restrictions for sexual offenders, and I'm
7 concerned that the way it is worded it doesn't really
8 provide us with any protections, and perhaps Mr. Minora
9 can help, I wish I could have gotten here earlier, I
10 could have just dealt with him on this and not taken up

11 your time, but the way it's worded it reads that the
12 ordinance establishes residential restrictions for
13 registered adult sexual violent offenders within the
14 city providing for penalties, yada, yada, yada.

15 And if we describe that as being or
16 establish the regulations as being registered adult
17 sexual violent offenders, then most of the people that
18 are registered sex offenders in Pennsylvania do not
19 have to abide by this resolution.

20 Tonight there are 114 people registered
21 as sex offenders in the City of Scranton. If you punch
22 up the City of Scranton, 114 names come up. None of
23 these people, none of these 114 people are registered
24 as violent sex offenders. Not a single one of these
25 114 people would have to abide by the resolution as

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1 it's worded here.

2 As an example, here's one person that

3 is registered in the City of Scranton as a sex

4 offender, I'm not going to read his name, although I
5 should, he has a residence in Moosic and he works in
6 Scranton. He is a convicted rapist, and he might be a
7 multiple rapist, but these people have a proclivity to
8 be repeat offenders, but he is a convicted rapist. His
9 status is only listed as sex offender. He is not
10 deemed as being a sexually violent offender, which
11 absolutely makes me sick that they don't consider this
12 a crime of violence.

13 But the way that this ordinance is
14 worded, this guy will escape these residency
15 requirements that you want to establish. I believe
16 that Dunmore --

17 MR. MINORA: Can I stop you?

18 MR. WELBY: Yes, please.

19 MR. MINORA: The brief heading for the
20 reading into title doesn't define it exactly the way
21 it's defined in the ordinance itself.
22 If you look in the ordinance itself,
23 the word violent doesn't appear.

24 MR. WELBY: In the heading you have it

25 as -- I'm sorry.

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1 MR. MINORA: I know. And I said, in

2 the --

3 MR. WELBY: So, this will not be

4 printed? The words will not be a part of this --

5 MR. MINORA: The ordinance is backup.

6 MR. WELBY: All I want to be sure is

7 that it is not restricted, no. If you tell me that it

8 is not --

9 MR. MINORA: It is not. It is not.

10 MR. WELBY: It is just sexual offender,

11 period?

12 MR. MINORA: That's exactly right.

13 MR. WELBY: That was my concern.

14 MR. MINORA: It's defined by 42 PASPA

15 97.95.1.

16 MR. WELBY: Oh, good. That was my

17 concern the way it reads. Thank you.

18 MS. GATELLI: You're welcome.

19 MR. HILL: How's everybody tonight? On

20 TV -- this is my first time here. On TV it looks so

21 much bigger, and you people are really beautiful.

22 Tonight I come here as a first-timer,

23 and I made a phone call --

24 MS. GATELLI: May we have your name,

25 please?

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1 MR. HILL: Jerry Hill, and I am a

2 homeowner in Scranton. I made a phone call early this

3 week. Oh, wait. Give me five minutes. Sorry. And I

4 got no response. I understand your trying to fill a

5 seat here, you know, you got an empty tag right there.

6 I'd like to nominate somebody, is what

7 I'd like to do. You really do need to get somebody

8 that's not connected, not politically or any connection

9 whatsoever, and I really think you should get somebody

10 up there that got some good views.

11 I mean, I watch this thing on TV, not

12 too often, because I don't get the chance to, I don't

13 get out of work until sometimes seven, eight o'clock at

14 night, and my daughter comes down here, actually I

15 think she's going to come to the next meeting, she gets

16 extra credit up at West High actually, and everybody

17 has good views, and some people just come up here and

18 they talk about the same thing over and over again.

19 There's one person that I would -- that

20 really would like to nominate. I think you should give

21 him a chance. He's got some very good views, and he

22 doesn't talk about the same thing every week, you know,

23 week after week after week.

24 And I'm going to leave right now, and

25 I'm just going to tell you his name, Lee Morgan. Give

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1 Lee Morgan a chance. Get him up there.

2 I mean, I know there's an election. If

3 you don't like him after he's up there, well, then

4 don't elect him, but give him an opportunity. Please.

5 MS. GATELLI: Thank you for your

6 comments. You, too. Come again. Anyone else?

7 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. My

8 name is Nancy Krake. I'd like to review an editorial

9 The Scranton Times did a few days ago. They said

10 several generations of city officials have come and

11 gone the last 15 years of distressed status, none of

12 whom have been able to steer the government out from

13 that designation.

14 There have not been several

15 generations. There have been simply two mayors. The

16 first mayor, who did not want the Pennsylvania Economy

17 League or distressed status, left us with an operating

18 budget surplus.

19 The second mayor, our current mayor,

20 increased our debt three fold. There was no mention of

21 that, however, in the editorial.

22 The editorial also stated distressed

23 status never was posed as a panacea for the city's many

24 problems, when, in fact, it was a panacea.

25 According to the 2001 independent audit

50

1 , it was, and I'm quoting the audit, appropriate to

2 lift the distressed status. That was the year 2001.

3 It was appropriate, however, until the

4 second mayor drove us backwards further into debt than

5 we have ever been in this city's entire history.

6 Once again, The Scranton Times didn't

7 mention any of this. In typical Times fashion, they go

8 on to blame former Mayor Jimmy Connors for approving

9 contracts, The Times said, violated The Recovery Plan.

10 The truth is, that as much as they love

11 to blame this Council for everything, they failed to

12 mention that the Council at that time approved these

13 low cost of living raises and those same contracts.

14 Truly, why shouldn't they have? The

15 unions were the only groups that actually negotiated

16 concessions. So, that's a word this administration
17 does not know when it applies it to themselves, and
18 followed the first Recovery Plan.
19 Fifty firefighter jobs were lost,
20 actually I should say given up, was negotiated,
21 numerous police and DPW cuts were also agreed upon.
22 These concessions, plus the unions
23 actually forcing the city through arbitration to reduce
24 the overall cost of health care actually achieved the
25 documented recovery in the 2001 audit.

51

1 We had recovery. This was one full
2 year before Doherty took office. The editorial in
3 typical Times fashion goes on to state, Mayor Chris
4 Doherty has been very serious about implementing a
5 tough revised Recovery Plan that was approved by voters
6 in 2001's referendum.
7 Once again, no mention of the cause of
8 our recent debt brought to you by the same mayor, Chris

9 Doherty, who, by the way, took office with a surplus.

10 The Times also wants this counsel to

11 replace Councilman McTiernan with another mayoral

12 rubber stamper who will, in their words, continue the

13 financially failing states quo.

14 It seems The Scranton Times have been

15 so entrenched or so long with supporting Mayor

16 Doherty's economic policies, that they must continue to

17 carry his water, even though it's clear to everyone,

18 except apparently them, that the blame for the current

19 financial condition of our city lies solely in Mr.

20 Doherty's lap.

21 Maybe it's time for The Scranton Times

22 to eat some crow and admit they took the bait. They

23 took the bait from this administration, and this paper

24 should start reporting on the true documented facts of

25 the city's financial condition past and present to the

52

1 citizens of this community and place the blame

2 factually where it belongs, Mayor Chris Doherty.

3 This Council has the perfect

4 opportunity to save our city from a 90 percent tax

5 increase and the continued borrowing.

6 This Council has the perfect

7 opportunity to put a stop to the madness of this tax

8 and spend administration.

9 Sometimes it's okay to do things that

10 you think are right for yourself, and sometimes it's a

11 good idea to work together with everybody.

12 And I certainly hope this Council does

13 and does not allow the mayor to pick the next seat.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Is there

16 anyone else? Mrs. Garvey.

17 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, Motions.

18 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: Good evening, and good

20 news. Apparently the city administration has completed

21 its management discussion and analysis section of the

22 2005 independent audit. The exit conference will be

23 held tomorrow at 9 a.m.

24 Because of my job, I cannot attend the

25 conference, as I did in the prior year, when such

53

1 conference occurred during the summer months.

2 I will expect that the final audit will

3 be presented to Council by next Thursday, November 2,

4 five months after the original due date.

5 Mrs. Gatelli, I was wondering if it

6 might be possible to schedule a brief caucus, we talked

7 about it last week, with Mr. Fiorini, Mr. Seitzinger

8 and Mr. Dougher regarding the ten properties that were

9 bid out for demolition.

10 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Garvey, did you see

11 if Mr. Fiorini could come?

12 MS. GARVEY: I didn't check into that

13 yet. You told me to wait off until this week since we

14 had that caucus, so whenever you want to schedule it.

15 MS. GATELLI: Do we have a caucus next

16 week?

17 MS. GARVEY: I don't think we have one

18 next week. I have to check the calendar to be sure,

19 but I don't think we do.

20 MS. EVANS: And even if we just took

21 15 minutes.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, that's fine.

23 MS. GATELLI: Yes, we do, excuse me. I

24 had it listed in notes of interest, but we didn't get

25 to go over them before. At 6 p.m. we have a caucus set

54

1 up.

2 MS. GATELLI: Then do it at quarter to

3 six.

4 MS. GARVEY: Okay.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Also, I wish to

6 discuss further a response I made to the mayor at last

7 week's public caucus meeting when I said it's not my

8 debt, it's your debt. I meant that Mr. Doherty created

9 the \$208 million in long-term debt and the yearly

10 deficits. I did not.

11 Certainly I am aware that you and I,

12 the taxpayers of Scranton, and our children and

13 grandchildren will have to pay off the Doherty debt.

14 The mayor decided to borrow and spend

15 for four years and pledged us and our taxes as the

16 collateral for that borrowing. We've been handed a bag

17 of bills to pay for it for the next 28 years. I only

18 hope that this Council does not add to that debt this

19 year.

20 And since last Thursday, I have fielded

21 countless phone calls and e-mails regarding the

22 appointment of a new Council member. To put people's

23 fears to rest, I would like to address the topic very

24 briefly.

25 Under normal circumstances, the

1 resignation of a Councilman very rarely occurs,
2 however, three Council members have resigned from
3 Scranton City Council in the last four years since Mr.
4 Doherty became mayor, Mr. Reap in 2003, Mr. Gilhooley
5 in 2004, Mr. McTiernan in 2006.
6 I believe more than ever the time has
7 arrived for an accountable representative of the
8 people. Council needs a representative who is
9 apolitical, that is having no firm association with
10 party politics, someone who is knowledgeable and
11 intelligent, who is independent and has a backbone, and
12 most importantly, someone who will work for the people,
13 not the mayor. We need to balance the power between
14 the executive and legislative branches of government in
15 our city.
16 And finally, I might add before I do
17 this week's citizens' requests that as far as I
18 understand, we will be conducting those interviews on
19 Saturday at eleven. The meeting is open to the public
20 according to revisions to The Sunshine Law, and I'm

21 also very pleased to announce that Channel 61 will be
22 broadcasting those interviews as far as I know, and I
23 think that's very advantageous for the people of the
24 city.

25 After all, if these were true

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1 candidates seeking in an election this seat on Council,
2 they would debate publicly, they would express their
3 positions on the various critical issues that affect
4 your everyday lives, so I do feel that it is a great
5 benefit to everyone to be able to hear those interviews
6 or to even attend those interviews.

7 And this week's citizens' requests are,

8 no dumping signs are needed in the 300 block of Reeves
9 Street at the abandon lot. Please install as soon as
10 possible.

11 Also, I think I mentioned last week

12 about the corner of 16th and division putting no

13 parking signs up there, and I've learned by passing by,

14 it still has not occurred, so I would ask Mr. McMullen

15 if he could please address that as soon as possible.

16 A memo to Mr. Parker, Repair potholes

17 located between 126 and 129 West Parker Street. The

18 resident has repaired holes himself in the past and

19 reports that the blacktop is now breaking up, and I

20 don't believe that any citizen, whether he be elderly

21 or very young, should have to go out and fill potholes

22 himself.

23 A memo to Mr. Vitras, please plow the

24 100 block of West Parker Street after each snowfall

25 this winter. Residents say it is never plowed.

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1 A letter to Mr. Wallace, the zoning

2 officer, please respond by November 2, 2006 to the

3 following questions, Is Keystone Community Resources

4 considered a business? Are group homes only addressed

5 in R-1C areas of the zoning law? Please attach a copy

6 of resident's letter concerning -- regarding 302 Lauer

7 Avenue.

8 A letter to Mr. Doherty, Please submit

9 to Scranton City Council a revised capital budget that

10 complies with the requirements of the Home Rule Charter

11 Section 904-2, Section 904-3, Section 904-4 and Section

12 904-5.

13 Such revised capital budget shall be

14 submitted to Council by November 6, 2006 to guarantee

15 compliance with Section 906 of the Home Rule Charter.

16 And finally another letter to Mr.

17 Parker, install a curb at 2629 North Main Avenue

18 excluding the driveway. Water and dirt floods the

19 property after rain falls and ice forms during the

20 winter months. The elderly residents can no longer

21 chop the ice themselves.

22 Last year, I understand, the city

23 agreed to install curbing as soon as it had the money

24 in 2006, yet this has not occurred. Winter is fast

25 approaching, and certainly the paving material has

1 decreased over the summer months, so I am urging DPW to
2 please alleviate that situation for that resident. And
3 that's it.

4 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mrs. Fanucci.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Last week after
6 our meeting, I have to say I spoke to Mark Seitzinger,
7 who was just appointed to be the deputy director of --
8 we had a little misunderstanding -- or I don't want to
9 say misunderstanding, a problem in understanding what
10 exactly he was doing.

11 We were questioning a lot of that last
12 week, so what I did was I called Mr. Seitzinger and
13 asked him to send me pretty much a sheet of what he did
14 all month.

15 So, he sent me a list, and this is what
16 he came up with, 69 citations from the police
17 department for ordinance violations, 49 code violations
18 that were spotted by inspectors, and notifications were
19 sent to the owners, six condemned homes by inspectors,

20 nine parking tickets that were issued.

21 I said to him, So, what is this? We

22 know -- we're very happy with the blight and trying to

23 get out there and trying to get rid of our blight.

24 What does this task force do? And his answer was, it

25 is a coordination between the police officers himself

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1 and the inspectors.

2 I said, What exactly is it that's the

3 benefit to us? I mean, that was a question we had last

4 week. Why will we benefit from having someone else in

5 this mix?

6 And I was happy with the answer. What

7 he said is we stay on top of this. We walk back to

8 these places, we make sure that they're doing what they

9 should do, we make sure that they are on top of the

10 codes, which in turn will help increase the property

11 values next door on the blocks and help coordinate and

12 maybe take some pressure off of the other inspectors

13 and the police department.

14 So, also what I did was we added up the

15 citations of how much this month we would collect, if

16 all were paid now in a perfect world, wouldn't that be

17 nice.

18 But \$20,000 in extra revenue we would

19 have increased, not only would we have increased the

20 revenue, we would have helped with our blight and also

21 helped with the appearance of our neighborhoods.

22 He had given me one example of

23 something that I thought I would share. This, I

24 thought, was a great story.

25 There was a place, I'm not going to

60

1 mention the exact address, because I don't think that's

2 fair to the property owner, but there's a place in the

3 Hill Section, the porch was falling down, literally

4 falling down, and it was a safety issue.

5 They had applied for permits to go and

6 reconstruct this porch and had not been able to do
7 that. They went in, the task force went in. They put
8 it in and said, Listen, you have to do this now. The
9 guy started to fix the porch, and that was something we
10 should be happy about, because the people next door
11 were thrilled and actually the homeowner who owned the
12 house was not aware. He was a renter, so was not aware
13 that this situation was going on.

14 So, these are the type of things that
15 they do. They walk around the neighborhoods, they
16 help. So, if you see them out there and there's
17 something that maybe you're not too happy about in your
18 neighborhood, call them. Call them and help them with
19 this task. I think it's a good thing for us. So, I
20 was happy to find out all that after last week's
21 meeting.

22 \$44 million again, for the love of God
23 again, I can say this six billion times, I did not want
24 \$44 million. I have never said I was for \$44 million
25 ever once. It seems people -- I don't know if I'm

61

1 talking in a different language obviously.
2 I said I would never want to default on
3 our TANS. I do believe that that's a problem. I'm not
4 happy about having to do that. It's something that I
5 said from the beginning that I would not want to do,
6 but whatever may be will be. This is what it's about.
7 It's about us voting and coming to some type of
8 conclusion or solution or not a solution.
9 I will not want to take responsibility
10 for the taxes going up in the city under any
11 circumstances, especially being in this seat for the
12 shortest amount of time.
13 I believe that when a budget was voted
14 on and we knew that there was not money present to
15 cover that hole, that that was a little irresponsible,
16 regardless of the reasoning, regardless of the timing,
17 regardless of the events that took place. We knew at
18 that time we were going to be in the hole. That

19 bothers me. It will always bother me.

20 When I vote no for \$44 million, it will

21 be for \$44 million. Would I have voted for ten, would

22 I have liked to see us not be in a situation of

23 defaulting? Absolutely. It might not be popular,

24 might not be the best solution, but it was the only one

25 that I found to be viable at this time.

62

1 I don't want this burden to keep going

2 on. The tabling and the discussions have not really

3 gotten us anywhere right now.

4 So, I will be voting no for 44. I wish

5 to God and hope that we come to some solution in this

6 city that's better for the rest of us. I'm not sure

7 that this is it, but I know tonight when we go home, we

8 are still going to be faced with the problems we were

9 faced coming in here tonight. That is a real issue.

10 It's something that we have to work very hard on, and I

11 know we're committed to trying to figure out a

12 solution, that's why we're here. And that is all I

13 have. Thank you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

15 Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. I didn't call

17 Mr. Parker about 33 Forest Glen, because Kay had put it

18 in a letter amongst other letters, but I'm going to

19 have to call him.

20 Now in front of 33 Forest Glen, it's

21 gotten to the point where people are losing their hub

22 caps, and we're going to start acquiring a collection

23 up there now. So, I will be going to him for that.

24 Mrs. Fanucci past this over to Mrs.

25 Gatelli, who gave it to me, and this is in reference to

63

1 last week when I spoke about grants from the Governor's

2 office, and I'll read this letter, it came from Dave

3 Elliott and it's addressed to me.

4 On Friday, October 20, 2006, I was

5 informed that you were inquiring about why Scranton
6 Police Department did not receive funding for
7 additional officers and other departments throughout
8 the state were receiving these funds.

9 There was an article in The Scranton
10 Times after the announcement was made mentioned how
11 Scranton did not qualify.

12 On July 26, 2006, the Governor's office
13 announced the state grant awarding \$10 million to
14 enhance public safety for its citizens. 30 percent of
15 the funding would go to municipalities with at least
16 20,000 residents and no more than 200,000 residents.

17 Eligible departments in this category
18 would have been eligible for five officers. To meet
19 the requirements, the municipalities had to have at
20 least two or more homicides by firearm or handgun in
21 the year 2005. We do not meet the standards to apply.

22 The reason for the funding was that 667
23 Pennsylvanians died as victims of homicide in 2005, and
24 firearms were involved in 84 percent or of 557 of

25 these. Fortunately Scranton did not have any homicides

64

1 involving a weapon. And we're talking 2005, and I know

2 we had some in years before, so please don't call me

3 and say we had them in 2004 and three, I know that we

4 did.

5 You had mentioned several agencies that

6 received funding for additional officers. Below is a

7 list of the agencies and number of homicides by firearm

8 in 2005.

9 And I think it warrants me reading it a

10 moment, because I read these agencies got the funding,

11 so it's only fair that I read it.

12 Philadelphia had 305 homicides;

13 Pittsburgh, 53; Chester, 14; Allentown, 12; York, 10;

14 Harrisburg, 9; Williamsport, 3; Wilkes-Barre, 2;

15 Pottstown, two; and Scranton didn't have any.

16 And so, Mr. Elliott writes, After

17 learning that Scranton did not meet the qualifications,

18 I decided to apply anyway and mentioned that Scranton

19 did have incidents involving handguns and we would be

20 interested in the grant if there was leftover funding.

21 Unfortunately we did not receive a response. I

22 believe all funds have been dispersed. So, we thank

23 Dave Elliott for that, and I thank Mrs. Fanucci for

24 getting that done for me.

25 I received a letter, a local group of

65

1 people who do not want to be mentioned, got a thank you

2 for helping out with an event that's going to allow it

3 to be sponsored here in the Scranton area, so I have to

4 pick and chose this letter here, because they don't

5 want to be identified for the help that they gave.

6 As the newest olympic sport, BMX racing

7 has grown throughout the US and locally, we have

8 experienced a tremendous increase in participants over

9 the last few years.

10 Through the efforts of our volunteers

11 and the highest rider count statewide, we were able to

12 secure the privilege of hosting this event for the

13 first time since 1991.

14 Your sponsorship not only helped our

15 non-profit BMX track to offset the costs of this event,

16 but also showcased the generosity and kindness of the

17 people in Northeast PA. And that's from Mike McLain,

18 he's donation coordinator.

19 And the group that helped them out,

20 they know who they are, they just did not want to be

21 identified, so we thank them for their help for this

22 event that's going to be coming to this area.

23 I answered Les Spindler's question

24 partly on the no turn on red, and I'll delve into that

25 a little deeper this coming week.

66

1 Kay, if I can ask you, and I know we're

2 really bogged down this week, so next week if you get

3 time or the week after, but I have a concern. I was

4 confronted by somebody on the way into city hall this
5 week, and he told me the parking garage that's right
6 over here on Adams Avenue, that we had some kind of big
7 problem, a big chunk of cement fell down and crushed a
8 car, and I didn't hear of that anywhere, other than
9 this individual was in the paper or anything.

10 So, could I check that out before we
11 get any rumors spread? And if it's a fact, have them
12 report back to us and what happened there.

13 On my way here I was stopped by a
14 gentleman, Pike Street, it's a street that not too many
15 people are familiar with, it's right off of Morgan
16 Highway, and they've had problems with their road over
17 the years, and the DPW, they did go up there and do
18 some pothole patching, but this gentleman said he has
19 been calling for months to see if they can get a little
20 bit more help up there, so maybe, Kay, if we can add to
21 the list of Mr. Parker Pike Street.

22 One last thing, last week I mentioned
23 the crosswalk at Luzerne and Main Avenue, that the

24 crossing guard was concerned because it wasn't painted

25 there, and I got two more concerns this week, and I

67

1 went down and checked it out myself.

2 If you're heading north on Main Avenue

3 at the corner of Main and Luzerne, there's no arrows or

4 lines or anything indicating which lane goes straight

5 and which lane takes a right-hand turn, and it's cause

6 for concern.

7 I travel that all the time, and I know

8 which lane to turn in, because I've lived there for

9 quite a while, but I guess there has been some

10 accidents there and a great concern, so if it's not Mr.

11 Parker, if it's the state, you know, Main Avenue is

12 broken up between the state, the county and the city,

13 and I'm not sure if that area is ours.

14 If you can ask Mr. Parker, and if not,

15 if he would be so kind to forward it to whoever the

16 agency is would need to do that. I think we need to

17 get that done ASAP. And that's all I have. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, did you

19 mention Boulevard Avenue earlier?

20 MS. GATELLI: No, I don't think I did.

21 MS. EVANS: Oh, okay. Just a very

22 quick update on Boulevard Avenue, according to Mr.

23 Parker, it will be paved in the spring of 2007.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mrs. Garvey.

25 5-A is motions, and we'll need a motion --

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1 MR. MINORA: We need a motion to accept

2 Mr. McTiernan's resignation.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll make a motion we

4 accept Mr. McTiernan's resignation.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

6 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

11 have it and so moved. We also need a motion for a

12 chair for finance.

13 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'd like to make a

14 motion that we appoint Mrs. Evans chair of finance --

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: Just for tonight.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Just for tonight's

18 meeting.

19 MS. COURTRIGHT: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

25 have it and so moved. Okay, Mrs. Garvey.

69

1 MS. GARVEY: 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

2 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 210, 2003

3 ENTITLED CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT
4 NO. 02.229544 FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS TO ACCEPT
5 DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE CITIZENS AND/OR ENTITIES IN
6 MEMORY OF FALLEN/DECEASED FIREFIGHTERS TO BE USED FOR
7 THE PURCHASE OF ITEMS NOT NORMALLY APPROPRIATED FOR IN
8 THE OPERATING BUDGET TO EXPAND THE SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR
9 SAID ACCOUNT TO INCLUDE ANY OTHER DONATIONS TO THE
10 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT MADE BY PRIVATE CITIZENS
11 AND/OR ENTITIES, TO PURCHASE ITEMS FOR USE IN THIS
12 DEPARTMENT.

13 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll
14 entertain a motion that 5-B be introduced.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

16 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

17 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in
18 favor.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

23 have it and so moved. Unanimous.

24 MS. GATELLI: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION -

25 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY

70

1 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229583 ENTITLED POLICE DEPARTMENTAL

2 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (SID) ASSET FORFEITURES

3 ACCOUNT FOR RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF EQUITABLE

4 SHARING OF ASSET FORFEITURES FROM VARIOUS AGENCIES

5 WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SID TO BE USED FOR DRUG

6 INVESTIGATION PURPOSES ONLY.

7 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

8 entertain a motion that 5-C be introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

12 those in favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

16 MS. GATELLI: Aye. The ayes have it

17 and so moved.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

19 ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING AN INTEREST

20 BEARING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229499 ENTITLED

21 EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)

22 PROGRAM.

23 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

24 entertain a motion that 5-D be introduced.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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1 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

3 those in favor.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

8 have it and so moved. Unanimous.

9 MS. GARVEY: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
10 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
11 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE FUNDS FOR THE
12 EDWARD J. BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) FORMERLY
13 KNOWN AS THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT (LLEBG).

14 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll
15 entertain a motion that 5-E be introduced.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

18 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. Maybe just one quick
20 question. Maybe Mr. Courtright can answer this. We've
21 noticed that there is a name change in this grant,
22 there's a name change in the grant from the Local Law
23 Enforcement Block Grant to the Edward J. Byrne or Byrne
24 Justice Assistance Grant, can you explain that for the
25 public?

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I noticed that myself,

2 and I started talking about it with Kay, and then I
3 never pursued it any further. We got a little caught
4 up in this replacing Mr. McTiernan, so I will look into
5 it further.

6 MS. EVANS: Great. Next week then
7 perhaps you can inform us all.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

9 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the
10 question? All in favor?

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

14 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

15 have it and so moved. Unanimous.

16 MS. GARVEY: 5-F, FOR INTRODUCTION -

17 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY

18 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229582 ENTITLED SECURE OUR SCHOOLS FOR

19 THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDING UNDER THE U.S.

20 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED

21 POLICING SERVICES (COPS) SECURE OUR SCHOOLS (SOS) 2006

22 GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL
23 SAFETY RESOURCES AND PROVIDE IMPROVED SECURITY AT
24 SCHOOLS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

25 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

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1 entertain a motion that 5-F be introduced.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. This program is

6 brought to us by a grant from the Department of Justice

7 in the amount of \$19,954, and it will provide the

8 following to our local high schools, placement in use

9 of metal detectors, locks, lighting and other deterrent

10 measures, security assessments, security training of

11 personnel and students, coordination with local law

12 enforcement or any other measure that may provide a

13 significant improvement in security, and I am very

14 grateful for these measures.

15 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

16 question? All in favor.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

21 have it and so moved.

22 MS. GARVEY: 5-G, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

23 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

24 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE FUNDS FOR THE

25 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY

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1 ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES (COPS) SECURE OUR SCHOOLS

2 (SOS) 2006 GRANT PROGRAM.

3 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

4 entertain a motion that 5-G be introduced.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

8 those in favor.

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

13 have it and so moved.

14 MS. GARVEY: 5-H, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

15 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

16 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

17 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE

18 COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT

19 NO. 03-150.7 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$70,000.00 TO

20 UNO FITNESS, INC. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

21 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

22 entertain a motion that 5-H be introduced.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: So moved.

24 MS. GATELLI: No Second? It dies for a

25 lack of a second. 5-I, Mrs. Garvey.

1 MS. GARVEY: 5-I, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

2 RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF JERRY RICHARDSON, 829

3 CAPOUSE AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A

4 MEMBER OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION. MR.

5 RICHARDSON'S TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND HIS

6 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

7 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

8 entertain a motion that 5-I be introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

12 those in favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

16 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

17 have it and so moved.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5-J, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

19 RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS PREAMBO, 510 DEAN

20 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF

21 THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION. MR. PREAMBO'S TERM
22 EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL
23 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

24 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that 5-J be introduced.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

3 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in
4 favor.

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
9 have it and so moved.

10 MS. GARVEY: Sixth order. 6-A, READING

11 BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 48, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE

12 - AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE

13 REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,

14 PURSUANT TO A LEASE AGREEMENT; DECLARING THE GUARANTY
15 OF SAID AUTHORITY'S GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BONDS FOR
16 THE BENEFIT OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
17 PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A PROJECT OF THE CITY FOR WHICH
18 LEASE RENTAL DEBT IS TO BE INCURRED; STATING THE
19 REALISTIC ESTIMATED USEFUL LIFE OF THE FACILITIES
20 RELATING TO THE BONDS; DETERMINING TO INCUR LEASE
21 RENTAL DEBT IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO
22 EXCEED \$44,000,000 IN RESPECT OF SAID PROJECT, SUCH
23 DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY THE CITY'S SUBLEASE AND
24 GUARANTY AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO SAID BONDS;
25 AUTHORIZING CERTAIN CITY OFFICERS TO PREPARE, CERTIFY

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1 AND FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
2 DEVELOPMENT THE DEBT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY SECTION 8110
3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT AND AUTHORIZING
4 THE PREPARATION OF A DEBT STATEMENT AND BORROWING BASE
5 CERTIFICATE; APPROVING THE FORM OF, AND AUTHORIZING,
6 SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY

7 OF THE AFORESAID LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND
8 GUARANTY AGREEMENT; REPEALING INCONSISTENT PRIOR
9 ORDINANCES; SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO THE
10 EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE AFORESAID LEASE AGREEMENT
11 AND SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE
12 PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO TAKE ALL REQUIRED,
13 NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE RELATED ACTION IN CONNECTION
14 WITH SUCH PROJECT AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE
15 LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY AGREEMENT;
16 DECLARING SAID PROJECT DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY
17 AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY.

18 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by
19 title of Item 6-A, what's your pleasure? Somebody move
20 on it.

21 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Madame
22 Chairperson, I move that Item 6-A pass reading by
23 title.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second it so we
25 can vote on it. Second.

1 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. There are many

3 reasons to vote against this borrowing issue. First of

4 all, the mayor himself admitted at least week's public

5 caucus that he used 2004 figures, 2004 audit figures

6 and budget figures, to apply for this borrowing, and

7 those same figures were submitted to Standard and

8 Poors.

9 Secondly, our bond rating has dropped,

10 according to Standard and Poors. They explained that

11 the city has borrowed too much money and its tax base

12 cannot support such borrowing.

13 Now, people may say, What happens this

14 year? What happens to the current hole? Well, the

15 mayor has had ample opportunity throughout 2006 to

16 address such hole. He's been allowed to borrow money

17 for every year in office beginning with 2003, and yet

18 he continued to approach each Council demanding more

19 borrowing, never having made a single budgetary cut.

20 Now, as for this year's money, I would
21 have to question why Mr. Doherty's suggestion of the
22 sale of delinquent taxes for the, I believe, amount of
23 \$2.5 million, according to his own statements, had not
24 been pursued vigorously throughout 2006, since he would
25 have known he was facing yet another deficit.

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1 There is over \$3 million available to
2 the city from the golf course proceeds, plus interest.
3 The city, for example, has never even considered a
4 possible privatization of the Sewer Authority, and
5 those are just a few examples.

6 Now, if the mayor had taken the
7 suggestions and advice I've offered to him over three
8 years, he would not, we would not, find ourselves in
9 this ugly situation in 2006.

10 But no, spending reductions have
11 occurred, no budgetary reductions have occurred, and no
12 new revenue sources have been generated by this

13 administration.

14 Now, I believe, for example, in the

15 time that he has discussed this borrowing, he has hired

16 more individuals, when he easily could have eliminated

17 that from his budget.

18 And truly, perhaps he would have only

19 saved between \$70 and \$80,000, but he himself suggested

20 a possible agreement to a five percent cut in

21 administrative salaries last week totally only \$77,000.

22 But he will not save. He will not make the attempt to

23 pay down our debt service.

24 And so, I believe, as many of the

25 citizens have said over the last two or three months,

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1 you can't borrow your way out of debt. All we're going

2 to do is increase the amount of debt, and we have to

3 stop the financial bleeding tonight.

4 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

5 question? I would just like to say one thing, that

6 I'll be voting tonight for my three grandchildren.

7 That's all I have to say. We'll take a roll call on

8 this, Lisa. Neil.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: No.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: No. Unanimous.

17 MS. GARVEY: 6-B, READING BY TITLE -

18 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 53, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE - ORDINANCE

19 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,

20 PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING RESIDENTIAL RESTRICTIONS FOR

21 REGISTERED ADULT SEXUAL VIOLENT OFFENDERS WITHIN THE

22 CITY, PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SUCH

23 RESIDENTIAL RESTRICTIONS AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE

24 DATE.

25 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by

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

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-B

3 pass reading by title.

4 MS. EVANS: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in

6 favor.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

11 have it and so moved. Unanimous.

12 MS. GARVEY: 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

13 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF

14 COUNCIL NO. 51, 2006 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY

15 AT 977 UNION AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA TO RUSSELL

16 AND DEBORAH PRENO, 983 UNION AVENUE, SCRANTON,

17 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, FOR THE SUM OF \$2,600.00.

18 MS. GATELLI: What is the

19 recommendation of the chair on finance?

20 MS. EVANS: As chair for the committee

21 on finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

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. Courtright.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. GARVEY: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

10 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL

11 NO. 52, 2006 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 155, 1999

12 TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TAKING THE MASTER
13 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE EXAM AND TO CHANGE THE
14 REQUIREMENTS FOR TAKING THE MASTER PLUMBERS LICENSE
15 EXAM.

16 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the
17 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of 7-B.

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. Courtright.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

3 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

4 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. May I have a

5 motion to adjourn?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

7 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

8 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

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14 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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

6 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

7 to the best of my ability.

8

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LISA M. GRAFF, RMR

11 Official Court Reporter

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