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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, November 2, 2006

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9 Time:

10 6:30 p.m.

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13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RMR

24 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MS. JUDY GATELLI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MS. JANET EVANS

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9 MS. SHERRY NEALON FANUCCI

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11 MR. AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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13 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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15 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. GATELLI: Third order. 3-A,

14 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON/LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE

15 AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2006.

16 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

17 If not, received and filed.

18 MS. GARVEY: The only thing I have, we
19 received a response to Councilwoman Gatelli's request
20 from Chief Elliott regarding 600 Neptune Place
21 regarding the garbage trucks not being able to pick up
22 the garbage due to cars being parked in the alley.

23 Chief Elliott said he would make the
24 patrol division and the highway unit aware of the
25 problem and that they will enforce these violations

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1 daily. And that's all I have.

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Just a few
3 brief announcements. On Saturday, November 4 at nine
4 o'clock, there will be a benefit at The Cultural
5 Center. It is called the Art and Cultural Ball, and it
6 is benefitting The Everhart Museum and The Cultural
7 Center.

8 Also today, 1312-1314 Washburn Street
9 was condemned, and a pothole repair on the 1000 block
10 of River Street was corrected.

11 I did not receive my normal list from
12 George Parker today, I don't know why, so I don't know
13 what was done along those lines this week.

14 There was also an announcement from the
15 Scranton Fairfield Inn by the Marriott, they're proud
16 to participate in The Room in the Inn Program. This
17 program offers free hotel rooms to those visiting loved
18 ones in the area, hospitals, nursing homes and
19 treatment centers on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.
20 For more information, you can contact
21 the general manager Amanda Kemp at The Scranton
22 Fairfield Inn by Marriott. So, if you have any
23 relatives coming in to visit loved ones in hospitals,
24 they will be offering free rooms.

25 Before we get on with the regular

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1 meeting, I'm not going to address too much of what
2 you've been reading in the newspaper, except to say
3 that I spoke with my family and my close friends, and
4 they said that I cannot even consider resigning from
5 the position, that I must disregard people that are
6 hateful and people that are trying to put me down.
7 I have worked too long in my city that
8 I love. And anyone that lives in South Scranton knows
9 what I have done over there, and I won't let someone
10 put me down ever again.

11 They can say whatever they want about
12 me. I was elected, I was the top vote getter on the
13 Democratic ticket, and I will continue to sit here and
14 represent those people.
15 And if it's for Chris Doherty, I'm
16 going to vote for it if I like it, if it's against
17 Chris Doherty, which I did with the loan, and I don't
18 like it, I'm going to vote against Chris Doherty.
19 In my mind, it's not about Chris
20 Doherty, it's about each and every one of you that
21 elected me and that I've represented for free for
22 25 years, and now I happen to be getting paid for it.
23 And I will not succumb to the tactics
24 of terrorism to myself and the lies about my family.
25 Everyone knows me in this room, everyone knows me in
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1 the community, and I have produced.
2 If we want to say where kids got jobs,
3 where we got jobs, we'll go down the lineup here and
4 we'll ask everyone up here where they got their job and
5 how they got their kids their jobs and their own jobs,
6 for that matter.

7 And as far as corruption, I have a

8 clean criminal report. I will have it produced in the
9 newspaper, my husband has a clean report, as do my
10 children and my son-in-law. And I will challenge
11 everyone else up here with their spouses, their
12 families and whoever writes on that website.

13 Produce your criminal record and let's
14 see what you're all about. I'm a fighter. I fought
15 the drug dealers in The Hill, and I wasn't afraid of
16 them.

17 I just got a little frightened by some
18 of the things that were said. And if you read them,
19 they are a little scary. You would feel the same way
20 about your children if they were talked about like
21 that.

22 But I will be here, I'm going to stay
23 here until the end, dig my heels in and do what's best
24 for the City of Scranton. Thank you very much.

25 Before we get to the first speaker, we

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1 have a vacancy up here on this board, and I would like
2 to make a motion, I've made my decision, and I've tried
3 to base it on someone that I thought had no ties to
4 anyone.

5 I didn't want to bring someone here
6 that had ties to either political party, so I would
7 like to make a motion that we appoint Bob McGoff to the
8 City Council vacancy.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'll second that.

10 MS. GATELLI: Will you take a roll
11 call, Neil?

12 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments on
13 the question?

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: I believe, I might be
16 mistaken, but I do believe, according to Roberts Rules
17 of Order, the President of City Council cannot make
18 motions.

19 MS. GATELLI: Well, Mr. Minora, what's
20 -- please, please.

21 MR. MINORA: To eliminate any question,
22 you can simply ask for a motion and switch seats.

23 MS. GATELLI: Will someone make a
24 motion for Mr, McGoff?

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I will make a

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1 motion that we appoint Mr. McGoff to the Scranton City

2 Council.

3 MS. GATELLI: Can I make a second?

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. GATELLI: I'll make a second. On

6 the question? All in favor.

7 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

10 MS. EVANS: No.

11 MS. GATELLI: The vote is 2-2 for Mr.

12 McGoff.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Gatelli, I would

14 like to make a motion that I nominate Gary DiBileo to

15 fill the vacant seat currently at Scranton City

16 Council.

17 MS. EVANS: Second.

18 MS. GATELLI: All in favor?

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question.

20 MS. EVANS: On the question.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, I

22 would just like to say, I don't know Mr. McGoff, I'm

23 sure he's a wonderful guy, but there's not one person,

24 and I'm disgusted, I'm really disgusted that Chris

25 Phillips, in my eyes, was forced to take his name off

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1 the list, he pulled his name out today, and it really
2 bothers me, but there's no one on that list that can
3 walk in here when we got a budget going and do this job
4 like Gary DiBileo could. He's been here for four
5 years, he was a vice president, he was a president.

6 One question, if I may, Mr. Doherty, why are you here
7 today?

8 MS. GATELLI: Hey, this meeting will be
9 adjourned if everyone doesn't behave.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Were you invited by a
11 member of Council?

12 MR. DOHERTY: No. Mr. Courtright, I
13 came because I knew there was a vacancy, and in case
14 there was a vote, I should be here.

15 Because as you just said, we have
16 tremendous financial problems, and it's important that
17 we move the city forward so we have --

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm just asking, were
19 you invited by anyone on Council?

20 MR. DOHERTY: No.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. That's what I
22 wanted to know. That's it. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: One more word on this,
24 though, I can't find the exact wording right now, but
25 I'm sure Attorney Minora can find it for me from The
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1 Administrative Code that addresses just this situation
2 of a potential deadlock vote cast by City Council in
3 the event of a resignation from City Council, and I
4 believe the wording states the mayor may cast a
5 deciding vote.

6 Now, for those of you who are not
7 familiar with legal language, may means not obligatory.
8 Legal language when it is absolutely required uses the
9 words either shall or must, not may.

10 MR. MINORA: I have the section.

11 Strangely enough, I thought I might need it.

12 MS. EVANS: What a coincidence.

13 MR. MINORA: Section 65B-2b,
14 Administrative Code reads, The mayor may attend
15 meetings of Council and may take part in discussions of
16 Council but shall have no vote except in the case of a
17 tie on the question of vacancy in Council, in which
18 case he may cast the deciding vote.

19 MS. EVANS: He may cast, not he must,

20 not he shall, he may. And I think that leaves the door
21 wide open to any type of legal pursuit that may become
22 necessary.

23 MR. MINORA: I'm not sure what you
24 mean. I think it's the mayor may or he may chose not
25 to.

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1 MS. EVANS: He may, he may not, but in
2 the event of a tie, I would think those who drafted
3 that document surely would have known there could arise
4 those occasions when Council would be deadlocked.
5 And of course in that situation, if it
6 were meant to be their intention, they would have said
7 the mayor must cast the deciding vote or the mayor
8 shall cast the deciding vote.

9 But as far as I'm concerned, the door
10 ws indeed left open for just such circumstances as we
11 have before us tonight, where such a crucial situation
12 has arised or arisen, I should say, because the people
13 -- you're what's at stake here, you're lying in the
14 balance here.

15 This is make or break for all of you,
16 and I think the designers of that document envisioned

17 just such things happening politically, and so I'm just
18 saying, the door is open and it can be, I believe,
19 pursued legally.

20 MS. GATELLI: Attorney Minora.

21 MR. MINORA: I'm really not sure what
22 you are referring to by pursued legally, but the
23 language says may, which leaves the option open to the
24 mayor to either vote or not vote. That's the only way
25 anyone could read that language.

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1 MS. EVANS: And if the mayor chose not
2 to vote, then there would simple be a stalemate that
3 would exist. But, again, I believe that if the mayor
4 were meant to make the deciding vote, the language
5 would state just that.

6 MR. MINORA: Well, it gives him the
7 option of making the deciding vote, that's what the
8 language says. It doesn't say he must. It says he
9 may. It's his option to either break a deadlock or
10 leave a deadlock, in which case -- I presume it would
11 be up to The Court to determine what The Municipal Code
12 says in the event of a deadlock, and I believe then it
13 would go to Common Pleas Court.

14 But as I said, that would be a decision
15 that would be up to the person that had the ability to
16 make the deciding vote, and that would be the mayor and
17 The Administrative Code.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you for all of
19 that. Just one last piece of information, though,
20 before any of the nominations and the votes continue, I
21 think it's very interesting to note that the mayor has
22 sent to Council legislation for additional borrowing,
23 and that legislation, for whatever reason, did not make
24 it to Council's agenda tonight.

25 I think it's maybe purely coincidental

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1 that the mayor sits here tonight prepared for a vote.
2 And it is an important vote, because
3 that person then, because of the delay in the
4 legislation, that person will come on board and cast
5 the deciding vote on the borrowing and on your tax
6 increase.

7 MS. GATELLI: Does anyone else have
8 anything? Roll call.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Who are we voting on?

17 MS. EVANS: Gary.

18 MS. GATELLI: I abstain.

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No, I'm not voting

20 on Gary. No. No for Gary. No, I'm retracting that.

21 No. No way. There's absolutely no way that I will

22 cast a vote for Gary DiBileo under any circumstances.

23 Amil, Attorney Minora --

24 MS. GATELLI: Hey --

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yeah, I guess that

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1 would be it.

2 MS. GATELLI: Listen, we are not going

3 to tolerate that. It's too bad. Well, it's too bad

4 when you're going to be removed from this meeting. No,

5 I didn't vote. She though she was voting on something

6 else.

7 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No, that's not

8 right. That's not right.

9 MS. EVANS: No. What else was on the
10 table that we were voting on? There was nothing else.

11 We were talking about the appointment of a new
12 Councilperson. The motion was made and seconded, we
13 were on the question. Mrs. Gatelli called for a roll
14 call, and you voted.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I call for Mrs.
16 Gatelli call the roll call again. We have three yeses
17 so far, Mrs. Gatelli.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'm voting no. I
19 am voting no. I am voting no. Oh, get lost. I'm
20 voting no.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Please be quiet. We
22 got -- the way I see it, we got three yeses and one
23 abstention.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Attorney Minora,
25 can you tell me what we can do to make this right,

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1 please?

2 MR. MINORA: Well, I have a copy of
3 Roberts Rules of Order, but it's about 800 pages long
4 and there are probably 400 pages dealing with voting,

5 so I think I need a short adjournment to just try and
6 read it and make sure we're right, if that's okay.

7 MS. GATELLI: We're going to take a
8 ten-minute recess.

9 (RECESS WAS TAKEN.)

10 MS. GATELLI: I call the meeting back
11 to order, please.

12 MR. MINORA: You for the adjournment
13 and the opportunity to review Roberts Rules of Order.

14 MS. GATELLI: Officers, could you
15 please keep the audience quiet back there? We can't
16 hear up here.

17 MR. MINORA: Our rules adopted Roberts
18 Rules of Order as a method for following procedure and
19 voting and so forth.

20 As a result of that, I had a copy in my
21 briefcase, which I've had for a year, and frankly
22 haven't had to use it until tonight.

23 The Roberts Rules of Order referring to
24 voting, there are several methods of voting, a voice
25 vote, rising and show of hands.

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1 Obviously we use voice vote, and that

2 was the method of our voting. Roberts Rules of Order
3 says, In voting on any of these methods regarding voice
4 vote or hands, a member has the right to change his
5 vote up to the time the result is finally announced.
6 In determining whether something is
7 finally announced, Roberts Rules of Order uses this
8 language to determine if an announcement has occurred
9 or not occurred.
10 If it's for a voice vote, the
11 announcement by the chair would be the ayes have it and
12 the motion is adopted or agreed or carried or the nos
13 have it and the motion is lost.
14 This was never announced, and,
15 therefore, Mrs. Fanucci has an opportunity and a right
16 to withdraw her vote or change her vote.
17 MS. GATELLI: Attorney Minora, do we
18 have to vote again on the first motion? Because I
19 don't think I called that one out loud either.
20 MR. MINORA: There was no announcement
21 -- on the motion for Mr. McGoff, you mean?
22 MS. GATELLI: Yes.
23 MR. MINORA: There was a second motion
24 made immediately, and there was never an announcement
25 on that one, so it may very well be that the second

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1 motion itself was out of order. So --

2 MS. GATELLI: We should start all over.

3 MR. MINORA: I would say have a final

4 announcement on the motion for Mr. McGoff, and if that

5 fails --

6 MS. GATELLI: We don't have to do it

7 again?

8 MR. MINORA: If that fails for a 2-2,

9 then you would have to move on to a new motion for a

10 new Councilperson.

11 MS. GATELLI: Okay. All right. I will

12 announce the first vote for Mr. McGoff, two

13 affirmative, two negative.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Now, Ms.

15 Gatelli, I'd like to make a motion. I nominate Gary

16 DiBileo to fill the vacancy currently here on Scranton

17 City Council.

18 MS. EVANS: Second.

19 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? No.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No. The motion,
24 two affirmative, two negative. Does anyone care to
25 nominate anyone else?

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1 MS. EVANS: Yes. I would like to
2 nominate Mary Ann Wardell as the replacement for
3 Councilman Robert McTiernan who recently resigned.

4 MS. GATELLI: Is there a second? The
5 motion dies for a lack of a second.

6 MR. DOHERTY: Mrs. Gatelli, may I
7 speak?

8 MR. MINORA: You're the chair.

9 MS. GATELLI: The only thing I want to
10 say, I would -- I haven't been asked, but as the Mayor,
11 there is a 2-2 deadlock, and I would be in favor of Mr.
12 McGoff filling Mr. McTiernan's seat. I haven't been
13 asked yet, but I would like --

14 MS. GATELLI: Well, I would just like
15 to see if anyone else has a motion for someone else.
16 You know, he had Gary, Mrs. Evans had Mrs. Wardell, I
17 had McGoff, and maybe Sherry would like to nominate
18 someone. I would like to give everyone the opportunity
19 to nominate who they'd like.

20 And it is allowed, for those that are
21 snickering in the audience. Now, let's behave like
22 adults. Everyone has their own opinion. We don't
23 always agree, and that's what America's about. You
24 vote and I vote. So, please let's try to respect
25 everyone.

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1 Everyone has their reasons for voting
2 for people. So, please, let's try to be kind. I know
3 it's very difficult, and there's a lot of hate, and as
4 Mr. Welby said, Poison in these walls, and let's get
5 rid of it. We need to all work together.

6 Mrs. Fanucci, do you have a motion for
7 anyone?

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: No, I don't.

9 MS. GATELLI: All right. No one has
10 another motion, so there are two tie votes on the
11 table. Mayor, would you step up to the podium, please?
12 Please. If you continue to speak out, you're going to
13 be escorted out of this meeting. Now, I'm not going to
14 put up with it anymore.

15 This is a public meeting with a very
16 important decision. Mr. Doherty, there are two motions

17 on the table, both are tie votes. One is for Mr.

18 DiBileo, which was 2-2, and one is for Mr. Bob McGoff,

19 2-2. Would you like to cast your vote?

20 MR. DOHERTY: I would like to cast a

21 vote for Mr. McGoff.

22 MS. GATELLI: Lisa, the vote for

23 Mr. McGoff is three votes to two votes, and I hereby

24 declare that Mr. McGoff is the new Councilman, if he

25 wants it after he sees this meeting.

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1 MR. DOHERTY: Thank you, ma'am.

2 MS. GATELLI: Where are the officers in

3 the room? Please, anyone who's out of order, please

4 take out of the room. Anyone that speaks out, you will

5 be out of order.

6 The first speaker on the list is

7 Annette Palutis. You will have five minutes,

8 Mrs. Palutis. Attorney Minora will ring the bell when

9 you have one minute left.

10 MR. MINORA: I've decided that we're

11 not using the bell. I'm just going to time them. At

12 five minutes, I'll tell you your time is up.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

14 MS. PALUTIS: Annette Palutis, a
15 Scranton resident and a member of the board of Channel
16 61. And I'm here on a happier note this evening. I'm
17 here to invite you, the Council members, and all of the
18 people in the audience and our viewers at home to our
19 first fundraiser.

20 As you may know, prior to this, Channel
21 61 was funded by the Scranton Public Library and by
22 Scranton Tomorrow.

23 But in the upcoming year 2007, we will
24 become our own corporation non-profit corporation and
25 we need to raise funds, and so we invite you to Sweet
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1 61, and we're calling it that because we will have 12
2 tables of sweets and we will have entertainment and
3 music and there will be a roaming camera, and we'd like
4 to get you on tape. And people who might want to come
5 and bring a donation at that time will be recorded on
6 the camera.

7 And it is at The Cultural Center, and
8 it is next Friday night, a week from tomorrow, that's
9 November the 10th, and it's from 5:30 until
10 nine o'clock.

11 And as you know, our viewers, the
12 people here, I hope you all appreciate Channel 61,
13 because Channel 61 brings your government, city and
14 county, into our living rooms. And unless we support
15 it, it will probably be go away.
16 So, we'd like to ask you to please join
17 us for some fun and the raising of funds. And we would
18 love to see you all there on November the 10th. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

21 Reverend Simmons.

22 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening Council
23 people. I came here for two reasons this evening, one
24 of them was to address you, President Gatelli, but I'm
25 glad to see that what I have to say to you can be very
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1 short.
2 I go through daily people calling my
3 home and sending me letters telling me what an evil
4 life I lead and how my children are born into an evil
5 family, so I know what you go through, and sometimes it
6 is very difficult to get up and face what is ahead, but
7 I know that this is what my Lord has ahead for me.

8 So, I never allow anyone to put me
9 down. I keep on going, and I hope you will, too.
10 Never be discouraged, especially by someone who has no
11 thought about what is good in this city.
12 The 7-B that is going to come under
13 final reading this evening, I find quite -- I want to
14 know who is going to sit over this? Who's going to be
15 -- who is the committee that is going to oversee this
16 and make sure that this sits in -- is this going to be
17 overseen by the police department, is it going to be
18 overseen by a special committee? No?
19 MS. EVANS: I don't believe so. It
20 will be my opinion that it will be overseen by the
21 business administrator's office, because he oversees
22 all budgetary accounts, and then, of course, any type
23 of payments that must be made and invoices that must be
24 submitted are run through the office of the city
25 controller, Roseann Novembrino.

23

1 MS. GATELLI: She's talking about the
2 sex offender.

3 MS. SIMMONS: No, this is establishing
4 residential restrictions for registered adult --

5 MS. EVANS: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm looking
6 for the police department special investigations.

7 MS. GATELLI: Attorney Minora, would
8 know that answer. Attorney Minora, would you --

9 MR. MINORA: Yeah. There's an
10 enforcement section.

11 MS. GATELLI: Sorry, Janet.

12 MR. MINORA: All agents and authorities
13 within the city, including but not limited to the
14 Scranton Police Department, have full authority to
15 enforce this ordinance and impose such fines and other
16 penalties as necessary and appropriate.

17 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. So, there's not
18 going to be any special group that's going to oversee
19 this?

20 MR. MINORA: No.

21 MS. SIMMONS: Is -- all right. Let me
22 just leave it at that for now. But this is going to be
23 passed this evening? Okay. Thank you.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Reverend
25 Simmons. Mike Dudek.

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1 MR. DUDEK: Mike Dudek, 608 Depot

2 Street, Scranton. I live in The Plot. And, again, I
3 was a little concerned about what I had read in the
4 paper about you, Mrs. Gatelli, thinking about resigning
5 your seat from Council.

6 I am here to say thank you for staying
7 here. Please remember the great line Tom Hanks had in
8 that movie, A League of Their Own, with a slight
9 change, There is no crying in politics.

10 When you are an elected official in
11 this country under our First Amendment, you pretty much
12 lose 99 percent of the First Amendment protections that
13 are available to private persons. You are not a
14 private person once you are elected to any sort of
15 office. You become a very public person.

16 Regardless of the unfairness of the
17 slings and fortunes that come your way, whether they
18 come from blogs, newspapers, people just talking among
19 themselves on the street or whatever the source, all of
20 it is protected under the First Amendment. It is very
21 difficult to sue and collect under The First Amendment.

22 Now, I happen to have quite a bit of
23 knowledge on this, because I helped a man named Tom
24 Joseph prepare a suit against The Scranton Times.
25 Suing a newspaper in this country is like making the

1 7/10 split in bowling. Those are the odds of suing a
2 newspaper, but yet I have to admit, I was wrong about
3 Tom Joseph's suit. I figured he would nail The Times
4 for about \$2 million, and I was wrong about that.

5 If you saw in the paper, they had to
6 admit he nailed them for three and a half million. So,
7 The Times has to pony up quite a bit of money. I would
8 imagine they're going to appeal it.

9 So, it is difficult, but the thing is
10 about City Council people, you are wide open to
11 anything like that. It goes with the territory, and
12 you simply have to learn to live with it.

13 Now, I try my best to make my attacks,
14 if I'm going to attack somebody, make it funny, but not
15 in the sense that a person is going to have to cringe,
16 anything I have to say, unless they don't like the
17 facts that I present. I want to nail somebody on the
18 facts.

19 Now, as an example, I believe the
20 entire City Council is wrong on the whole issue of
21 immigration. I think the only elected official in this
22 town who has it right is Mayor Doherty, and I think we

23 should be following his lead on it.

24 If you saw that little catastrophe that

25 happened in Hazleton, the little catastrophe they're

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1 facing now is that 200 wage payers who were paying

2 Hazleton's wage tax have left the city in the last two

3 weeks and they are coming up this way.

4 We're talking -- I'm talking about

5 Hispanic working people, family people, we have no

6 business trying to say who is legal or illegal. That's

7 the federal government. Let the federal government

8 make that decision. As far as I'm concerned, we should

9 be welcoming people with open arms.

10 Now, these wage payers, I hope they

11 come and live here. They will help pay our wage taxes

12 and keep their job -- as they struggle to keep their

13 families together.

14 But, again, thank you, Mrs. Gatelli,

15 for, you know, reconsidering and for staying. Please

16 work with the mayor on the immigration.

17 One other thing I want you to work with

18 the mayor on, it hasn't been said, but we all know

19 we're doing it, we have this empty building, the

20 Southern Union building, I don't think there's any way
21 in God's green earth that the mayor is going to let
22 some hillbilly in the Poconos get some business from
23 Wall Street and build it in Stroudsburg or Canaan or
24 whatever. I have a feeling we're going to have to put
25 those businesses in the Southern Union building.

27

1 Let's work with the mayor to hit Wall
2 Street hard to advertise that building. We have the
3 ex-football player from the Dallas Cowboys, Roger
4 Staughbach, who's working on that for us, let's work
5 together and fill that building with something that
6 will really pay some wage taxes in this town.
7 It will not work unless you decide to
8 work with the mayor on it. Please do so. Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Reverend
10 Newberry.

11 MR. NEWBERRY: Good evening, members of
12 the Council. I'm very thankful that you've allowed me
13 to come here and speak to you tonight. I'm speaking on
14 behalf of Bethel AME Church on North Washington.
15 A little over a year and a half ago, we
16 requested funds for a program that would compliment our

17 outreach ministry. For about 15 years, Bethel has
18 served this community with the homeless, and we allowed
19 them to come and stay at our church, and we would feed
20 them and give them whatever kind of hand up we possibly
21 could, but we were finding that the recidivism rate
22 even amongst that group was extremely high and we
23 wanted to help these persons become self-determined and
24 their families, which I think is a goal of America
25 towards the underprivileged and at-risk families.

28

1 The proposal was met with great
2 support. We were very excited about it, the impact
3 that we would have on the youth, as well as the
4 homeless, the services that we would provide that would
5 help them to get back up on their feet.
6 We planned our budget, we planned our
7 year around the approved proposal that Council did for
8 fiscal year 2006. We were looking forward to
9 implementing -- we even hired and started putting
10 pieces into place based on the representation of the
11 OECD in reference to when this -- these funds would be
12 available.
13 I found out later that the funds would

14 not be available until July, you know, some time in
15 July for fiscal year 2006. I didn't know that, you
16 know, it was going to be so long.
17 But then in conversations with the
18 members of the OECD, we've also found that they have
19 decided to redo our proposal that you approved, because
20 of a cap, they said, that was available in public
21 service.

22 Now, we have -- I mean, we presented
23 this proposal, we planned to, you know, to operate
24 within the confines of it. We cannot get a specific
25 number pertaining to the public service.

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29

1 We weren't interested in the building
2 and the infrastructure at this stage, what we needed
3 was to hire tutors, mentors, counselors. We needed the
4 what we call occupancy cost to help us with the ever
5 escalating bills.
6 And then when it was presented to the
7 community through the newspaper and everyone else that
8 this was coming to Bethel, some of the persons that
9 used to, or the entities that used to contribute, said,
10 Well, oh, Bethel doesn't need the funds any more. So,

11 it's put us in a catch 22.

12 I have with me the director of the

13 Bethel Outreach Ministries, Dr. Holmes, and Dr. Ken

14 Widen, others members of the staff.

15 Now, our church decided that they

16 needed not to open up the shelter until we could get

17 clarification on what precisely these services would be

18 that we can provide based on the funding, and I was not

19 aware that the Council had decided to take the older

20 and the institution that started the United

21 Neighborhood Center that give away properties so that

22 the seniors could be served right next to our church, I

23 didn't think that Council had made the decision already

24 to take the teeth out of the proposal that we submitted

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1 MR. MINORA: Reverend, that's five

2 minutes.

3 MS. GATELLI: Your time is up, Reverend

4 Newberry, but we will look into that for you.

5 MR. NEWBERRY: All right. Thank you

6 very much.

7 MS. GATELLI: Dr. Holmes.

8 MS. HOLMES: Good evening. I'm Dr.

9 Holmes, Everlina Holmes, and I've been appointed as the
10 director of the Outreach Program, and I just want to
11 follow up with what Reverend Newberry just mentioned
12 and or less sanction a lot of what he said.

13 I've worked with a program in Alabama
14 that's very similar to the programs that he is -- that
15 we had planning to implement at Bethel, and it was
16 mentoring and tutoring young people, and even the
17 parents, adult illiterate parents.

18 And it was a very successful program.

19 And, in fact, one of our graduates went on to become a
20 scientist with Oak Ridge Tennessee, and I was able to
21 meet him years later, and he talked about the program
22 and what an important role it played in his life.

23 And then I've also served international
24 board of Covenant House, and you've probably heard of
25 Covenant House in New York, and it's actually

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1 throughout the country we have Covenant Houses, but I
2 was on the international board. We have runaway young
3 people.

4 And a lot of the programs there

5 simulate -- it's very similar to the programs that we

6 would like to offer for the shelter, the homeless

7 people.

8 And I think it's very important that

9 people become self sufficient, that they are able to

10 give back to the city, become productive citizen. And

11 because as I've indicated to Reverend Newberry and

12 other people, that homelessness of citizens of Scranton

13 is a city problem.

14 Winter comes every year, it's cold.

15 People need to be sheltered. And in as much as Bethel,

16 over subscribed its capacity last winter, there is

17 definite room for a third shelter.

18 I understand there are two in Scranton

19 already, but there is place and room for a third one,

20 and we cannot open our doors until the funds are

21 available, and I'm sure that the Council would love to

22 take care of the citizens and provide opportunities for

23 these individuals to become self sufficient, and I

24 thank you for giving me this opportunity to talk to

25 you.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Beth Thursby.

2 MS. THURSBY: Good evening. I'm here
3 to talk about a whole different subject, I'm here to
4 talk about dogs.
5 I'm Beth Thursby, city resident and
6 taxpayer. I'm here to talk about the possibility of
7 legislation being crafted to address responsible dog
8 ownership.
9 I wrote a college paper on this subject
10 and breached specific legislation, and my extensive
11 research and 30-plus years of experience in the world
12 of dogs has shown me that humans are nearly always
13 responsible for the behavior of the dogs they own, and
14 when that responsibility fails at some point, someone
15 or something pays a high price.
16 I support an ordinance that is fair,
17 but much stricter in its application of law to punish
18 the dog owner who fails in his or her responsibility to
19 the dogs they own.
20 To quickly give you some of my
21 background, I'm sure some of you know that I was the
22 city K-9 officer for six years. I'm also owner and
23 operator of The Dog Nanny. Just so you know, The Dog
24 Nanny does not board dogs, I don't do that in the city,
25 I go to the homes of people who have dogs and I help

1 them to figure out how to live more responsibly and
2 happier with the dog that they own.
3 I've also worked with vets, boarding
4 kennels, I've worked for a professional dog show
5 handler, I've held obedience classes for over ten
6 years, and I've owned a dog grooming business all
7 before I became a police officer.
8 I'm now utilizing that those decades of
9 dog training and handling experience to help the people
10 in Scranton and the surrounding communities to become
11 more responsible dog owners.
12 That, I believe, is the intent of this
13 proposed soon to be, I guess it will come before you at
14 some point, a dog -- a dangerous animal ordinance is to
15 legislate and enforce responsible animal ownership.
16 Even though the proposed ordinance will
17 probably cover animals, I think it will be focusing
18 mainly on dog owners as they seem to be in the majority
19 of the owners who are not as responsible as they need
20 to be in today's society.
21 Years ago letting dogs run loose was
22 the norm, and that is no longer acceptable. There are

23 simply too many dogs and too many people living too

24 close to each other to allow dogs to run free.

25 The justice system is starting to

.

34

1 recognize that if it were not for the negligence of the

2 dog owner and/or the victim, the dog attack would not

3 have happened.

4 I don't have time really to mention the

5 many reasons why dogs bite people, but with my 30-plus

6 years of working with dogs, I can tell up with a high

7 degree of certainty that a very large percentage of dog

8 bite victims became that victim through absolute

9 negligence of the dog owner, not the dog's propensity

10 to simply want to bite someone.

11 In order to understand the reasons why

12 a dog will feel the impulse to bite a person, you have

13 to understand why dogs do what they do. And most dog

14 owners have no idea why their dogs behave the way they

15 do. They think the dog is just a furry human and they

16 try to attribute human behavior to the dog, and that

17 simply doesn't work.

18 The humans who are responsible for them

19 are also responsible for the dogs reacting aggressively

20 towards humans or other dogs.
21 It starts with bringing home a puppy
22 and goes downhill from there to a dog that is
23 unrestrained, untrained and left to its own devices to
24 learn how to live in a society of two legged pack
25 members. The result is a very confused dog.

35

1 This proposed legislation needs to have
2 language that allows city government to have the
3 ability to punish dog owners who refuse to accept
4 responsibility for the dogs that live with them.
5 Current leash laws in this city, and I
6 can tell you after almost 13 years of law enforcement,
7 the current leash laws in this city are ineffective and
8 meaningless to people who don't control the dogs they
9 own. Fines are minimal and seldom collected.
10 Enforcement is difficult, if not impossible, because of
11 budget constraints, manpower, and the time consuming
12 job of monitoring every dog owner in this city.
13 I feel that if this legislation
14 includes language that legally hits irresponsible dog
15 owners really hard in their pocket books, they will
16 start taking more responsibility for the dogs that find

17 themselves living with people who have failed them.

18 MR. MINORA: You have another minute, I

19 just have a question, if I may.

20 MS. THURSBY: Yes. Okay.

21 MR. MINORA: If I may.

22 MS. GATELLI: Sure.

23 MS. THURSBY: Yes, sir.

24 MR. MINORA: Would it be your

25 suggestion then that legislation should contain

.

36

1 language that makes an owner strictly liable for their

2 dog?

3 MS. THURSBY: Yes.

4 MR. MINORA: That would eliminate the

5 necessity of enforcement by the city, and that the

6 victim of a dog bite then would have -- by strict

7 liability in the law, that means you're liable for

8 whatever happens because you have a dog, and the

9 resulting damage then would be something that would be

10 easier for a victim of a dog bite to collect, it would

11 remove the city's enforcement, which as you've

12 mentioned is difficult because of time constraints and

13 budgetary items and everything else, but it places on

14 the owner the responsibility of making sure the dog is
15 well taken care of, well trained maybe through some
16 trained organization, such as yours and some others,
17 and, if not, they're liable for the consequences.
18 No matter -- in strict liability,
19 negligence is never an issue, so that the victim of the
20 dog bite, his conduct, would not be in question. The
21 only conduct that would be in question is whether or
22 not the dog bit someone. That's what I mean by strict
23 liability, and that's why I'm asking you whether or not
24 that's something that you would suggest to be maybe an
25 alternative.

37

1 MS. THURSBY: Well, sometimes, in my
2 personal opinion, and after all the years I've been in
3 dogs, sometimes the victim, what we would determine in
4 this society as a victim, is the one who actually
5 produced the dog bite by their behavior towards the
6 dog, because they either didn't recognize the dog's
7 warning sign, they didn't recognize, you know, what the
8 dog was doing. You know, a lot of times the victim
9 really isn't the victim.
10 They may have pushed the dog to a point

11 that the dog couldn't tolerate it, and that comes from
12 knowing your dog, and the owner then of course being
13 responsible, make sure that their dog is not allowed to
14 be around people that, you know, don't know how to
15 treat the dog.

16 The biggest issue I find with dogs is
17 that people don't understand them. They don't
18 understand -- they look at them through their own human
19 eyes, and so then they become the victim because they
20 don't understand what the dog has been, you know,
21 trying to tell them. Liability wise --

22 MR. MINORA: You're past your five
23 minutes, but if I may, I'd like to speak with you about
24 it and maybe bring some ideas to Council. There is
25 some legislation that another group is beginning with,
.
38

1 and maybe you would be helpful to that.

2 MS. THURSBY: I just have a little bit
3 more. Does anybody else?

4 MR. MINORA: It's up to the president.

5 MS. GATELLI: No. We don't have any
6 more questions.

7 MS. THURSBY: I just want to say that I

8 feel that this if this legislation includes -- I think
9 I went into that. Let's not take our frustration and
10 fear out on the dogs. They have irresponsible owners.
11 Let's find a way for this legislation
12 to make it absolutely clear to the dog owners of
13 Scranton that irresponsibility as it relates to keeping
14 their dogs properly confined or on leashes will result
15 in a substantial financial burden to them through
16 larger fines, as well as specific requirements for
17 control of their dogs on their property.
18 And I'd like to volunteer my time and
19 effort to help with this endeavor. I believe my
20 experience with dogs, I can have a positive influence
21 on bringing some measure of control to a situation
22 that's becoming more and more out of control. So --
23 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

24 MS. THURSBY: Thank you very much.

25 MS. GATELLI: Andy Sbaraglia.

39

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen
2 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I would like to
3 thank Mr. Davis for the kind words he said about me at
4 the last meeting.

5 I did not put my application in there
6 or resume, even though I read everything you know and
7 probably know more than you do, but I didn't want to
8 sit up there. I would not feel comfortable sitting up
9 there knowing that I got on there by three votes.
10 And anyone that was ever appointed up
11 there was never liked, so, hence, whoever comes, no
12 matter how great he is, already has something around
13 his neck, he already got a weight around his neck.
14 It looks like it was political, maybe
15 it wasn't, maybe it was, but whatever it is, the city
16 can tolerate it. We'll take it for a year, and then
17 most likely he'll go like they all went, just out of
18 there, but the city is going to suffer more, and it's
19 going to continue to suffer and continue to sink.
20 You had 37 applications that wanted to
21 be up there. You only went to around 12 of them.
22 Chances are you missed a lot better candidates, but you
23 didn't give them a chance even to speak to you. You
24 read a resume. Whether it was fixed or unfixed, I
25 don't care.

40

1 I just said this man has to be caring

2 about the city. I know nothing about him. I don't
3 know about his schooling, I don't know how long he's
4 lived in the city, I don't know anything about the man,
5 so I will give him the benefit of the doubt, because
6 that's in my nature.

7 I believe everyone should get a chance,
8 whether they're black, white, yellow or whatever. I
9 don't believe in holding any kind of a grudge or
10 vindictiveness to anyone. That's not, like I said,
11 that's not in my nature. I'm a forgiving person.

12 What I can't forgive is the kids can't
13 swim, that, I can't forgive. And they're not going to
14 swim this year. Maybe next year, possibility. But I
15 know they ain't going to swim this '07 season, because
16 it's going to be voted down again, and you're not going
17 to override the mayor's veto, and again these kids are
18 going to suffer.

19 There's going to be no benefit to what
20 happened here tonight, none at all. The seeds of this
21 court has been sewn, and it's going to reap a bitter
22 harvest, and I'm sorry about that.

23 You had one chance to really pull the
24 city together, really, and you tossed it away. I don't
25 think your 30 days ran out. I think you still had time

41

1 to resume; am I right? Is it 30 days over?

2 MS. EVANS: No.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: But yet it was pushed

4 through. That doesn't sit right with the citizens of

5 the city.

6 When you push something through, when

7 you had so many more people you could have looked at or

8 heard them, believe me, it doesn't sink good with the

9 citizens and the voters, and they probably will show

10 it.

11 But I don't believe anybody should make

12 any threats to anybody. That's not in my nature

13 either. And I'm appalled that somebody would make

14 threats to anyone, and I don't believe we need these

15 policemen, and never did.

16 I know Mr. Courtright is a black belt.

17 I'm sure nobody would ever want to tangle with that

18 man. And I'm sure if anybody started to go up at

19 anybody on that Council --

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm out the door,

21 Andy.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, I'm sure you'd be

23 out the door as fast as you can. But anyway, what's
24 done is done, but it's not going to sit well, and you
25 might as well know it now.

42

1 I'm a very forgiving person, because I
2 know politics in this town because I've lived here so
3 long. I remember when they bought answers, they
4 collected money. You need a job, you paid. I've been
5 here that long. All them things happened.

6 Even just recently, not too long ago
7 they were selling exams. And that happens. This is
8 how this town is. It's very political. But we had a
9 chance to do other things in the city, too.

10 Even we're getting this new train,
11 well, bus terminal, let's put it this way, or
12 transportation center, whatever you want to call it --

13 MR. MINORA: Time's up, Mr. Sbaraglia.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, okay. Thank you.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Douglas.

16 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

17 Doug Miller. Just regarding the smoking ban that was
18 presented by the West Scranton High School students, I
19 was wondering if this Council was still looking into

20 this. I believe Mrs. Fanucci was going to do some
21 research. Were you able to find anything?
22 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes. In fact, we
23 had a caucus tonight with some of the leaders from The
24 Cancer Society, and they are pushing a Clean Air Act,
25 and they're helping us guide the ordinance.

43

1 In fact, I believe Mr. Minora has
2 checked into all of that for us and maybe we can see
3 something by next week.

4 MR. MINORA: That's correct.

5 MR. MILLER: Okay. Thank you. And
6 lastly tonight, I am very upset to see and hear all of
7 the threatening and insulting comments made toward Mrs.
8 Gatelli on a local website.

9 When you criticize an elected official,
10 that's one thing, but when you make up stories,
11 threaten and personally insult an individual, you cross
12 the line.

13 What these people are doing to Mrs.
14 Gatelli is a disgrace, and you should all be ashamed of
15 yourselves. You don't realize how evil you are and
16 that you are hurting Mrs. Gatelli and her family.

17 I'm sure everyone knows in the past
18 thing were said about me on this website, I was called
19 names like Hitler, little boy king. These people were
20 even against the idea of a Junior Council. That, I don't
21 understand.
22 They seem to be against any progress in
23 this city. It bothered me, because I am only
24 16-years-old, and that just shows how sick these people
25 are.
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44

1 My message to Mrs. Gatelli is this, I
2 just want you to know that I will always stand by you
3 and help you in any way I can. Don't let these cowards
4 destroy you.
5 I guess as the old saying goes, stick
6 and stones may break bones, but a website won't tear
7 down Mrs. Gatelli. Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Douglas. Mr.
9 Spindler.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.
11 Les Spindler, city resident. I've been coming to these
12 meeting for five years now, and tonight was the most
13 despicable act of politics I've ever seen in these five

14 years.

15 Nobody can tell me that somebody up on
16 that Council did not call Chris Doherty here tonight,
17 and I know it wasn't Mr. Courtright or Mrs. Evans.
18 The guy didn't show up here in five
19 years, and all of a sudden there's a vote tonight and
20 he shows up? Nobody else knew there was a vote
21 tonight. All of a sudden the mayor shows up?
22 Gary DiBileo was the most qualified
23 person to be up on that seat, he did budgets, he was
24 president of Council before, and I just even heard
25 today that Mr. McGoff is related to Mr. Doherty.

45

1 This was the most disgusting political
2 move I've ever heard -- I've even seen in five years,
3 and I think it's an outrage, Mrs. Gatelli.

4 MS. GATELLI: He's not related to Mr.
5 Doherty.

6 MR. SPINDLER: This was a big --

7 MS. GATELLI: Put it on the website
8 tomorrow, Les.

9 MR. SPINDLER: I don't go on that
10 website, Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Put it on the website.

12 MR. SPINDLER: This was the biggest

13 setup I've ever seen.

14 MS. GATELLI: Gary DiBileo is not

15 political? That's not a political move?

16 MR. SPINDLER: It's the biggest setup

17 I've seen in five years.

18 MS. GATELLI: You have your opinion and

19 I have mine.

20 MR. SPINDLER: He's qualified. What

21 qualifications does Mr. McGoff have for that position?

22 MS. GATELLI: He's an independent

23 thinker.

24 MR. SPINDLER: He'll be a puppet of

25 Mayor Doherty, just like Mrs. Fanucci is. And the

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46

1 proof of the pudding will be when the next big vote

2 comes.

3 Next thing, last week a registered

4 nurse came up to me, she wanted me to say something for

5 her. She lived in this all her live in Pine Brook.

6 She recently sold her house and moved to Taylor because

7 she's sick of the politics in this city, and that's

8 what she told me.
9 She moved to Taylor, sold her house,
10 and she said it was like the weight of the world off
11 her shoulders, because she can't stand the way this
12 city is being run now.
13 Next thing, Are we ever going to get
14 lines painted on Spruce Street and Franklin Avenue?
15 Now, I've been asking about this for two years now.
16 There were lines painted on Washington Avenue this
17 week.
18 I was almost hit on that corner again
19 just the other day. I was in the turning lane, t he
20 light turned green, a car from the straight lane turned
21 almost right into me. If I didn't stop, I would have
22 been hit.
23 The person didn't look where they were
24 going. Is something funny, Mrs. Fanucci? She's up
25 there snickering.

47

1 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Garvey, would you
2 send a letter about the lines, please?
3 MS. GARVEY: I already did send that,
4 but I'll send it again.

5 MS. GATELLI: Send it again, please.

6 MR. SPINDLER: It seems like anything I

7 say doesn't get done in this city. And also the

8 entrance to the Steamtown Mall.

9 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, I think that's in

10 the letter, too. We'll send it again.

11 MR. SPINDLER: I guess those letters

12 get lost. I think this is ridiculous.

13 Mrs. Fanucci's up there all smiles.

14 The mayor didn't know? She's probably the one that

15 told the mayor to come tonight. She's not even smart

16 enough to know what the vote is for.

17 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler, please.

18 MR. SPINDLER: I'm exercising my

19 freedom of speech.

20 MS. GATELLI: Please, please.

21 MR. SPINDLER: First Amendment right.

22 MS. GATELLI: We're not going to talk

23 about people's smartness.

24 MR. MINORA: The rules don't allow for

25 personal attack.

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48

1 MR. SPINDLER: She didn't know -- if

2 she wants to be on this Council, she should pay

3 attention to what the votes are for up there.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Mr. Spindler, are

5 you aware that the vote went through?

6 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, I am aware.

7 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Okay. Well, then

8 I think it's okay.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Well, you weren't aware

10 of what the vote even was.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Thanks very much

12 for your time.

13 MR. SPINDLER: You weren't aware of --

14 maybe because you don't have your laptop with people

15 telling you what to do anymore.

16 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler, please.

17 MR. SPINDLER: I'm done.

18 MS. GATELLI: Ron Elman. The world is

19 truly a better place with you in it, Les.

20 MR. SPINDLER : I know that. Thank

21 you.

22 MS. GATELLI: I hope you all run for

23 office in February, since you're all so wonderful and

24 smart.

25 MS. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, if I can just

1 add something about your request, because that's what's
2 really most important to me, that's been submitted
3 numerous times, and I think it's crystal clear that
4 whether or not this is done depends on who does the
5 asking, and that it means not only from what citizen
6 the request comes from but also from what Council
7 member the request comes from, and that simply put is
8 the answer to your quandary and all of the other
9 problems that remain unaddressed in this city.

10 MR. ELMAN: Hi, Ronny Elman again.

11 I'll forego most of my rhetoric here, but I want to say
12 that I think you handled the meeting well tonight, Mrs.
13 Gatelli, and what's going on is just real bad.
14 The Scranton Times wages war on the
15 truth, as far as I'm concerned. And those cartoons by
16 Cole, is that his name, I don't know. I guess it's an
17 attempt to be humorous or something.
18 And I was for Mr. DiBileo, of course,
19 but I think that Ms. Fanucci made an honest slip of the
20 tongue or something, and I think the ruling's correct.
21 I'm going to forego this crap about the
22 trees. I think I've started something. I must have

23 had a half dozen phone calls and a half dozen people
24 complaining to me about their trees being cut down. I
25 said, Come down here, but nobody wants to come down
. . .
50

1 here, you know, it seems.
2 But this is an illegal activity and it
3 needs to be terminated. And some people were telling
4 me that the city paid to have the trees cut down on Ash
5 Street, then they paved to have the stumps pulled out
6 of the ground next to Scranton Prep, and then they
7 planted new trees.
8 And I tried to find out and I couldn't,
9 but I think, you know, I think this ought to be looked
10 into. The potential is -- a tree a day is \$1,000, and
11 they seem to be trying to do that.

12 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Elman, can you give
13 us some addresses where these trees so we can check
14 with Mr. Santolli?

15 MR. ELMAN: Did I what? I only got one
16 ear.

17 MS. GATELLI: Can you give us the
18 addresses of where these trees are being removed?

19 MR. ELMAN: Well, the little cemetery

20 where I walk Lump, they're all gone now. But a fellow
21 was telling me -- I was eating some chilli at Wendy's,
22 and he's telling me about the city paid to have all
23 those trees next to Scranton Preop on, you know, that
24 were against the curb, I have no idea how many were
25 there. I never paid attention to them.

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1 But he was talking and he, you know, he
2 watched the program. He said, We did that. I said,
3 Well, I don't know. You know, I have no idea. I don't
4 know who would tell you the truth. You know, you're
5 just going to get an answering machine like always with
6 this administration.

7 MS. GATELLI: Maybe we'll have -- Kay,
8 if you can have Tony Santolli come here within the next
9 few weeks, I'm sure he'd come and he could talk at a
10 regular meeting so that --

11 MR. ELMAN: Well, the picture is out
12 there, if somebody wants to realize it, you know.
13 They're cutting down healthy trees to make payrolls.

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes, but he'll explain
15 the procedure about the trees.

16 MR. ELMAN: Well, you know, I'm not

17 trying to start another thing about the trees. You
18 know, you people are supposed to be the solution to the
19 problem, and tonight it seemed like the odds turned and
20 you were the problem.

21 You know, I just think it was sad that
22 the mayor had to be brought in. You know, we got
23 another yes man for the mayor.

24 And in closing, you know, I don't want
25 to take a bunch of time, a couple weeks ago there was a
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1 letter by a Patricia McGowan in the paper objecting
2 very strongly to the Jewish group coming in or that
3 wants to buy the school. You know, and I don't know
4 any of these people, I don't know nothing about them.
5 I'd much rather have them around me than Ms. McGowan
6 and those 80 bigots that she got.

7 I think it's just a disgraceful
8 disgrace. You don't know what I'm talking about?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

10 MR. ELMAN: She wrote a letter to the
11 editor, and then she had a meeting and had 80 people up
12 there that was supposed to be representatives of the
13 city protesting the group coming in. It's been in the

14 paper. I think that's just, you know, I don't think
15 they have any right to speak for anybody.
16 Like I said, I don't know anything
17 about this group and their religion, but they're
18 Americans and they have a right to go wherever in the
19 world they want to without her approval, and those 80
20 bigots that were with her.

21 And I don't think that, you know, they
22 want to represent the city, they ought to just
23 represent themselves. And the newspaper went right
24 along with it with a big article about them.

25 But I wrote a letter of protest. You

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1 know, they just -- they don't care about hearing the
2 truth.

3 Like I said, they print letters
4 continuously -- I don't mean to get off on another
5 tangent -- but this newspaper prints letters all the
6 time about a bunch of just religious filth and all, you
7 know, from a bunch of people that are just anti this
8 and anti that.

9 MR. MINORA: Mr. Elman, that's your
10 five minutes.

11 MR. ELMAN: Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Noel Adcroft.

13 MS. ADCROFT: Hi. Noel Adcroft, City

14 of Scranton resident, and I'm happy to say that and I'm

15 proud to say that and I love my city.

16 Of course I was very afraid to come to

17 Council tonight, because I didn't know what I was in

18 for. I guess I was in for an episode of Survivor,

19 because that's what you need to be to come up here and

20 to attend these meetings. You must be a survivor.

21 I'm happy that I'm here, because I have

22 a few things to say to Council and to anybody that's an

23 elected official. God bless you. You must be a brave

24 person, you must be a strong person, you must tolerate

25 hatred, you must tolerate so many injustice things that

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1 go on in the city, within one another.

2 It's really sad. I look at this Junior

3 Council and I feel sorry for them because they are

4 learning more about hatred, especially tonight, than

5 they're learning about anything. And that's really

6 pitiful.

7 I believe in the city, and I know that

8 some people don't because who is running it and how
9 it's being run. I believe that with people helping
10 people it could be a better place. I believe the four
11 of you who are up there are trying to do the best for
12 the city. Yes, you may not always agree, yes, you may
13 argue amongst one another, but you do speak for the
14 people.

15 I am sorry to sit here and get caught
16 up and actually voice out myself because I was so upset
17 about things that were taking place, because I realize
18 you cannot make a mistake, you get persecuted when you
19 do. That's disgusting.

20 I know one person, one being that is a
21 miracle person, and that's up above us. We're not
22 perfect. We don't make everything right all the time,
23 but we should respect, and that's what these walls
24 lack, and that's what this audience lacks.

25 And I participated in that, and I am

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1 sorry that I got caught up in the beginning of this

2 meeting and voiced out as I did to others.

3 I believe in the city. I think other

4 people should believe in the city. I think possibly if

5 people took their energy that they have in this meeting
6 and helped their neighbors and worked the
7 neighborhoods, you can make a better place for this
8 city. It just doesn't take elected officials, it takes
9 one another working with each other. We need to do
10 this.

11 I have seen improvements in the city,
12 and I'm happy to be a resident. I just want to say
13 that we need to get along. I'm not trying to be a
14 Rodney King from years ago, and say, Let's please get
15 along. It's just natural. We need to get along.

16 I am sorry, Judy, that you had such a
17 bad incident happen to you. I'm thrilled that you're
18 not going to leave Council, because you've helped me,
19 other people on Council.

20 Sherry has helped me. I do appreciate
21 Janet's views. Mr. Courtright, you are sometimes very
22 quiet, but I know you know your stuff.

23 And I don't know this Mr. McGoff, however I did
24 overhear just in the back, He's a relative, he's a
25 relative. Again, let's make a snowball. Let's, like,

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1 get that snowball rolling. Wrong. We have to learn to

2 get along.

3 I wanted to come up here months ago

4 but, again, I was afraid, and I was going to make -- I

5 was going to ask for a motion, and I don't know, I'd

6 have to ask Mr. Minora, or if it's possible, and I

7 don't want to be hated in the city and I don't want to

8 be harassed in the city, but I was just wondering, is

9 it possible that maybe once a month just somebody

10 speaks, like, the group speaks, not every week members

11 speak?

12 I know it's the freedom of speech and

13 everybody comes week after week and says something, but

14 can't they just do it once a month?

15 Because I think we need to get business

16 settled here, and I think we just hear so much

17 negativity. I don't know how these people could focus

18 up here. You know, I would go home with a headache.

19 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry. That's your

20 five minutes, but our rules allow for five minutes to

21 speak.

22 MR. ADCROFT: I understand, and I

23 appreciate speaking before Council. And I just have

24 one more thing to say, this is the only website that

25 exists Judy, the other one, please disregard. Thank

1 you very much.

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

3 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council. Bob

4 Bolus, Scranton. What I have to say tonight, it's not

5 about hate, it's about the facts and credibility.

6 You know, today I spoke to some people

7 that are leaving the area, selling their house and

8 getting out of here because of the crime.

9 A police officer from New York came

10 here thinking about moving here. When he found out the

11 crime rate, it scared him, because the gangs are taking

12 over.

13 The issues here tonight are going to be

14 some, and it's a disgrace that we need a cop here.

15 Crime is outside, it's not in here.

16 Council President Gatelli, on Council

17 candidates, you were the one in charge, you set the

18 rules that we would all be interviewed. You didn't do

19 that. I'm entitled to know why I was denied an

20 interview, if I could have that answer. It's your

21 choice.

22 Janet Evans is about the only one that

23 I can think of on this Council that supported me in the
24 past. She championed my getting a proclamation from
25 this city for some of the things I've done for it.

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1 Apparently from what I understand, it
2 was my conviction that stopped you from voting for me.
3 And we're going to lay it on the table tonight,
4 something that should have been in an interview.
5 It didn't stop me from coming here, it
6 doesn't stop me from speaking on behalf of the city
7 residents or filing lawsuits to help defend the rights
8 of the people of this city,
9 And at my own expense, as well as
10 getting arrested here for speaking here and
11 jeopardizing my pardon, which happened. And I'd do it
12 all over again, because the people in this city are
13 important to me.
14 But to be not interviewed, Mrs.
15 Gatelli, and others of this Council saw fit to
16 discriminate and violate my civil rights and rights of
17 others in the name of selective politics and deprived
18 us an interview.
19 It's up to the president to decide, and

20 the fact is that she did not use her power as president
21 to be fair as you had stated, which said people would
22 have an interview.

23 I cannot completely express my total
24 dissatisfaction with this Council, the president, and
25 the appalling way I was treated by not being allowed to

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1 explain the legal procedure of my conviction and how
2 the D.A. and Attorney General have fought me each step
3 of the way in preventing me getting a new trial,
4 because Louis DeNaples would then finally have to tell
5 the truth as to why he lied under oath at my trial that
6 resulted in my conviction. That result is still not
7 over, and because of what Council's action was, it will
8 continue.

9 Thanks to Council, I thank you for
10 that, because you allow me now to step from the
11 Commonwealth to remove me from a seat, as the solicitor
12 will tell you, takes an action to remove me if I was
13 appointed. It would then move to a federal case where
14 the federal court would take it out of the jurisdiction
15 of the Commonwealth and I would get justice and so
16 would this city to get away from the politics.

17 Also I could have taken the seat
18 without any question. It's the removal that was an
19 issue, and that would have been taken care of in the
20 federal courts, but you denied me that right of an
21 interview or possibly the possibility of being
22 appointed to a seat.

23 Had I been appointed to this seat, I
24 was not going to take compensation. The money that
25 would have been compensated to me would have been
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1 donated to the -- yeah, I would have had it donated to
2 the breast cancer research.
3 I'd like you to know this isn't about
4 hate, it's about disappointment. I've been coming here
5 for many years. I've championed many causes on behalf
6 of the people of the city.

7 And to get the results that I received
8 this time and others when you stated, you were in
9 charge, you gavelled me out of order when I objected to
10 it at Saturday's meeting here, you denied me the right
11 of speaking, I'd like you to know this is my last
12 meeting, and tonight you can see why there's a
13 credibility issue here. I would like to say good night

14 and goodbye.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Michael

16 Gowarty.

17 MR. GOWARTY: I'd like to thank you for

18 the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Mike

19 Gowarty. I'm a lifetime resident of West Scranton. I

20 came here tonight due to several situations that

21 happened in my neighborhood in the last several weeks.

22 I've called the Scranton Police, and on

23 several occasions, I've also spoken to policemen in the

24 area, but situations that -- for situations that needed

25 to be addressed. The reply was the city does not have

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1 enough manpower to do these things.

2 Yesterday my wife and my children were

3 attacked by a dog walking home from school. My wife

4 called 911 at 2:45 p.m., and then again called the

5 Scranton Police Department at 3:25 p.m.

6 The patrolman finally showed up at

7 4:30 or around 4:30. My question is, What took so

8 long? The officer told me that he had to prioritize

9 his calls. He got called on a domestic dispute.

10 My question is to you is, How many

11 other families in Scranton that did not take precedence
12 over another call? If something happens to my family
13 or any other family, we don't need to hear that there's
14 not enough manpower.

15 The city administration has to
16 prioritize how they spend their money in the city. Do
17 we need to beautify the parks or do we need more safety
18 for our families? The bottom line is we need more
19 police presence in the city on the city streets.

20 Also, there has been several home
21 invasions in West Scranton and around the rest of the
22 city. I would like to keep Scranton a great place to
23 raise my family.

24 Again, if there were more police
25 presence on the streets, this probably would not have
.

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1 happened.

2 I live in West Scranton, I want to keep
3 West Scranton known for the home of the invaders, not
4 because of the home invaders. Thank you for letting me
5 speak tonight.

6 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

7 MR. GOWARTY: And I just have one

8 question. I spoke to Mr. Courtright on a couple of
9 occasions about certain things, and I spoke to the
10 police on certain things, and bottom line is we need
11 more police in this area.

12 The city is growing. I mean, it's not
13 getting any smaller, unless the people are moving out
14 because of the problems in the area. We just need more
15 police. Thank you.

16 MS. GATELLI: I think everyone up here
17 would say Amen to that. We all agree with you.

18 MR. GOWARTY: Thank you. This is the
19 first time I'm here tonight, and probably won't be the
20 last. Thank you.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: If I could explain
22 something to you, I might have told you on the phone
23 when you stopped by, probably 2:45 the first shift is
24 going into roll call and the second shift is probably
25 in roll call, so by the time they get out of roll call,

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1 it might be twenty after three, somewhere around there.
2 I mean, there are, you know, west six and maybe a south
3 six or whatever on the road, maybe a sergeant.
4 So, I would imagine what the officer

5 said is correct, that your incident happened and there

6 was a domestic, and so it took priority.

7 Do I think we need more police

8 officers? Absolutely. I've been asking for more

9 police officers. I've been on here.

10 I don't know Mr. McGoff, and I'm going

11 to wish him the best when he gets here, because he's

12 here now, and maybe he'll agree with me. Maybe he'll

13 be the one to put us over the top where we'll get more

14 police officers. So, if you're watching, Mr. McGoff, I

15 hope you'll vote for more police officers. Thank you.

16 MR. GOWARTY: Thank you.

17 MS. GATELLI: And I also think that we

18 are going to be looking at the CommD applications, all

19 of us, for next week, and I did notice that there is

20 \$180,000 for community officers, and I know that when I

21 worked in OECD, we had \$250,000, so I would encourage

22 everyone to try to up the ante there so we can all

23 agree that we need more money for the CommD.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think maybe Mrs.

25 Evans can recall, didn't we not ask to do that and they

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1 told us we were maxed out?

2 EVANS: Yes. There's been one excuse

3 after another, basically that the city can't afford any

4 more police and all of this will be solved when the

5 mayor has the ability to assign the police officers to

6 the shifts where they need to be.

7 Well, that doesn't solve the problem.

8 People have come before this Council for three years

9 now demanding a police presence in their neighborhoods,

10 and this has not been answered.

11 I guess we have to wait for the outcome

12 of arbitrations and appeals and more wastes of money

13 that could have been spent actually paying the salaries

14 of police officers.

15 MS. GATELLI: Yes. And Janet, I don't

16 think that has anything to do with the CommD officers,

17 so we have to --

18 MS. EVANS: They're the beat patrol.

19 MS. GATELLI: Yes. We have to put the

20 money in and insist.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's not that we can't

22 afford them, we can't not afford to have them. I think

23 that's the bottom line.

24 MS. GATELLI: So we need to put that up

25 to at least \$250, I'd say, when you're looking at your

1 reports. Jean Suetta.

2 MS. SUETTA: I got the indian on and

3 you got all the natives back there. How are you today?

4 I just come down to thank you personally for helping us

5 with the flood.

6 Bill was on the riverbank with me, Judy

7 was on the phone, Janet was on the phone. Sherry, I

8 didn't see you, so I'm not going to thank you for

9 something you didn't do.

10 And Ray Hayes, except for not telling

11 us the river was overflowing or sending us out

12 warnings, was there every day. He was very

13 instrumental down there. So, people are badmouthing

14 him. I was going to come down here, but my RSD kicked

15 up and I couldn't.

16 And as far as the illegals, don't you

17 people know, this is our country. What did my brothers

18 die for? Take our country back. Okay? Thanks.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Newcomb.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Good evening,

21 Council. It has been an interesting evening. I also

22 don't know Mr. McGoff. I wish him well, but what I do

23 have to say is, I was one of those 38 candidates to put
24 their name in, and I also was very disappointed that I
25 wasn't offered an interview.

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1 I don't have any record or anything
2 else like Mr. Bolus was talking about, and I agree
3 that, I don't know, maybe in those first 13 people or
4 something somebody seen the person that they wanted,
5 but I was very disgusted.

6 I'm a person that comes here with my
7 views. I'm not a political person. I did run for this
8 office in 2003. I received 86 percent of the vote for
9 my party, and I was here to represent the people, not a
10 certain group of people.

11 A few weeks ago the mayor was in here
12 and he said about his people haven't had a raise in
13 five years. Well, just for a thought, when our old
14 business administrator was here, he was paid \$76,000.
15 Mr. Kresefski is now paid 85.

16 Over the course of five years, that's
17 \$45,000 increase for that office. So, Mr. Kresefski
18 has received \$45,000 raise. Maybe the office has
19 received it, but, again, he is making -- he made

20 \$45,000 more than it would have been underneath the
21 last administration.

22 Mrs. Fanucci, I see the way you voted
23 tonight, and I can see sometimes complications could
24 happen, but I think you just got to look into your
25 votes a little bit better, because a few weeks ago you

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1 vote something and then you said, Oh, I think we made a
2 mistake, we did the wrong thing.

3 You shouldn't vote in the first place
4 if you think you made a mistake. You either vote for
5 the right thing or you don't vote at all.

6 I don't know if anybody can answer,
7 Mrs. Gatelli, if you can this, I know I got a few
8 things before my five minutes are up, but was there any
9 reason why you didn't give everybody an interview?

10 MS. GATELLI: Yes. There were -- would
11 you like the answer?

12 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Sure.

13 MS. GATELLI: When we talked about it,
14 we said there was entirely too many candidates to
15 interview them all, so we each made a list of who we
16 would like to see interviewed, and then that list was

17 combined for the final people.

18 I'm sorry that you feel that way.

19 Council unanimously voted on that. It wasn't any

20 single person. Attorney Minora agreed with us, even

21 though he isn't allowed to vote, that, yes, there were

22 many, many applicants, and that is what we did.

23 I would like to encourage you again

24 that in February, there will be two seats open on this

25 Council, and I would encourage all of the candidates to

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1 put their hat in the ring and see how you fair out.

2 I'm sorry that it couldn't be

3 everybody. You do make a nice presentation, I like

4 Mr. Bolus. You know, there was a lot of people we

5 liked, but we felt as though we had to narrow it down.

6 And if you noticed in the paper this

7 week, there was a Councilperson that resigned in

8 Throop. They were replaced in an approximately

9 15 minutes, and a person in Dickson City, and they were

10 replaced in 15 or 20 minutes.

11 We do not have any obligation to have

12 interviews, but we all feel that way. I must commend

13 this Council, because we've interviewed for Kay's

14 position, we interviewed for a Amil's position, and we
15 interviewed for that position, and, you know, whether
16 you like who we picked or not, I know that I -- that
17 Kay and Amil, I'm almost positive, were never
18 interviewed positions before.

19 So, we do believe in interviewing, and
20 if it didn't work out for you, I'm very sorry that you
21 feel that way.

22 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: I appreciate that.

23 I just wanted an answer, and now I received it. One
24 more thing here, my son has been coming here weak after
25 week, I got your message today, so I will give you the
.

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1 phone numbers, off camera, of course, about the
2 flooding problem at his home.

3 MS. GATELLI: We were discussing that,
4 and I know that they wanted to have a caucus with Mr.
5 Parker, but I have a call into Mr. Parker, and I think
6 it's more important if he goes right there.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: He's been there.

8 MS. GATELLI: Well, we're going to go
9 again.

10 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Oh, he's been trying

11 to go there, but it's not an easy place to get to.

12 MS. GATELLI: And, you know, it has to

13 be rectified.

14 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Well, if you've seen

15 the 28 news last Saturday, it happened, what he said

16 was going to happen. And it's not only his home,

17 there's other --

18 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Moss. Mr. Moss ha

19 sit all the time.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: He gets it all the

21 time. But for somebody to come there and ask questions

22 --

23 MR. MINORA: Five minutes. I'm sorry.

24 That's five minutes.

25 MS. GATELLI: Oh, I'm sorry.

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1 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Okay. Well, I'll

2 just come back next week. Thanks.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Mr. Newcomb, just quickly,

5 I'm not sure that you're aware or not, but 11 letters

6 over a two-year period plus have been sent to Mr.

7 Parker about that area, and Mr. Parker has failed to do

8 his job. I had wanted Mr. Parker in this evening, but
9 that wasn't a possibility for tonight.
10 In addition, I think early on in your
11 comments you were addressing the salary perhaps of the
12 BA, was it, well, if I could add just a touch to that,
13 I know the mayor has said he wants high quality people
14 and he believes in financially rewarding those people,
15 you know, in order to better serve the city, you pay
16 the highest price, you get the best priced person.
17 Now, on the other hand, when Council --
18 a new Council came on board and a new solicitor was to
19 be hired, I'm sure you recall that Mr. Walsh took a
20 \$20,000 pay cut at the hand of the mayor, and the
21 mayor's response was, I'm going to paraphrase, he had
22 no experience, whereas Mr. Hickey had years of
23 experience, and that's why he was given \$40,000 and Mr.
24 Walsh was given twenty.
25 But if you follow that line of logic,

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1 it leads to a dead end, because some of the
2 administrators hired by Mr. Doherty had no experience
3 for their jobs, and yet, they were given pay raises
4 coming right out of the starting gate. Their salaries

5 were increased over the people who previously held
6 those positions with years of experience, and
7 thereafter those increases continued.

8 So, it really doesn't seem to make
9 sense, does it? It seems as if someone's talking out
10 of both sides of his mouth, and whatever suits the
11 situation, is what you're going to hear.

12 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Thank you. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Thanks, Mr. Newcomb. Lee
15 Morgan.

16 MS. EVANS: And just the one thing I
17 forgot, they should not have had pay increases when
18 they assumed their new positions without any
19 experience. They should have received a pay cut until
20 they had acquired the experience in that position and
21 worked their way up the salary scale.

22 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council. I
23 have a question first for the tax group,
24 Scranton-Lackawanna Taxpayers and Citizens Association,
25 and that question is this, Is Mayor Doherty able to

.

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1 file an emergency certificate to borrow money to

2 balance the city's budget? That is my question for the
3 tax group, and we would like an answer for that
4 question. Does anyone want to give it some
5 consideration or --

6 MS. GATELLI: We'll get an answer for
7 you from --

8 MR. MORGAN: Would you write that
9 letter to Ozzie Quinn or --

10 MS. GATELLI: We'll ask Attorney Minora
11 to investigate that.

12 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Now, the other
13 thing I would like to say is that I'm really troubled
14 by what I saw today, because what I saw here were two
15 different political agendas and spin at this Council.

16 Some people may not believe that people
17 should come here and voice their opinions weekly. I
18 disagree. I think it an obligation of all citizens of
19 this country to interact with their government at all
20 times as often as possible so the government can be as
21 informed as possible to the needs of its constituents,
22 and I think that all the people that sit home and
23 complain about where this government is need to come
24 down here, because we have some major problems.

25 And I'd like to read a couple things

1 out of my resume that I gave to the city, because I'm
2 really troubled, Mrs. Gatelli, and I want to tell you
3 personally that I think that what you did was totally
4 wrong and out of order, like I stated from the floor
5 here the other day.

6 You asked people to come forward who
7 might be willing to try to take that seat, and to say
8 for that to come out of anybody's mouth, but especially
9 Council President to say we had too many people
10 interested is a sin, okay? Because what we want is the
11 most amount of people that are willing to be involved
12 to step forward.

13 And the other thing I find troubling is
14 that for once, for decades, women have complained that
15 they've been discriminated against, and yet you, as a
16 woman, and Council President, have discriminated
17 against 25 separate individuals because you and the
18 rest of Council, because if you said that all Council
19 voted on this, what Council decided to do was to become
20 a quasi judicial group and stand in judgment of
21 everybody's resume, but there were no parameters set on
22 those resumes when you asked people to step forward, so

23 you had no qualifying and disqualifying requirements.

24 So, what you actually did was you

25 discriminated against everyone that you felt compelled

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1 to discriminate against, and I find it to be an

2 extremely troubling thing, and I really think that you

3 owe the people of this city an apology, okay?

4 We can all talk about the website,

5 okay? And I think that some people have said what they

6 believe about the website, freedom of speech, but I

7 think that what you did was very troubling.

8 And you may not agree, okay, but you've

9 been in the neighborhoods, you've been active for a

10 long time and you stepped forward and you took the

11 presidency, and then you made statements here and you

12 did not follow through with your statements and changed

13 all the ground rules and discriminated against numerous

14 people. I think it's very wrong.

15 Now, I'm only going to read my summary,

16 because I think that that's the most relevant thing. I

17 mean, all the things I said were relevant, I was

18 against all the borrowing, I was against all

19 maneuvering, against a lot of things, but I want to say

20 this, the reason I think that I should have been given
21 an opportunity to serve in the seat recently vacated is
22 that I am capable. I'm a participant in City Council
23 meetings for a very long time.

24 I possibly have more time in this
25 Council chamber than all four of the people seated at
.
75

1 that Council. I am possibly the one most aware of
2 legislation that has passed through this Council. I
3 have a vision of the city which has been vastly
4 different from most Council members in the past. My
5 opinion has been validated, my opposition to America
6 Anglican deal, my opposition to change in the
7 management of the city's pension plan, borrowing
8 through the authorities where they find themselves hard
9 pressed to repay, my opposition to the sale of the
10 former DPW compound.

11 I am an independent thinker with no
12 political ties with anyone, no one, okay? I believe
13 the city's rebirth is based in its neighborhoods and
14 not just in its downtown.

15 I think it is time to set politics
16 aside, as we seen play here today, and finally do the

17 right thing for the residents of the city.

18 It is time to stop borrowing for day to

19 day operations, to stop talking about a recovery plan

20 as if there was a real plan committed to recovery.

21 It's time to reduce the size of the

22 city budget from its present size to a figure more in

23 line with the fiscal position of the city on the

24 ability of the tax base to sustain it.

25 MR. MINORA: Excuse me, Mr. Morgan.

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76

1 That's your time.

2 MR. MORGAN: That's fine. Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.

4 Judy Sutton.

5 MS. SUTTON: Good evening, City

6 Council. I was here, I believe, the first meeting

7 after you reconvened, at that time I brought to your

8 attention the situation about the light on Old Log

9 Road. They have installed the light, however, there's

10 no electricity to it yet, so hopefully very soon that

11 will happen.

12 I have to say, I'm born and raised in

13 this city, spent most of my adult life in it, and I

14 have to say for the first time, I am truly embarrassed

15 to say I come from this city.

16 The conduct in this room tonight and

17 the website, embarrassing. These young adults are far

18 more mature.

19 And I read in the paper today, Mr. -- I

20 believe it's Mr. Pilchesky is willing to donate \$10,000

21 to destroy Judy Gatelli. Well, you know, we're coming

22 to holiday season, and there's a lot of organizations

23 out there, like the Salvation Army, and those types of

24 organizations, I think his money might better be served

25 by giving his money to those organizations and doing

.

77

1 some good instead of some evil.

2 And the people that visit that website

3 and make comments on it, they might want to take that

4 energy and turn it into something positive, maybe do

5 some volunteer work in nursing homes, and maybe they

6 might not be quite so bitter. Thank you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Laura Kreig.

8 MS. KREIG: Good evening. My name is

9 Laura Kreig and I live over on Lafayette Street in West

10 Scranton.

11 On February 29 of this year, my son was
12 brutally beaten, stabbed and left for dead in front of
13 a bar on Luzerne Street after an incident where he was
14 beat with a crowbar, iron pipes, stabbed twice, two
15 inches deep in the abdomen, and he was stabbed a second
16 time above his belly button. And I gave all the
17 information to Detective Jones, and it's been eight
18 months now and I'm wondering why there hasn't been any
19 arrest.

20 MS. GATELLI: We --

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll find out of you.

22 If you could leave your name and number with Neil, I'll
23 ask Detective Jones and I'll call you.

24 MS. KREIG: And I'm having a hard time
25 with him. He's being really rude to me. I've been

78

1 nothing but nice to him. I've provided him with all
2 the information he asked. He called me last week and
3 told me that my son is not cooperating.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. You know, maybe
5 it's best that I don't call you, maybe I will talk to
6 Detective Jones and maybe Captain Leoncini or something
7 can speak with you.

8 MS. KREIG: Okay. But I still have a

9 couple more minutes, right?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, yeah, go ahead.

11 MS. KREIG: The thing of it is, like,

12 my son and I forgive the kids for what they did because

13 they were under the influence of alcohol.

14 Now, for some reason he doesn't want to

15 arrest them, and I have no understanding why. But our

16 main concern is that they get a psychiatric evaluation

17 and they definitely need anger management.

18 I have a videotape here I would really

19 like to show you of what they did to my son when they

20 left him for dead on February 29. Is there any way I

21 can -- it's a ten second tape. Can I show it to you?

22 MS. GATELLI: Leave it with Mr. --

23 MS. KREIG: Well, I have my whole

24 camera in here.

25 MS. GATELLI: Pardon?

.

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1 MS. KREIG: I have the whole camera in

2 here.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: If you want to wait

4 until after the meeting, we'll take a look at it.

5 MS. KREIG: Okay.

6 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

7 MS. KREIG: Thank you. Fred Budzinski.

8 Is he gone? Mrs. Shumaker here? Is Mrs. Shumaker

9 here? No? Is there anyone else that cares to address

10 Council?

11 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus. I think what

12 happened here tonight, and like everybody else is

13 saying are different opinions, I know it's different

14 opinions, but I think we had a chance tonight to stop

15 corruption in this city, and we didn't take it.

16 And I know you sit there and you say

17 that you're for the people, Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs.

18 Fanucci, but what you did tonight was not for the

19 people. And I definitely, definitely believe, and I

20 have a right to my opinion, and it's not a case of

21 being illrespectful or nasty or anything, but I think

22 it's facts.

23 I think there's a lot of deals. I

24 think the mayor knew exactly what was going on, that's

25 why he was here. I think Mrs. Fanucci made a mistake

.

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1 on the vote, but that's just human nature.

2 Well, I mean, anybody could do that, I
3 mean, I might have done that myself, but my point is
4 this, you had a chance to stop something wrong in this
5 city that's always been political maneuvering and
6 deals.

7 So now you're going to have this man
8 here, Mr. McGoff, that's going to be the third vote for
9 Mr. Doherty, and the fact that Mrs. Evans mentioned
10 about this loan -- are you listening, Mrs. Gatelli?

11 MS. GATELLI: Yeah. I thought he
12 interrupted me.

13 MS. FRANUS: -- about this loan coming
14 ahead of Council again. Now, you originally said
15 you're not going to give the mayor any money, I don't
16 know if that means forever, but like I said to you a
17 long time ago, you should have never brought this to
18 the agenda in the first place, because Mr. Doherty
19 shouldn't be getting anything, he should be going after
20 nonprofits, he should not hiring people, he should be
21 doing like Mrs. Evans says, getting decreases in
22 salary, not increasing, giving people raises.

23 So, here's your chance again, but I
24 know what's going to happen, so does everybody else,
25 that's why this Mr. McGoff was put here, he was put

81

1 here on purpose, he was put here on purpose to get the
2 third vote.

3 So, you and Mrs. Fanucci are going to
4 vote for Mr. Doherty getting a loan, and he's going to
5 get the money that he always wanted. This is your
6 deal.

7 So, you could sit there and talk out of
8 your side of your mouth and say you're for the people,
9 but when your vote comes, it's not for the people, it's
10 for yourself, it's for the deals, it's what you owe
11 him. And that's the way it is.

12 And I give Mrs. Evans credit for
13 pointing it out, I mean, pointing it out that, I don't
14 even know how to put this, it's just that Mrs. Evans
15 has always stood alone, and Mr. Courtright has joined
16 her and saying the right thing to the people, for the
17 people. You say you're for the people, but every time
18 it comes to vote, your vote isn't for the people.

19 MS. GATELLI: I voted against it many
20 times.

21 MS. FRANUS: Yes, you voted against it.

22 MS. GATELLI: I voted against

23 consultants, I voted against the loan.

24 MS. FRANUS: We'll see. My point is,

25 let's wait and see what you do with this vote.

.

82

1 MS. GATELLI: I will do what's right

2 for the people, Mrs. Franus.

3 MS. FRANUS: What you think is right

4 for the people.

5 MS. GATELLI: -- not the 15 people that

6 come here. You do not represent the whole city.

7 MS. FRANUS: Wait a minute. The 15

8 people that come here?

9 MS. GATELLI: I was elected by 13,000,

10 not just you.

11 MS. FRANUS: Everybody in the City of

12 Scranton could come here and speak. Everybody has the

13 right to come here and speak.

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes, they do.

15 MS. FRANUS: Just like I do. Well,

16 where are they?

17 MS. GATELLI: They do.

18 MS. FRANUS: So, when you say not just

19 the 15 people that come here. I'm speaking for many

20 people, whether you know it or not. I'm not the only
21 one that feels this way. Trust me on that one. And
22 we'll see at the elections.

23 MS. GATELLI: I will make my decision
24 what I think is best for the citizens of Scranton.

25 MS. FRANUS: We'll see. That's what
.

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1 I'm waiting to see. Now, if you vote for giving Mr.
2 Doherty any money, that's not for the best interest of
3 the city.

4 MS. GATELLI: That's your opinion.

5 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, that's my opinion.

6 So, but that's my point. You're saying what's good for
7 the people, but you're -- that's an out and out lie.

8 MS. GATELLI: Well, I wasn't here last
9 year to vote for a budget that had a \$6 million hole in
10 it.

11 MS. FRANUS: We're not talking about
12 that. You're saying --

13 MS. GATELLI: There were other people
14 up here that did it.

15 MS. FRANUS: No, that's in the past.

16 We're talking about the --

17 MS. GATELLI Well, the past affects the

18 future, Mrs. Franus.

19 MS. FRANUS: Let's talk about the

20 present. The present right now is let's see who you

21 vote for, how this Mr. McGoff votes from now on, if he

22 votes with you and Mrs. Fanucci for everything, we'll

23 see, and we'll see if he votes for Mr. Doherty on

24 everything. Yes, we'll see.

25 MS. GATELLI: You can get an

.

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1 application, too, and run for Council, if you think you

2 can do this any better. Come up here.

3 MS. FRANUS: Like I'd even have an

4 interview.

5 MS. GATELLI: Come up here. You won't

6 need an interview. You can run.

7 MS. FRANUS: No kidding, because you

8 wouldn't even stand a chance.

9 MS. GATELLI: You can run.

10 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, I can run.

11 MS. GATELLI: I'll give you the \$100.

12 MS. FRANUS: I'd need the thousands

13 from Mr. Doherty to run to get elected here.

14 MS. GATELLI: Well, I didn't take

15 thousands from Mr. Doherty either.

16 MS. FRANUS: Huh.

17 MS. GATELLI: Don't huh, because I

18 didn't.

19 MS. FRANUS: I didn't say you did.

20 MS. GATELLI: Well, you're making faces

21 like I did. I did -- I was not with Mr. Doherty.

22 MS. FRANUS: This is ridiculous.

23 MS. GATELLI: It is ridiculous.

24 MS. FRANUS: We're not talking about

25 who you took money from, we're talking about let's see

.

85

1 how you vote for the loan.

2 MS. GATELLI: I'll vote with my

3 conscience, as I always have.

4 MS. FRANUS: But that's what I'm trying

5 to say. You say that, but it's an out and out lie,

6 because how you vote is not for the people.

7 MS. GATELLI: If I don't vote for Mrs.

8 Franus, I'm against the people.

9 MS. FRANUS: No, nothing to do with me.

10 If you don't vote the way you should --

11 MS. GATELLI: Well, you're the judge,
12 jury and hangman.

13 MS. FRANUS: So are the rest of the
14 people in this city.

15 MS. GATELLI: Well, they'll vote me out
16 next time if they don't like what I'm --

17 MR. MINORA: That's five minutes.
18 That's your five minutes.

19 MS. FRANUS: We'll see at the election
20 poll. We'll see. Thank you very much.

21 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else?

22 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Bring it down, Bill?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Go ahead, Chris, bring
24 it down. Your buddy is in the back.

25 MR. SLEDZINSKI: Huh? I see him. I

.

86

1 talked to him already. Well, Jude, tomorrow's our last
2 game. Well, this is it.

3 MS. GATELLI: Are we going to win?

4 MR. SLEDZINSKI: We better win
5 tomorrow. Judy, it's dedicated to you tomorrow night.

6 This game is for you, Judy.

7 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thanks, Chris.

8 Anyone else?

9 MR. STUCKER: How are you doing? I

10 just had my knee done last week, about two weeks ago I

11 had my knee done.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: We can't hear you,

13 Jim. You got to speak into the mic.

14 MR. STUCKER: Like, three weeks ago I

15 had my knee done, I had a new knee put in. I was in

16 the hospital for a while.

17 MS. GATELLI: You're doing pretty well.

18 MR. STUCKER: I came home Saturday. So

19 I'm feeling a little better.

20 MS. GATELLI: You're doing well with

21 it.

22 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. We need some work

23 done here in Scranton. I would like to know what

24 you're going to do about the busses. The busses are

25 still parking in front of Oppenheim's and Globe Store.

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87

1 There's cars parking there.

2 A couple times I made a complaint about

3 it. I know the cops -- they're -- the ticket girl

4 ain't coming around and putting tickets on cars by

5 Oppenheim's and by the Globe Store.

6 Now, I want to see about getting

7 benches put over by Oppenheim's and the Globe Store for

8 people to sit on waiting for the bus or something,

9 maybe two or three benches.

10 MS. GATELLI: Well, we had a meeting --

11 it just so happens that she's in the audience tonight,

12 and the benches will be coming.

13 MR. STUCKER: What about Parrot Avenue?

14 I complained about that last -- a couple times I

15 complained about that. Parrot Avenue is getting really

16 bad again. Somebody is going to blow a tire or bend a

17 car wheel. My buddy Pat rides up and down Parrot

18 Avenue every day.

19 MS. GATELLI: The last time I was on

20 Parrot Avenue, it seemed as though they filled them.

21 MR. STUCKER: Well, by the school.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I was there a few

23 days ago.

24 MR. STUCKER: Okay. Right by Oak

25 Street, on Oak Street, coming down the hill there's a

.

88

1 dip, right by the pole there, the lid is ready to come

2 off. I went to the -- I made a complaint about it, and

3 they didn't do nothing about it. The lid is halfway

4 off again. I went down there today.

5 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

6 MR. STUCKER: I went to the company to

7 see about it, and they didn't do nothing. So, maybe

8 you can see about it.

9 MS. GATELLI: Okay, Jim. Thank you.

10 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, we have another

11 problem on Providence Square. The guy up -- maybe one

12 of you can help me. This guy tripped me a couple

13 times.

14 MS. GATELLI: All right. We'll take

15 care of it with Bill through the police department.

16 Okay?

17 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Okay.

18 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thanks, Jim.

19 MR. STUCKER: Okay. All right.

20 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City

21 Council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky. There's been a couple

22 things that happened here tonight that have kind of

23 upset me. The first was, I don't know how you can

24 elect someone by asking them four questions.

25 I do not know Mr. McGoff, I did see him

1 interviewed, but I'd like to know who nominated him.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I actually made

3 the nomination.

4 MR. UNGVARSKY: You, Mrs. Fanucci?

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I understand now.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

8 They are pathetic. What, honey?

9 MS. ORGAN: I baby sit for a five and

10 seven year old, they're two boys, and they behave

11 better than some of you did tonight. I joined this

12 Council to learn about government, and this was a

13 revolting example.

14 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

15 MS. HUBBARD: Hi, Council. Elizabeth

16 Hubbard, resident of Scranton. I have two things. All

17 of a sudden the 100 and 200 block of Marion Street have

18 become a bus route. Can you people do anything about

19 that? We have little kids.

20 MS. GATELLI: Is it school busses or

21 the Colts?

22 MS. HUBBARD: Colts. I called about

23 them once before. They've decided, I guess, to in
24 order to get out on Green Ridge Street, it's easier to
25 go to Ross Avenue to the light, but they come flying
. . .
90

1 through there, and I don't think that they should be on
2 small residential streets.

3 MS. GATELLI: Okay. We'll check that
4 for you.

5 MS. HUBBARD: The second thing, there's
6 a house in the 100 block of Marion Street, it would be
7 the last one before the river or the first one --

8 MS. GATELLI: Next to Kitlas?

9 MS. HUBBARD: Yeah. I guess it's going
10 to be torn down.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

12 MS. HUBBARD: But there's parts of it
13 laying all over the street.

14 MS. GATELLI: Has it been started, the
15 demolition started?

16 MS. HUBBARD: Well, I think somebody
17 took the chain linked fence, and then I think they've
18 been ripping the aluminium siding off.

19 MS. GATELLI: So it hasn't been

20 demolished yet?

21 MR. HUBBARD: No.

22 MS. GATELLI: They're just helping

23 themselves?

24 MS. HUBBARD: Right. But there's

25 garbage everywhere, so I don't know what they could do

91

1 about that.

2 MS. GATELLI: Okay. I'll check that

3 out for you.

4 MS. HUBBARD: And another thing, the

5 way I learned in school, it's one person, one vote, and

6 when you do vote, you don't get to change your mind.

7 So, I think tonight was sad.

8 Mrs. Fanucci should be paying attention

9 to what is going on and then she wouldn't have to

10 rescind her vote and get to vote the second time.

11 I mean, I've made mistakes in a polling

12 place and you don't get to go back and vote again. So,

13 that's just my opinion.

14 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

15 MS. HUBBARD: Have a good night.

16 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

17 MR. ANCHERANI: I can't believe there's

18 nobody else.

19 MS. GATELLI: Well, you're always last.

20 MR. ANCHERANI: Yeah, I know, but it's

21 the nerves, you know. Anyway, good evening, Council.

22 I'm Nelson Ancherani, I'm a resident, taxpayer, city

23 employee and financial secretary of the FOP. Again

24 more than ever I'm here exercising my First Amendment

25 rights of free speech.

.

92

1 Every week we pick a topic to speak

2 about. I base my topics on city business, free speech,

3 budget or labor issues. Quality of life is always

4 implied.

5 I was going to talk tonight about the

6 budget, but the daily tabloid changed my mind. I

7 realize that when I call the daily paper tabloid, that

8 I'm insulting the hemroids. Sorry. So, I will

9 therefore call the newspaper the roid.

10 It is deeply disturbing that when the

11 roid was supposed to have journalistic integrity and be

12 responsible in its reporting criticizes citizens and

13 taxpayers who attend Council meetings and who speak

14 about issues concerning our city, and especially when
15 it is in an editorial that is criticizing an internet
16 website.

17 The editorial is titled, Gatelli Must
18 Stay, Cowards Must Go. Who are the cowards? Once
19 again, the Council speakers are getting the blame in
20 the article, which, by the way, is not signed or listed
21 specifically to any reporter.

22 Who are the cowards? Faceless people
23 who won't sign their names to their editorials. I'm
24 going to defend Council speakers and speak about this,
25 since the article implies that Council is, and I quote,

.

93

1 Intimidated by the handful of malcontents who had been
2 allowed to dominate those sessions. There's no way to
3 know how many people have not addressed Council in
4 order to avoid exposure to that circus, end quote.

5 I am not a malcontent. I'm a concerned
6 citizen and taxpayer who cares about my city, otherwise
7 I could have left.

8 Council speakers have been called
9 malcontents, inane, low-lifes, Halloweeners, crazies
10 and legion of doom by the roid. I personally like the

11 Legion of Doom.
12 Council speakers have been criticized
13 for excising their First Amendment rights. The Council
14 speakers are criticized for their truthfulness and
15 courage to get up to the podium to speak. They give
16 their names every time they go to the podium, not like
17 the faceless editorialists who write for the roid. Who
18 are the cowards?
19 If the roid editorialists want to
20 criticize a website, then do it, but why compare the
21 Council speakers to a website?
22 It seems like the roid had to use an
23 excuse to criticize the speakers. How many of these
24 faceless roid editorialist cowards are going to be
25 facing a possible 90 percent tax increase for years to
.

94

1 come to pay for our mayor's B & S, borrowing and
2 spending, attitude that these faceless roid
3 editorialists fail to address in their missing in
4 action journalistic integrity and responsibly roid.
5 If the circus that I'm performing in
6 doesn't wake up and we allow more B & S, we are going
7 to have to mortgage the tent we are performing in for

8 the next 28 years or more.

9 These faceless coward editorialists

10 also say, quote, Orgy of negativity that passes for

11 public commentary at weekly Council meetings, end

12 quote. What about the orgy of negativity that passes

13 through the roid? What kind of negativity is it when

14 the roid calls Council speakers names?

15 I believe the roid is attempting to

16 discourage people from going to Council meetings to

17 speak. That won't happen.

18 Quote, Mrs. Gatelli meanwhile she use

19 her power as Council President with the support of her

20 colleagues to insure that commentary at the Council

21 meetings is strictly about city business. She should

22 outlaw jeering from the gallery and order the removal

23 of anyone who violates those rules.

24 Just think, what if since the roid is

25 missing its journalistic integrity and responsibility,

.

95

1 what if they weren't allowed to put their papers in

2 stores to sell them or in those sidewalks receptacles?

3 What if they couldn't put their garbage paper on

4 people's porches? How would they like it?

5 Quote, Rather than the desire of
6 individuals for televised face time or to advance
7 personal agendas, end quote.
8 Personal agendas, what about the
9 personal agenda of the roid? I believe that the roid's
10 agenda is to suppress free speech from the Council
11 speakers who are citizens and taxpayers of this city.
12 I believe the roid wants to invoke it's
13 propaganda on the citizenry by using half stories and
14 not telling the other side.

15 MR. MINORA: Excuse me, Mr. Ancherani.

16 That's your five minutes.

17 MR. ANCHERANI: Okay. The day the
18 Scranton Tribune closed is the day journalistic
19 integrity and responsibility died in this city. Thank
20 you.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

22 Mrs. Garvey.

23 MS. EVANS: No, James.

24 MS. GATELLI: Oh, I'm sorry.

25 MR. PIAZZA: That's all right. I

.

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I didn't know if anybody else was coming up. Good

2 evening, Council. I'm James Piazza, Scranton High

3 School.

4 I just wanted to say what happened

5 earlier in the meeting that -- I know that the job that

6 you guys have is not ease because of the responsibility

7 that you have to the residents of the city, your job

8 that you have in your daily life, and your family that

9 you have to take care of.

10 So, I just think that the people that

11 watch the Council meetings or even get up to speak

12 should have respect to their elected officials, because

13 you guys are trying to do the best job they can do.

14 It might not be what some -- someone

15 might not think that you guys are doing a good job, but

16 I know that you guys are trying to because you wouldn't

17 be up there.

18 So -- and I just think America a good

19 country because the diversity of the people across the

20 country, that's why it's so great. So, thank you.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

22 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, Motions.

23 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I ask you to

25 remember two very dear people who passed away this week

1 in your prayers, Mrs. Louise Tuskey and Mr. Bernard
2 Gervasi.

3 Mrs. Tuskey's grandson is a Scranton
4 policeman, and Mr. Gervasi's son is the former
5 president of the Scranton Firefighters Union and a
6 current Scranton City firefighter. Our thoughts and
7 prayers are with the families that both of these
8 wonderful human beings leave behind.

9 On a brighter note, I'd like to make
10 the following announcement, The Upper Hill Ecumenical
11 Committee invites the community to take part in the
12 Friendly's Family Fun Night scheduled for November 8
13 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The restaurant will donate
14 ten percent of the total of receipts during those
15 specified hours.

16 The monies will be donated to The Upper
17 Hill Food Pantry. This year the pantry will be making
18 baskets for at least 60 families. The committee's
19 motto, Keep the Pantry Shelves Stocked. To each and
20 everyone who helps, thank you.

21 I also have citizens' requests for the
22 week. Kamerling Court, which is located in the rear of

23 the 2600 block of North Main Avenue needs paving. It

24 is located in a low to moderate income area, and

25 according to former Council members, has been on a

.

98

1 paving list for five years now.

2 2620 North Main Avenue, residents of

3 the vicinity request a no parking sign similar to the

4 one across the street at 2629 North Main Avenue which

5 is grounded in concrete.

6 The rear of 222 Prescott Avenue, this

7 house was condemned in February and the grounds are in

8 deplorable condition. When will this property be

9 demolished? Please clean up the property before the

10 winter weather sets in.

11 And a letter to Pat McMullen, please

12 replace the no parking sign at the top of East Mountain

13 Road just past the firehouse as the road travels

14 towards Mountain Lake. Vehicles are now parking in

15 this area, which makes it difficult for drivers when

16 making turns.

17 Also, please install a no parking sign

18 in the 300 block of 16th Avenue for the property owner

19 who resides at the corner of Division Street and 16th

20 Avenue. Cars continue to park on her property.

21 And please clean the catch basins on

22 East Mountain Road. And another letter to Mr. Parker,

23 What is the progress on the drain at 1427 Birch Street?

24 We also received an announcement

25 tonight from American Water, it's a drinking water

.

99

1 warning. Customers are asked to boil their drinking

2 water until further notice, and this is dated

3 November 2. Pennsylvania American Water is issuing a

4 boil water advisory for customers in parts of Scranton

5 due to a break in a transmission line.

6 And this appears to have affected East

7 Mountain, East Mountain Road, Lynwood Drive, Moltke,

8 Wintermantle, Hickory Street, Willow Street, Birch

9 Street, Beech Street, Brook from Moltke to Roland,

10 Blucher, Maple, East Elm, East Locust, Cherry Street

11 from Blucher to Roland, Fig Street from Roland to

12 Moltke, Froud Avenue from Roland Avenue to Moltke

13 Avenue.

14 Now, just to clear up a few matters. I

15 heard it mentioned earlier that a former Council left a

16 hole in a budget and you have no idea how something

17 like that could have happened. Well, it's a very
18 simple explanation.
19 Previous Council members gave the mayor
20 his borrowing each year that he requested. I was not
21 among them, but I set that aside. I was there, so I
22 understand the rationale behind it.

23 Now, when that borrowing was given to
24 the mayor, that was to fill a hole in the current year,
25 with the understanding that in the following fiscal

100

1 year, the mayor was to make cuts, seek new revenue and
2 balance the next year's budget, however, sadly that's
3 never occurred.

4 Rather, he returns to continue year
5 after year with his hand out for more, because he never
6 has cut that budget and he never has attempted any
7 revenue generators, and he's back again.

8 Now, with regard to another comment
9 made earlier about this evening's vote, I must say I
10 did not know there would be a vote tonight on a new
11 Councilperson until 6:20, yet I do find it curious that
12 Mr. Doherty knew it, and even more curious, Attorney
13 Greco knew, because he was waiting right outside these

14 doors when there was a conflict tonight. And it would
15 have been physically impossible for that gentleman to
16 have made it from his home to this Council chamber in
17 that amount of time. So, there's some collusion
18 involved in this circumstance.

19 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me. Please, no
20 comments from the audience, whoever's making the
21 comments.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Gatelli.

23 And now I think I do understand why the mayor's new
24 borrowing hasn't come up yet. I think it's very clear.

25 We needed that vote.

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1 And at this point, I frankly don't
2 believe there's any need for this Council to develop
3 any budget of its own, because it will be nothing more
4 than an exercise in futility.

5 And the mayor's 2007 proposed budget is
6 due, on the other hand, in less than two weeks, and I
7 just tonight received the final copy of the 2005 audit;
8 however, I see the 2007 TANS Series A for \$5 million
9 and TANS Series B for \$9.5 million have already been
10 put out to bid.

11 Now, this is not a penny in reduction
12 from last year. Obviously, the mayor does not intend
13 to make any significant cuts to his budget to pay down
14 the Doherty debt.

15 He wants \$14.5 in TANS, he's raising
16 your property taxes, according to his own public
17 statements, and he's sent legislation looking for
18 \$6.9 million more. Now, that's a total of \$21.4
19 million in new borrowing, plus, plus, a tax increase,
20 property tax increase.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, it appears that
22 we all have three more years of spending and unchecked
23 squandering to look forward to and no real effort to
24 trim a bloated budget.

25 And these are the crucial issues before

.

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1 City Council this week, more borrowing, though, that
2 doesn't seem to be important enough to have made the
3 news in The Scranton Times this week, an absent audit
4 for months and months so that false figures were
5 submitted for large borrowing that's been, well, shall
6 we say, not supported by Standard and Poors, a budget
7 that's full of smoke and mirrors, and finally the

8 selection of a new Council member, and these are the
9 truly important issues that will make or break our
10 senior citizens, our working families, and the poor.
11 And these are the problems that I was elected to work
12 on and to solve. That's it.

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

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I have to say I'm
15 going to piggyback on some of the things that Mrs.
16 Evans had said. I believe that they are the large
17 issue that are before us.

18 I would like to say that I had Attorney
19 Greco on hold, because I knew I was going to make some
20 big mistake tonight. It really wasn't the case. I
21 really didn't know that that was going to happen.
22 I did what is right. I have said
23 before in this room, I don't want my views of this city
24 to be like they are in this place.

25 When I come in here, if you feel I'm

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1 doing a bad job, I think I'm doing a good job. I can't
2 be as negative, hateful, sarcastic, grim, have such a
3 bad impact on this city. I won't do it. I won't.
4 I am here for four years. I'm going to

5 be here, and when I make a mistake, I say I make a
6 mistake. I said it five seconds after I did it. I
7 have no problem.
8 If I make a vote and later on I find
9 information that maybe makes me think that my vote was
10 wrong in the first place, I'm going to state it then.
11 That's what it's about. It's a growing, it's a
12 process.
13 To stick to one agenda day after day
14 after day and make the agenda no, is not room for
15 growth. We will get absolutely not anywhere in this
16 city, any of us. That is not what I am here for.
17 I said from day one I'm here for
18 progress, I'm here because I love Scranton, I am here
19 for growth, development, economic strength, jobs,
20 people, children, I'm here for all the right reasons.
21 If you do not agree with those reasons,
22 it's okay. I don't agree with a lot of your views
23 either. That is why we are here.
24 But the lack of decorum in this place
25 and the lack of respect and the lack of being able to
.

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1 understand each other, whether you like what we say or

2 not, is repulsive, and it needs to stop.

3 And if we don't let it stop, all it

4 does it show how hatred is going to grow in this city.

5 It goes to other places, and that is appalling.

6 If you sit here and promote this type

7 of behavior and encourage it, it makes other people

8 empowered, empowered by hate, disgust, and pretty much

9 paybacks.

10 This is not what we are here for. We

11 will never get anywhere in this city if we play tug of

12 war with each other over issues that are constantly

13 going to be there.

14 Politics is what we are. We're

15 politicians, I am sorry for that, but we need to be

16 politicians to be able to get things done. We need to

17 be able to work with other politicians, we need to

18 understand the laws, we need to have people like Mr. --

19 Attorney Minora help us out when things weren't going

20 the way that they're supposed to go or that we feel

21 we've made mistakes. This is what we are here for.

22 It's a process.

23 Tomorrow morning when I wake up, I

24 would like it to be a new day. It will never be a new

25 day if we keep bringing the past and the hate with us.

1 Trying to get to the place that we need to get together

2 is the only way we're going to do it.

3 I am so sorry for the way that you view

4 who we are in this city. I am very sorry for it. I am

5 sorry that you cannot let go of hatred and problems

6 that occurred in the past, but I cannot let that stop

7 me, I cannot let that stop who I am and what I'm here

8 for, and I refuse to do it. It's amazing how even when

9 you're talking about it, you still can't even get

10 people to stop.

11 I want us to do well. Mr. McGoff was

12 my pick. I have no problem in admitting that. I felt

13 like he was a fair guy. When he interviewed, he seemed

14 to be like he just wanted to see some good things

15 happen in this city.

16 I said from day one no politicians.

17 This isn't a big -- it wasn't a mistake, it wasn't that

18 I didn't know. I said no. I didn't want politics

19 placed in this, because all it was doing was stacking

20 up for odds that were not going to make anyone get what

21 they needed in this city, which is progress, whether

22 you like it or not.

23 I feel he's fair. I feel sad for him

24 watching tonight and seeing what he has before him and

25 the job that he is going to come into, but I hope to

.

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1 God when he gets here, he will realize that we are

2 still people who are willing to work for the betterment

3 of why we took the job, so that Scranton does better.

4 So, on that note, I also would like a

5 note sent, back to my normal job, I would like a note

6 sent to Sara Hailstone regarding Bethel AME and Shiloh

7 Baptist Church and what they have done when they sent

8 in for their grants and how the grants were changed,

9 and if there's any updates that we need to do to help

10 them get what they need for us so that we can maybe

11 help with these shelters, because that's what we're

12 supposed to do. And that is all I have. Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

14 Courtright.

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, before you

16 start. I'm sorry. I just have one question: Mrs.

17 Fanucci, who sits to my right?

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Attorney Minora.

19 MS. EVANS: And what IS his job?

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: He's a lawyer.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, in relation to us.

22 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: He's our

23 solicitor.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: He's our

25 solicitor, so why then would you have Attorney Greco

.

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1 ready to come in when we have our own solicitor?

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: What I just said

3 to you was --

4 MS. GATELLI: Please.

5 MS. EVANS: No, no. You said initially

6 the reason that Attorney Greco was ready because you

7 called -- you and him --

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I was being

9 sarcastic.

10 MS. EVANS: Oh, that's a joke?

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I said I didn't

12 know that I was going to make a mistake and have him

13 ready. I would, you know -- it was being sarcastic.

14 MS. EVANS: Oh, it's a joke, so you

15 didn't call him?

16 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Absolutely not, I

17 didn't call him.

18 MS. EVANS: Okay. So, he just happened

19 to be very nearby.

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: He certainly did.

21 MS. EVANS: That's quite the

22 coincidence.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: It certainly was.

24 MS. EVANS: But thank you. I thank you

25 for that, because I didn't realize you were being

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1 facetious.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I know. Now you

3 do, though.

4 MS. GATELLI: You know, even up here, I

5 have to tell you, everyone has their time for motions,

6 and please don't interrupt someone else to try to

7 belittle them. I've had it with that, too.

8 Everyone has their time. When you're

9 done, you're done, and let the next person go on. We

10 can belittle up here all night. We're setting the

11 example, and that's why they act like that out there.

12 Now, let's all try to be kind to each

13 other. You have your own opinion, you get your time to

14 talk, and don't belittle the other person. We all got
15 elected. Believe it or not, we got elected. We didn't
16 just sit up here.
17 So, please, let's try to cut that out.
18 It just takes -- it sucks the blood out of you. And
19 I've had it. I've had it done to me, and to my
20 children, and it has to stop. That evilness has to
21 stop. Maybe if we all work together, there wouldn't be
22 that stuff and sit at a table here at work together,
23 instead of trying to cut each other up like animals.
24 No wonder there's a war in Iraq. We
25 can't get along up here. So, please, I'm begging you,

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1 please, try to be kind to each other. We all have our
2 own opinions, we all have our politics. No one is out
3 of politics here, or you wouldn't be here. You all
4 have your little people that you play to, and so do we.
5 So, please, please I'm begging you to let's try to get
6 along. Go ahead, Bill.
7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. I had maybe,
8 something similar to what happened up here earlier, I
9 feel that I've been misquoted many times in The Times
10 paper, so I don't speak to them as often as they

11 probably want me to, and I felt that I was misquoted
12 again the other day, and The Times reporter and I had a
13 discussion, a little bit heated discussion right here
14 earlier. He said he will not ask me for any more
15 quotes, and I said I will not give him any more, so you
16 probably won't be seeing any statements in the paper
17 about me in the future, and that's fine by me.

18 What I -- I don't want to get into it
19 too much because it's the website, but one of the thing
20 I said was, I used to go on and look at things on the
21 website, and after the mayoral election, I quit, I quit
22 going on there, I don't read it.

23 But one of the things I said I would
24 like to say, and I believe it was in the paper, I don't
25 think anybody's family should be attacked. I'm against

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1 that. I mean, I understand we're fair game. I don't
2 like being attacked, but, you know, we chose to be here
3 and we're all going to have our turn, I'm sure. And
4 that's all I'm going to say on that.

5 One thing I would like to expand on
6 what Mrs. Evans said, and when I'm done, if I'm
7 incorrect, Mrs. Evans, I ask you to jump in, and if

8 what I said isn't true, you can ask Mr. Pocius or you
9 can ask Mr. DiBileo or you can ask Mr. McTiernan, they
10 were all there.
11 I explained to Mrs. Fanucci briefly one
12 time about what happened with the budget last year, but
13 I will explain it for everybody so everybody knows why
14 there's a hole in the budget.
15 The mayor wanted \$12 million. I said
16 no, Mr. DiBileo said no, Mrs. Evans said no, I believe
17 Mr. Pocius and Mr. McTiernan were for it.
18 It got to the point where we had to
19 break from this meeting and have a recess, and we went
20 into the back room, and Mrs. Evans stood strong and she
21 just wasn't going for any money, so I don't believe you
22 came in the back room. And I said, Do you want me to
23 call Lenny Kresefski?
24 We went into the back room. And, you
25 know, I'm going to tell it so everybody knows, and
.

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1 believe me, if this is not true, I would ask you to ask
2 Mr. Pocius and Mr. McTiernan or Mr. DiBileo .
3 And we called Mr. Kresefski on the
4 phone, and he went back and forth on how much money we

5 needed and we couldn't operate without it, we were
6 going to default on this, we're going to default on
7 that, and we got to the point again, and Mrs. Evans was
8 out in the hallway, I believe, at this time, it was
9 just the four of us back there and we were on the phone
10 with Mr. Kresefski on the speaker phone in what was
11 Jay's office at the time, and maybe Kay wishes it was
12 still Jay's office, and he gave us a dollar amount that
13 we needed.

14 And Mr. DiBileo, I believe, was not
15 willing to go for any more than -- I believe it was \$4
16 million. If I'm incorrect, it might have been \$4.5.
17 Mr. Pocius was, I'm not saying pleading to me, but was
18 asking me, Come on, Bill, come on. I said, No, I
19 can't. Mr. Kresefski hung up the phone. We debated
20 more.

21 Mr. Pocius, for lack of a better word,
22 lobbied me, and I knew that I had something hanging
23 over my head. It was three clerical people were going
24 to lose their jobs if we didn't give something, and
25 that's the God's honest truth. Three people were going

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1 to lose their jobs and we were going to default on this

2 -- and there was that big threat about payless paydays.

3 And so, I made, and I'm not going to

4 say what they were, because I'm not 100 percent sure, I

5 made some kind of concessions with Mr. McTiernan and

6 Mr. Pocius, and Mr. DiBileo was in there, and we called

7 Mr. Kresefski on the phone again, and he said -- Mr.

8 DiBileo, I believe, asked him, What's the bare amount

9 of money you need, the bare amount? And he said about

10 five and a half to \$5 million.

11 And ask Mr. Kresefski this, I'm sure he

12 remembers getting called during a Council meeting. And

13 Mr. DiBileo would not budget, I believe, about four and

14 a half or five. Mr. Pocius, again, came to me.

15 And I thought, You know, we're giving

16 this man all this money, what was another \$500,000?

17 But I made a deal with Mr. Pocius, and I asked him to

18 shake my hand and I asked Mr. McTiernan to shake my

19 hand and guarantee me that if the cuts -- what we had

20 done is we cut all the raises out and we cut out any

21 new jobs.

22 And I said, If, in fact, he vetoes

23 it, you guys need to give me your word that you won't

24 -- you know, vote with the mayor. And they shook my

25 hand, and I took their word for it, and they stood by

1 it. And so, I gave into the five and a half million

2 dollars, and that's how we arrived at what we arrived

3 at.

4 If I hadn't given in, it would have

5 been \$12 million now. So, that's the truth. If

6 anybody doesn't believe me, please, I bet you to go and

7 ask them. That's how that all went. And I hope that I

8 don't have to sit up here and hear one more time how

9 there's a hole in last year's budget, when that's

10 exactly what happened.

11 All right. Onto the next thing. I got

12 a letter here, and I thought the post office wouldn't

13 send me letters without return addresses anymore, but

14 it was something -- evidently I must have said

15 something about ambulance service and possibly looking

16 into starting one.

17 And what I said was that over a year

18 ago we sat at this table, the fire chief, the director

19 of public safety, union officials from the fire

20 department, I believe some people -- EMS professionals

21 and myself, and we talked about a QRS, which would have

22 been the fire department, I'm sorry, the fire

23 department volunteering their time, not asking for any
24 more pay, and one of the things that we stipulated was
25 that they wouldn't use the number of calls they go on
.

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1 to up their statistics to ask for more people.

2 Everybody was in agreement, and it was going to be an
3 experimental thing, that they would go out on some
4 calls, not all calls, some calls, Especially being we
5 were having trouble at the times with ambulances
6 getting to places in a timely manner.

7 You know, I had suggested what they
8 call posting or if there were no ambulances in the
9 city, the services would at least post them say on the
10 border of Dunmore or Taylor or the Abington.

11 But anyway, everybody agreed, including
12 Mr. Hayes. And I remember asking Mr. Hayes at the
13 meeting, Do you think that the mayor would go along
14 with this? And he said, He usually goes -- you know,
15 he pays me all this money, he usually goes along with
16 what I say.

17 And unfortunately he came back and said
18 that the mayor said no until we get contracts settled
19 with them. So, that fell to the wayside.

20 And what I brought up was that I would
21 like to see that happen again. And I don't know -- I
22 don't know if an ambulance service would make money for
23 this city, would be good, would be bad. I said if we
24 did the QRS, we can see if that was a help and if that
25 benefitted the people.

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1 But this person didn't put any return
2 address, no name, no number. So, please, call me or
3 come and see me or give me a place where I can come and
4 see you and we can discuss it. I was just hoping to
5 see if there was something that we can do to help the
6 citizens out.

7 One other thing is, Kay, I yelled at
8 the mayor here, so he probably isn't going to answer
9 me. He was asking Mr. Minora, and I told him Mr.
10 Minora works for us and not him, so he's probably mad
11 at me. I don't know if he ever liked me to begin with,
12 but he's probably really mad at me now. I think he'll
13 get over it.

14 If we can ask him, he was with myself,
15 Congress Kanjorski, Mr. Williams, who is Congressman
16 Kanjorski's project manager, and I fail to recall

17 Congressman Kanjorski's aide, but we were on Main
18 Avenue in West Scranton several weeks ago, and we
19 talked about a project, sidewalks, curbs, lights
20 possibly, underground utilities from Jackson Street to
21 Luzerne Street, and all of us there, including the
22 mayor and Congressman Kanjorski were interested in
23 doing that.

24 I know the people on Main Avenue in
25 West Scranton feel that they've been a little bit

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1 slighted over the years and would like to see that
2 project get done.

3 And the mayor was supposed to get
4 estimates, and he had some group that he wanted to use,
5 and I said, I don't care who you use, as long as we get
6 the estimates.

7 So, he was supposed to get estimates to
8 see what that would cost, and Congressman Kanjorski had
9 committed himself to helping us with this project, so
10 if we can ask him if he went out and got those
11 estimates. And if he wants me to come down and see
12 him, I will go and see him. If he wants to send it to
13 me in the mail or call me on the phone, whatever way he

14 want to do it.

15 Him and I don't agree on most things,

16 but if I want this project done, and I've got to talk

17 to him to get the project done. Unfortunately every

18 time I've gone -- I think I've gone into his office

19 four times since the previous election, and the minute

20 I come out, my phone starts ringing, they want to know

21 what I'm doing in there. So, possibly if you see me

22 going in there, that's what I'm doing in there.

23 And one last thing, nothing against

24 you, Mr. McGoff, I don't know you, other than when I

25 saw you that day, you weren't my choice, that's

.

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1 obvious, everybody knows who -- my choice was either

2 Chris Phillips or Mr. DiBileo, I didn't get that.

3 You got the appointment. I wish you

4 the best. I hope that what some of the speakers said

5 that came to the podium that you're going to be, you

6 know a rubber stamp for the mayor, I hope that's not

7 true. And I guess time will tell.

8 I will say this, we've got our work cut

9 out for us. It's a difficult job for us, and we've

10 been here for a while, so it's certainly going to be a

11 difficult job for you. I hope you have a lot of time,
12 and I wish you the best. I hope you do what's best for
13 the people. And that's all I have.

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

15 MS. GARVEY: 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
16 ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 1361
17 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO DONNA G.
18 MEYERS 1045 COLUMBIA STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
19 18510, FOR THE SUM OF \$3,300.00.

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

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

25 those in favor.

.

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1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

5 have it and so moved, unanimous.

6 MS. GARVEY: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
7 ORDINANCE - TRANSFERRING BOTH PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY

8 EASEMENTS FOR A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG THE
9 RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE WHERE THE
10 STAFFORD MEADOW BROOK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
11 INTERSECTS THENCE TO A POINT IN THE EDGE OF THE WATER
12 LINE OF THE LACKAWANNA RIVER TO THE SCRANTON SEWER
13 AUTHORITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED SEWER
14 OUTFLOW TO GAUGE OUT FALLS ON THE LINE AND AS A
15 PREVENTATIVE DEVICE IN STORM EVENTS.

16 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll
17 entertain a motion that 5-C be introduced.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All
21 those in favor.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

.

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1 have it and so moved, unanimous.

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

3 ORDINANCE - TRANSFERRING BOTH PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY

4 EASEMENTS FOR A PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG THE

5 RIGHT-OF-WAY OF WEST ELM STREET WHERE IT INTERSECTS THE
6 LACKAWANNA RIVER TO THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY FOR
7 THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED SEWER OUTFLOW TO GAUGE
8 OUT FALLS ON THE LINE AND AS A PREVENTATIVE DEVICE IN
9 STORM EVENTS.

10 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll
11 entertain a motion that 5-D be introduced.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

13 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

14 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All
15 those in favor.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
20 have it and so moved, unanimous.

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION - A
22 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
23 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
24 GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
25 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR), BUREAU OF

.

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1 RECREATION AND CONSERVATION IN ORDER TO ACCEPT THE

2 GRANT OF \$10,000.00 FROM THE HERITAGE AND OTHER PARKS

3 APPROPRIATION FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO CROWLEY PARK.

4 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

5 entertain a motion that the 5-E be introduced.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

7 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

8 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

9 those in favor.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

14 have it and so moved, unanimous.

15 MS. GARVEY: 5-F, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

16 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF DIANE MURRAY, 911 CLAY

17 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER OF

18 THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD, EFFECTIVE

19 OCTOBER 11, 2006. MRS. MURRAY WILL BE REPLACING NELIDA

20 AMADOR WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2006. MRS.

21 MURRAY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11, 2011.

22 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

23 entertain a motion that 5-F be introduced.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

2 those in favor.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

7 have it and so moved, unanimous.

8 MS. GARVEY: 5-G, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

9 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

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

12 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT REPAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM,

13 PROJECT NO. 400.26 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED

14 \$85,000.00 TO MICHAEL'S LUXURY EYEWEAR TO ASSIST AN

15 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

16 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

17 entertain a motion that 5-G be introduced.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, Mrs.

22 Gatelli. I asked Kay if she could call down to OECD

23 today to find out and make sure this wasn't a KOZ --

24 MS. GATELLI: It's not.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: -- and they told me

122

1 that it was not, because I know that's a concern for a

2 lot of people when we're lending money if it goes to a

3 KOZ, so this is not a KOZ.

4 MS. GATELLI: This is not a KOZ.

5 MS. EVANS: And there are no taxes

6 liens?

7 MS. GATELLI: No. Any other questions?

8 All those in a 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, unanimous.

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

15 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE

16 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD (HARB) AND

17 APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR LAMAR

18 ADVERTISING, 700 JAMES AVENUE, SCRANTON FOR THE

19 INSTALLATION OF A WALL MOUNTED SIGN AT 428 LACKAWANNA

20 AVENUE.

21 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

22 entertain a motion that the item 5-H be introduced.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

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123

1 those in favor.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

6 have it and so moved, unanimous.

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

8 BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 54, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE

9 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 210, 2003 ENTITLED

10 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.

11 02.229544 FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS TO ACCEPT DONATIONS

12 FROM PRIVATE CITIZENS AND/OR ENTITIES IN MEMORY OF

13 FALLEN/DECEASED FIREFIGHTERS TO BE USED FOR THE

14 PURCHASE OF ITEMS NOT NORMALLY APPROPRIATED FOR IN THE

15 OPERATING BUDGET TO EXPAND THE SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR SAID

16 ACCOUNT TO INCLUDE ANY OTHER DONATIONS TO THE SCRANTON

17 FIRE DEPARTMENT MADE BY PRIVATE CITIZENS AND/OR
18 ENTITIES, TO PURCHASE ITEMS FOR USE IN THIS DEPARTMENT.

19 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by
20 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-A
22 pass reading by title.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All
25 those in favor.

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1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

5 have it and so moved, unanimous.

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

7 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 55, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING

8 AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229583

9 ENTITLED POLICE DEPARTMENTAL SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

10 DIVISION (SID) ASSET FORFEITURES ACCOUNT FOR RECEIPT

11 AND DISBURSEMENT OF EQUITABLE SHARING OF ASSET

12 FORFEITURES FROM VARIOUS AGENCIES WORKING IN

13 CONJUNCTION WITH THE SID TO BE USED FOR DRUG

14 INVESTIGATION PURPOSES ONLY.

15 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by

16 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

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

18 pass reading by title.

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

21 those in favor.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

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1 have it and so moved, unanimous.

2 MS. GARVEY: 6-C, READING BY TITLE -

3 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING

4 AND ESTABLISHING AN INTEREST BEARING SPECIAL CITY

5 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229499 ENTITLED EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL

6 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM.

7 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by

8 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-C

10 pass reading by title.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, Mrs.

14 Gatelli. Mrs. Evans asked last week about the name,

15 it's basically just a name changed. They named it in

16 honor of this gentleman that, I believe, had something

17 to do with the program; is that correct, Neil?

18 MS. GARVEY: Yes.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: So, that's basically

20 just a name change.

21 MS. EVANS: Right, I knew it is a name

22 change, I just wondered --

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: He had some

24 involvement. Do you know exactly? Neil told me, and

25 I'm not sure with all the stuff that happened here this

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1 evening, I forget.

2 MS. EVANS: Okay.

3 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

4 question? All those in 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, unanimous.

10 MS. GARVEY: 6-D, READING BY TITLE -

11 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 57, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE -

12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY

13 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE FUNDS FOR THE EDWARD

14 J. BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) FORMERLY KNOWN

15 AS THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT (LLEBG).

16 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by

17 title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-D

19 pass reading by title.

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

21 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

22 those in favor.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

2 have it and so moved, unanimous.

3 MS. GARVEY: 6-E, READING BY TITLE -

4 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 58, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING

5 AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229582
6 ENTITLED SECURE OUR SCHOOLS FOR THE RECEIPT AND
7 DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDING UNDER THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
8 JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
9 (COPS) SECURE OUR SCHOOLS (SOS) 2006 GRANT PROGRAM TO
10 ASSIST WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCES
11 AND PROVIDE IMPROVED SECURITY AT SCHOOLS AND ON SCHOOL
12 GROUNDS.

13 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by
14 title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-E
16 pass reading by title.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

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

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

23 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
24 have it and so moved, unanimous.

25 MS. GARVEY: 6-F, READING BY TITLE -

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1 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 59, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE -

2 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
3 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE FUNDS FOR THE U.S.
4 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED
5 POLICING SERVICES (COPS) SECURE OUR SCHOOLS (SOS) 2006
6 GRANT PROGRAM.

7 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading by
8 title of Item 6-F, what is your pleasure?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-F
10 pass reading by title.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All
13 those in favor.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
18 have it and so moved, unanimous.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT; Mrs. Garvey, before you
20 read item 6-A, Mrs. Gatelli, I'd like to make a motion.

21 I make a motion that we table Item 7-A.

22 MS. EVANS: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, what
25 had happened is some of us didn't have an opportunity

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1 to make changes to the CDBG fund, and we're a little
2 bit under a time constraint, but hopefully we're going
3 to get together this week and do that, because there's
4 some changes we want to make, so that's the reason for
5 tabling it.

6 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the
7 question? Roll call. Well, we don't need a roll call,
8 because it's just a motion. All 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, unanimous.

14 MS. GARVEY: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION BY
15 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL
16 NO. 53, 2006 - ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
17 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING
18 RESIDENTIAL RESTRICTIONS FOR REGISTERED ADULT SEXUAL
19 VIOLENT OFFENDERS WITHIN THE CITY, PROVIDING FOR
20 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SUCH RESIDENTIAL
21 RESTRICTIONS AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

22 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

23 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item

24 7-A.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

2 call.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

6 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

10 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

11 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

12 MS. GARVEY: Before I read 7-C, Mrs.

13 Gatelli, there was a typographical error in tonight's

14 agenda in the seventh order that I would like to

15 correct at this time.

16 Within the heading of Item 7-C and D,

17 it is written that these two pieces of legislation are

18 file of Council Nos. 107 and 108. It should have read

19 resolution 107 and 108. This was our mistake, so I

20 would like to make that correction for the record at
21 this time and ask if there's any objections to doing
22 this.

23 MS. GATELLI: Are there any objections?

24 No. Unanimously no.

25 MS. GARVEY: Okay. So, I will read it

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1 as it is correct in the record.

2 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

3 ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 107, 2006 -

4 RE-APPOINTMENT OF JERRY RICHARDSON, 829 CAPOUSE AVENUE,

5 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY

6 PLANNING COMMISSION. MR. RICHARDSON'S TERM EXPIRED ON

7 DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON

8 DECEMBER 31, 2010.

9 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

10 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item

11 7-C.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

14 call.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

23 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

24 MS. GARVEY: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

25 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

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1 108, 2006, RE-APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS PREAMBO, 510 DEAN

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

3 THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION. MR. PREAMBO'S TERM

4 EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL

5 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

6 MS. GATELLI: As chairperson for the

7 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item

8 7-D.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

10 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

11 call.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

15 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

19 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

20 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

21 Before we adjourn, I'd like to have

22 someone make a motion that I believe we forgot to do

23 this evening, if someone would make the motion to

24 appoint Mrs. Evans as the chair on finance.

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

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1 appoint chair of finance.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

3 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

4 those in 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, unanimous. Congratulations, Mrs.

10 Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, I think.

12 MS. GATELLI: The new person will take

13 her old department, which was the department of public

14 works. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

16 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

17 MS. GATELLI: All in favor.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

22

23 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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

2

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

9

10

LISA M. GRAFF, RMR
11 Official Court Reporter

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