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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

2 & TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS

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5 Held:

6

7 Tuesday, September 18, 2007

8

9 Scranton City Council Chambers

10 340 N. Washington Avenue

11 Scranton, Pennsylvania

12

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16 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

17 JUDY GATELLI

18 JANET EVANS

19 WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

20 SHERRY FANUCCI

21 AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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1 MS. GATELLI: I'd like to call the

2 public hearing to order. Roll call.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans?

4 MS. EVANS: Here.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci?

6 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff?

8 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli?

12 MS. GATELLI: Here. The purpose of

13 the public hearing is to hear testimony and

14 discuss the following:

15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 110, 2007 -

16 ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING ON THE NORTH SIDE

17 OF THE 700 BLOCK OF EAST GIBSON STREET FROM

18 MOIR COURT EAST FOR NINETY SEVEN FEET.

19 Is there anyone that cares to

20 address council on this particular issue? Let

21 the record reflect there are no residents here.

22 (No public comment.)

23 MS. GATELLI: I now declare this

24 public hearing closed. Now we have to wait

25 until 6:15 for the next one in case anyone else

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1 wants to come. So we have about ten minutes.

2 Thank you.

3 (The public meeting concluded at

4 this time.)

5 MS. GATELLI: I would like to call

6 the public hearing to order. Roll call.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans?

8 MS. EVANS: Here.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci?

10 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli?

16 MS. GATELLI: Here. The purpose of

17 this public hearing is hear testimony and
18 discuss the following: FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
19 113, 2007 - DESIGNATING THE 3200 BLOCK OF CEDAR
20 AVENUE AS A ONE WAY STREET ALLOWING TRAFFIC TO
21 FLOW IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION AND PROHIBITING
22 TRAFFIC FROM FLOWING IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION.

23 And the first speaker is Patrick Hefron.

24 MR. HEFRON: Good evening, ladies

25 and gentlemen. My name is Patrick Hefron. I

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4

1 am a resident in the 3200 block of Cedar Avenue
2 in Scranton. My wife and I purchased a home in
3 the 3200 block of Cedar Avenue in August of
4 2005. Shortly thereafter, basically from
5 conversations with neighbors, several of whom
6 expressed various safety issues with regards to
7 two way traffic in this particular block of
8 Cedar Avenue. Specifically, I point to my
9 neighbor, Patrick Paddon, who also a resident
10 of this particular block, various safety
11 concerns included cars proceeding in a
12 southerly direction down Cedar Avenue in a very
13 high rate of speed.

14 If you're familiar with this
15 particular block, it's very narrow and a lot of
16 times what we see happening is cars and traffic
17 attempting bypass the light at the intersection
18 of Birney Avenue and Davis Street, and this
19 provides an easy route down past Birney Avenue
20 through the light because Cedar Avenue is the
21 one block parallel to Birney Avenue. So
22 there's a direct right of access via left turn
23 from Davis Street to get onto Cedar Avenue.

24 Another concern expressed by several
25 residents on this block many of whom have very
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1 young children expressed significant concerns
2 about the cars proceeding down this block.
3 It's very lengthy. Again, if you're familiar
4 with it, it's a very lengthy block. Speed --
5 just simply posting a speed sign will not do
6 it. There's very little to do in terms of
7 enforcement in terms of pulling any car over
8 that might be speeding on this road. And also
9 it has -- several vehicles that have been
10 parked the on this street have been hit again

11 by vehicles proceeding in a southerly direction
12 down Cedar.
13 Myself and Mr. Paddon took it
14 amongst ourselves roughly two years ago to
15 contact city hall to see if there was anything
16 we can do to address this issue. I myself
17 contacted city hall and was advised that the
18 petition procedure would be the proper format
19 in terms of trying to get something to
20 challenge this or to change this into a one way
21 proceeding into a northerly direction. And I
22 am sure if you have a petition in front of you,
23 the signatures they very much speak to
24 themselves.

25 The overwhelming residents on Cedar

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1 Avenue have signed this petition.
2 Specifically, I point to -- I will not name
3 names. There is an active Scranton police
4 officer on the street who signed the petition
5 and agreed with the safety concerns that I have
6 expressed before you here tonight.
7 It has taken us, I assume, roughly

8 two years to get this before council tonight.
9 And it's also my understanding through the
10 rumor mill that the city engineer's office
11 agrees with our position that this should be a
12 one way street as it's very narrow. And
13 considering the safety issues, which I
14 expressed, an overwhelming number of signatures
15 on this petition, I request that Cedar Avenue
16 in the 3200 specifically be changed to a one
17 way in a northerly direction. Thank you.

18 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else that wants
19 to address the issue? I now declare the public
20 hearing closed.

21 (The public meeting concluded at
22 this time).

23 (The pledge of allegiance and a
24 moment of reflection observed).

25 MS. GATELLI: Roll call.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans?

2 MS. EVANS: Here.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci?

4 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff?

6 MR. McGOFF: Here.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli?

10 MS. GATELLI: Here. Dispense with

11 reading of the minutes.

12 MS. GARVEY: THIRD ORDER - 3 A. -

13 APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE

14 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER

15 12, 2007.

16 MS. GATELLI: Are there any

17 comments? If not, received and filed.

18 MS. GARVEY: That's all there is in

19 third order.

20 MS. GATELLI: Before we get to the

21 agenda items, I have a few announcements. We'd

22 like to congratulate our former stenographer,

23 Lisa Graff -- if you all remember her -- she

24 had a baby boy this week. So we'd like to

25 congratulate her on her baby boy.

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1 And I was speaking to the Downtown

2 Scranton Business Alliance, and they asked that
3 I make an announcement that all of the downtown
4 shops, restaurants and boutiques will remain
5 open until 7:00 on Thursdays to better
6 accommodate shoppers' schedules and to create a
7 festive atmosphere in the downtown.
8 The Scranton Business Alliance is
9 vibrant and energetic of more than 200
10 representatives from business and industry
11 throughout the downtown. They represent
12 restaurants, specialty clothes and jewelry
13 boutiques, historic and tourist attractions,
14 hotel services, professionals and corporations.
15 Downtown Scranton is their livelihood, and they
16 are its future. And we wish the Downtown
17 Business Alliance a lot of luck with opening
18 their restaurants and stores until 7 on
19 Thursday.
20 When most of us were children who
21 are sitting up here, Thursdays they were open
22 until nine. So we are glad to see they are
23 going to open again on Thursday evening. Try
24 to patronize some of our downtown stores and
25 restaurants. I'm just happy to see in our box

.

9

1 tonight -- I know I announced last week -- but
2 now the check is really here. We've received
3 our \$900,000 check from the Scranton Housing
4 Authority, and we're very pleased about that.
5 And I did speak to Mr. Baker about
6 the potholes. He said he would have them
7 repaired. So you can let us know if that's
8 accomplished.

9 MS. EVANS: I will be driving by.

10 MS. GATELLI: Does anyone else have
11 an announcement to make?

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. Light the Way, a
13 candle light gathering for friends and families
14 of loved ones who have been lost to suicide
15 will be conducted on Wednesday, September 19th,
16 2007 -- that would be tomorrow -- at 6 p.m. at
17 the gazebo by the Everhart Museum at Nay Aug
18 Park. Everyone is invited. The event is free.
19 And for more information, call Cathy Wallace at
20 the Advocacy Alliance, 207-9199.

21 MS. GATELLI: That's it? Anyone
22 else? The first speaker is Andy Sparaglia.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sparaglia,
24 fellow Scrantonian, also a taxpayer. I want to
25 talk about 7 B., the university. We're about
.

10

1 the save them probably millions and millions of
2 dollars of interest if this loan goes through.

3 I would love to know how many million we are
4 going to save them. But we are going to save
5 them millions of dollars in interest.

6 We are going to lose meters, parking

7 meters. That means we are going to lose

8 parking revenue that's going to be lost. And I

9 don't see how we can compensate that part of

10 it. I mean, we're saving them millions, and

11 they are costing us money. Does that make

12 sense? No, it don't.

13 Then the gall of it is they want to

14 use some of that and fix up our park that they

15 so graciously acquired from the S. R. A., which

16 they were supposed to maintain down in the

17 South Side Complex. How much gall can you

18 have? Not only do they get down there through

19 some shameless deal, which you might call a

20 shameless deal, their -- I don't want to get
21 into it. But it's still part of the same thing
22 because the fact is we're taking this loan out
23 in their name for them to fix up that park so
24 that brings the park back into it again. I
25 don't want to bring it up at this time.

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11

1 But it's ridiculous. We couldn't --
2 and the worst part of it is we don't have that park
3 they promised us. Where is the other ball
4 field they were supposed to replace that one
5 with? All these things are going on, but
6 nobody really cares about the citizens of
7 Scranton.
8 It's obvious by what is happening.
9 You were elected to represent us. You spend
10 more time representing the university than you
11 do us. We're going to take a hit on this
12 project, not financially because you know darn
13 well that we are not responsible for the debt.
14 So we are not going to take it that way. We
15 will lose parking revenue. That is a hit on
16 us. I don't know how many blocks of parking

17 meters.

18 Who will pay to remove them? Who

19 will pay to have them to be reinstalled

20 somewhere if they are going to be reinstalled?

21 Who will make up for lost revenue?

22 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: If I may, I got a

24 little information. We're going to be losing

25 five meters. That's what we are going to be

.

12

1 losing. The Scranton Parking Authority is

2 telling me that when they put those five meters

3 in they were aware of the fact this project was

4 taking place and they were aware of the fact

5 when the project took place that parking meters

6 would be removed. The approximate -- the

7 approximate cost I believe -- Kay, was it \$20

8 per day?

9 MS. GARVEY: It was \$4 per day per

10 meter approximately.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's what they

12 said they are going to lose. Just a bit of

13 information for you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Quinn.

15 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, president

16 of the Scranton and Lackawanna County taxpayers

17 and citizen's taxpayers associated

18 incorporated. I want to speak on the agenda in

19 regards to the city's home rule charter and the

20 capital budget. Last week you introduced

21 capital budget without any figures. You

22 published it in the local paper without any

23 figures without any summary.

24 That's violating two sections of the

25 home rule charter. Thirdly, you are violating

.

13

1 article ten of the charter, fiscal. You failed

2 to send us -- the mayor failed to send this --

3 maybe he did -- to the planning commission for

4 their review in June.

5 Does anybody know if it was sent to

6 the planning commission? You violated the home

7 rule charter. What would happen if congress

8 kept on violating the Constitution, which the

9 home rule charter is for the City of Scranton?

10 It would be chaos. That's what it is in

11 Scranton, chaos. What we are doing is putting
12 up with this, hoodwinking this mayor with the
13 \$21 million. That's why he's not coming across
14 with this figure. We can't afford it. What
15 can we do to go to a public hearing if we
16 cannot address and prioritize what's going on
17 until after all these are introduced?

18 Shame on you people with the
19 exception of two. Also I want to ask a
20 question in regards to the ordinance for the
21 flood control parcel. Did you find anything
22 about that? Yes?

23 MS. FANUCCI: Uh-huh.

24 MR. QUINN: Tell me after I speak.

25 Thank you. Also I would like to know on the
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14

1 agenda, the property at Cedar Avenue and Locust
2 Street they sold for \$28,000 to a Mr.
3 Brozzetti. What is going on in that property?
4 \$28,000 is probably the highest I ever seen for
5 a vacant property coming. Do you know what's
6 going on with that? Don't know what's going on
7 it, and you're going approve it tonight?

8 MS. GATELLI: No, I am going table

9 it tonight, Mr. Quinn.

10 MR. QUINN: Okay. Can you tell me

11 what happened on that?

12 MS. FANUCCI: I will do it in my

13 motions.

14 MS. GATELLI: Bill Jacowicz.

15 MS. GARVEY: Can I respond to

16 something Ozzie said?

17 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

18 MS. GARVEY: As far as the paper, it

19 was advertised on Monday, I believe, of this

20 week. It was in the paper in the legal

21 section. So a summary was advertised in there.

22 MR. QUINN: No, I looked at it.

23 There is no summary. It's just explaining a

24 public hearing, and you can go look at your

25 office. A summary means that you put the

.

15

1 projects down --

2 MS. GARVEY: The entire thing is in

3 there. I took up about four columns. I don't

4 think they put it in the same section as the

5 legals were. It was beyond that maybe two
6 pages.

7 MR. QUINN: Did they put it in the
8 comics?

9 MS. GARVEY: I can't control where
10 the Times puts it. I only get it to them to
11 put in the paper. And I think it is also on
12 the agenda of the planning commission as well.

13 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Jacowicz.

14 MR. JACOWICZ: Bill Jacowicz, south
15 Scranton resident. I want to speak on 5 C. and
16 5 D. It appears we are moving some money,
17 \$239,000 and also \$10,000 from two different
18 accounts. One of the accounts for clearing the
19 banks and streams. Does that have anything to
20 do with lower Green Ridge, and also who is
21 getting this money? What business will be
22 getting this money? Hopefully I can get an
23 answer for that when I'm done.
24 Also on 5 D. again we have \$250,000
25 going Rejuven Essence Management Services. Can

16

1 you please tell me who they are and what they

2 do and how this will benefit the citizens of
3 Scranton? Also on 7 A. on the 500 block of
4 Lackawanna Avenue, can you please tell me
5 exactly what they are doing down there? Is
6 this a sidewalk project and if so do you know
7 what type of sidewalks are they going to put in
8 and does it make any sense to eliminate two
9 bookends, Bouna Pizza and Coney Island if
10 that's what this project is because I thought
11 this project was to beautify the downtown and
12 make the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue look
13 better and more attractive to visitors and to
14 citizens.

15 If we just eliminate two businesses
16 -- they've been in business for over 100 years
17 combined. You talk with visitors who come to
18 Scranton, family members, relatives and they
19 know who coney island is and they know who
20 Bouna Pizza is. I think council needs to exert
21 whatever you can exert, and let's do this
22 right. Seriously. We talk how much we want to
23 beautify the downtown and make it look better,
24 we want to tract people and attract businesses.
25 Yet we are going to eliminate two businesses

17

1 who have over 100 years in this city. Think

2 about it.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Ron

4 Ellman.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, council. I am

6 Ronnie Ellman, homeowner and a member of the

7 taxpayers' association. I didn't show up last

8 week because I just get so tired beating my

9 head on the wall, you know, just the same thing

10 every week, same people talking. It just seems

11 like a waste of time. And all these people out

12 here, they just want what's best for the city.

13 They are not after things for themselves, but

14 you know, all five of you just -- you let --

15 you let --

16 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me for one

17 minute, but this is on agenda items only.

18 MR. ELLMAN: I'm sorry. I thought

19 -- I was outside. I thought they called me for

20 -- can I asking you something quick? It's not

21 on the agenda. I tried to talk to you about

22 getting this -- the Smith house torn down. You

23 talked about taking them down in south side.

24 Can you put it on a list or something?

25 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I will find out

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18

1 for you.

2 MR. ELLMAN: I signed the wrong

3 sheet.

4 MS. GATELLI: Do you want me to put

5 your name on the other sheet?

6 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, that's fine.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: David Dobson.

9 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, council,

10 Dave Dobson, taxpayers' association associate.

11 On 7 A. I'd also like to comment on that. That

12 was my main purpose for signing up at this

13 time. I would like the citizens of the city --

14 that completely wrapped around to the court and

15 be totally rejuvenated. I see no sense in a

16 patch work situation where certain places are

17 ignored and other ones are -- if these

18 businesses are supposed to kick in their fair

19 share maybe they should be granted an

20 opportunity to separate that part of the
21 project from the main project and put their
22 fair share into the sidewalks because that's
23 going to look terrible and it will be a
24 monument to the lack of cooperation in the city
25 for the next 30 years. That's all I have to

19

1 say on the matter. Thank you.

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Pat

3 Calpin.

4 MR. CALPIN: Good evening. My name

5 is Pat Calpin. I'm from Minooka. I'm here to

6 oppose 6 F. the making of 3200 block of Cedar

7 Avenue into one way. I did sign that petition

8 about two years ago, but since then I've

9 learned that that would not be the answer to

10 our problem back there. And I don't know if

11 these two gentlemen that came with the petition

12 had any other agenda as to what they would like

13 to see down there. But I'm very badly opposed

14 -- very importantly opposed to turning it into

15 a one way.

16 I lived there for 55 years. And you

17 just go around the block. But you would have
18 to go around five blocks if you make it one
19 way. It is not going to help the problem. We
20 had a problem there with drug runners coming
21 from the Birney Plaza, and they would head
22 straight towards the city on Cedar Avenue and
23 it would zoom, zoom one after the other car,
24 ten cars at least in one section, one clump at
25 a time. I don't think that's the answer.

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20

1 And I would like to be on the books
2 as getting my name off that petition and
3 opposed to this. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

5 Piccolino.

6 MR. PICCOLINO: Giovanni Piccolino,
7 partner of Bouna Pizza. I just want to comment
8 on 5 C. and D. You guys give money left and
9 right to businesses in Scranton that aren't
10 guaranteed to make it, but then on 7 A., you
11 know, again you guys are living two businesses
12 that have been in the city forever that pay
13 their taxes that do stuff for the community

14 that really don't ask for anything but to be
15 included in a project -- and again I'm sure you
16 guys will pass it on through tonight and
17 exclude us as usual. But you guys give money
18 left and right to these businesses that aren't
19 guaranteed to make it, K. O. Z.s, loans, this
20 and that.

21 You have two businesses that have
22 been landmarks in the city forever. And for
23 some reason you guys continually ignore us.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Dan Hubbard.

21

1 MR. HUBBARD: Good evening, Daniel
2 Hubbard, lower Green Ridge. I have a few
3 questions basically directed towards 5 C. Does
4 council feel that the maintenance of flood
5 control systems in the city is important? Does
6 council feel business development in the city
7 is important? Okay. What's more important,
8 protection of property or business loans? What
9 is council's priority? You know, you look at
10 the banks of Leggets Creek at Hallow Avenue and

11 Main Avenue are collapsing. There's a house on
12 Main Avenue right there against Leggets Creek
13 where the entire side of the bank has collapsed
14 and their foundation is being exposed to the
15 bank -- to the creek.

16 You look at the river banks of lower
17 Green Ridge that have yet to be repaired, yet
18 to be updated, have no corrections done to them
19 since the last two floods, and you're going to
20 pull \$239,000 from a project designated for the
21 clearing of river banks and streams and you're
22 going to give it to a hair salon that has a
23 state tax lien on it right now that we have no
24 guarantee that we will see that. It seems
25 council's priorities are fairly mixed up.

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22

1 Yes, we like to see business
2 development in the city, of course. But don't
3 you think that the protection of the residents
4 of this city should be the priority of council?
5 To pull that exorbitant the amount money from a
6 project that is basically there to maintain the
7 river banks and streams within the boundaries

8 of city, you got to know Scranton does have its
9 flooding issues and you're going to take money
10 from a project that can help Keyser Valley,
11 east mountain, lower Green Ridge, residents
12 along Leggets Creek and you're going to give it
13 to another hair salon. It's right here. It's
14 \$239,000 being pulled from rivers -- river
15 banks and streams to be consolidated with
16 \$10,000 from a computerized mapping program so
17 that Rejuven Essence can have a \$250,000 loan
18 from the city. What is council's priority? Is
19 it another hair salon or protection of
20 property?

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Is there
22 anyone else that wants to speak on the agenda?

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
24 council, Les Spindler, Scranton resident. This
25 will sound repetitive. As everyone knows, this

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23

1 council voted five zero not to locate any
2 legislation that excludes Bouna Pizza from the
3 500 block of the Lackawanna Avenue project.
4 Now, last week was passed through -- I forget

5 three to one vote, whatever. This legislation
6 should not be passed if you people will stick
7 to your words. I just want to say, let's see
8 if you have the back bone tonight to stick to
9 your words and not pass this legislation.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

12 MR. PATILLA: Good evening, Ms.

13 Evans. You need to excuse me. I'm a working
14 man. Excuse the dirt. I have -- I need a
15 little information from you. I need
16 information regarding the home program and the
17 E. S. G. program, and I need that information
18 because on the agenda here I see that a lot of
19 money is being taken that can help poor people
20 to, as Mr. Hubbard stated, fund another hair
21 salon. I might need one, not \$250,000 worth.

22 It doesn't make any sense.

23 This agenda -- the items on this

24 agenda shows that this administration is not

25 for the citizens, it's not for the taxpayers.

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24

1 We went through this with Alexander's. We went

2 through with the coffee shop. You give our
3 money to places that don't benefit the average
4 taxpayer. You give our money to places that
5 don't benefit the City of Scranton. You know,
6 it's one little small circle, one little small
7 click that's surviving on our backs. We're
8 tired if it. If you want to give them
9 \$250,000, give them some of your money. We
10 want our money to go to educate ours kid. We
11 want the emergency shelter money there for
12 people whose houses catch on fire who need that
13 money. We want the home program. We want that
14 money there for people who want to buy their
15 first home.
16 We don't want our money being given
17 to cronyism or businesses that serve no purpose
18 other than to line the pockets of a certain
19 few, you know. I'm tired of it. I'm fed up
20 with this because this does make any sense.
21 It's not right. Every week we come here. You
22 ignore the citizens' pleas. You ignore the
23 facts and figures. You can't run from them.
24 Those are the truth. The city is almost a half
25 billion dollars in debt now. This man is

25

1 continually borrowing or asking to borrow and
2 using our money in a way that is not beneficial
3 to the citizens of this city. Can I get --

4 MS. EVANS: I couldn't hear you.

5 MR. PATILLA: -- information
6 regarding the home and E. S. G. program because
7 they are taking money from poor people. I need
8 to know what those programs are.

9 MS. EVANS: I will do my best to get
10 that for you, and actually there's quite an
11 amount of money being allocated through
12 community development block grants to these
13 programs that we will be voting on tonight, so
14 I think you might be very interested to see
15 what those allocations are.

16 MR. PATILLA: Thank you.

17 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

18 MR. DAVIS: Salaam aleikam. My name
19 is Jim Davis. I'm back again with the 6 J. --
20 I have a question -- not 6 J., I'm sorry. This
21 was the one about Monroe Avenue. I can't find
22 it here. There are three initials afterwards

23 it was L. L. C. I was wondering if someone on

24 the panel could --

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: You lost me. Which

26

1 one are you on?

2 MR. DAVIS: I thought it was 5.

3 MS. FANUCCI: I think it's K.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: 6 K.

5 MR. DAVIS: Linden Street and --

6 MS. GATELLI: Taylor Avenue.

7 Those are corporate initials I

8 believe, L. L. C.?

9 MR. DAVIS: Right, K., 6 K. excuse

10 me.

11 MR. MINORA: That means limited

12 liability corporation, L. L. C.

13 MR. DAVIS: You have a legal opinion

14 of that, sir? L. L. C -- L. L. C. what does

15 that mean?

16 MR. MINORA: Limited liability

17 corporation. They are authorized by the

18 Pennsylvania Corporation Code.

19 MR. DAVIS: By the corporation?

20 That's a name of a person, James Howells? Does

21 that mean he's not responsible?

22 MR. MINORA: It is a corporation.

23 L. L. C. is a corporation.

24 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

25 MS. EVANS: We have several pressing

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27

1 issues on the council's agenda, first community

2 block grant allocations. Although I agreed

3 with most awards, I would like to see a few

4 alterations, some of which are an increase to

5 the police department for neighborhood police

6 patrols from 200,000 to at least 300,000. I

7 would also like the West Scranton Little League

8 to receive at least \$80,000 to complete perhaps

9 one half of their project description, and

10 North Scranton Little League to receive the

11 requested \$25,000. In addition, I believe

12 Meals on Wheels should receive \$55,000 for home

13 delivery meal production.

14 Also the Women's Resource Center

15 should be increased by at least \$100,000 in

16 light of the fact their federal funding has

17 been significantly cut under the current
18 administration. I am pleased that the
19 Community Intervention Center received an
20 increase over prior years and that Gordon
21 Avenue and Olive Street will receive \$25,000
22 for a flood protection project.
23 However, I believe there are items
24 whose funding should be cut. For example,
25 O.E.C.D contingency of \$100,000 when O. E. C.
28

1 D. is already allocated \$900,000. And I had
2 assessed additional areas for cuts, which I'm
3 not going to enumerate tonight.
4 Mrs. Gatelli has indicated each of
5 us on council should submit to her our requests
6 for allocations as well as those for omissions
7 or deductions. Secondly, the capital budget
8 remains in violation of the home rule charter
9 according to Section 904 numbers two through
10 five. If I might just quote from that, this
11 regards a five-year capital improvement budget
12 plan.
13 No. 2, list of all capital

14 improvements which are proposed to be
15 undertaken during the five fiscal years ensuing
16 with appropriate supporting information as to
17 the necessity for such improvements. Three,
18 cost estimated method of financing and
19 recommended time schedule for such
20 improvements.

21 Four, estimated annual cost of
22 operating and maintaining the facilities to be
23 constructed or acquired, and, fifth, inventory
24 replacement schedule for purchase and
25 replacement of major equipment. Now, nowhere
.
29

1 does the charter refer to the capital
2 improvement budget as a wish list. If the
3 mayor, however, presents this document as a
4 wish list, he better give it to Santa Claus and
5 hope he's been a very good boy. Until he can
6 adhere to the charter and demonstrate he can
7 balance budgets over consecutive years without
8 borrowing and tax increases, he should be keep
9 this capital budget and refrain from pursuing
10 non-specific projects.

11 Third, I wish to present an update
12 on the independent audit. Only two items have
13 been received by the auditors since my last
14 report, those being taxes receivable and access
15 insurance coverage in the workers' comp fund.
16 Six items still have not been forwarded by this
17 administration. Fourth, designating the 3200
18 block of Cedar Avenue as a one-way street,
19 since last week's meeting, I have received
20 several phone calls from residents of Oak
21 Avenue and Birney Avenue who oppose this
22 legislation.
23 I learned that no traffic study was
24 performed and that a petition, as was noted
25 tonight by a speaker during the public hearing,
30

1 a petition was circulated approximately two
2 years ago to address speeding on Cedar Avenue.
3 Therefore, I believe this item should be tabled
4 until such time as PennDOT can conduct an
5 independent objective traffic study of the 3200
6 block of Cedar Avenue, of Corey street, 3200
7 block of Oak Street and the applicable stretch

8 of Birney Avenue. Also Moosic Borough who
9 maintains Corey Street should be notified since
10 this change in direction will certainly be
11 effecting motorists and Corey Street.
12 Fifth, regarding the acceptance of
13 the certificate of appropriateness for the 500
14 block of Lackawanna Avenue development company,
15 this legislation should be tabled or declined
16 when council agreed not to entertain any
17 legislation -- any legislation pertaining to
18 the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue, that failed
19 to include Bouna Pizza. Bouna Pizza was
20 already in litigation with the City of
21 Scranton.

22 Further, council is not being used
23 by either Coney Island or Bouna Pizza. These
24 two anchor businesses who are excluded from the
25 street scape project, rather I believe

31

1 adamantly it is the job of city council to
2 protect existing businesses that have operated
3 for decades and supported our city through
4 their annual tax dollars.

5 This street scape project will
6 jeopardize possibly the health, welfare and
7 safety of our citizens by failing to include
8 Bouna Pizza and Coney Island whose sidewalks
9 may collapse as others are dug beside them.
10 And one speaker tonight, I wanted to add, made
11 I thought a most appropriate comment. I am
12 just going to rephrase here what will be the
13 legacy or what picture does that leave in the
14 minds of people and visitors to the City of
15 Scranton that they would observe such a block
16 beautiful in the middle and bookends allowed to
17 deteriorate. It's acts of vindictiveness,
18 nothing more, nothing less.
19 No. 6, approving a plan of financing
20 for the authority on the University of Scranton
21 I believe is unwise at this time. In addition
22 to the published Pennsylvania Economy League's
23 study I reported on 9/11/07, I add that neither
24 the university or the city has provided the
25 replacement fields for the South Side Complex
.
32

1 contained in the memorandum of understanding

2 and promised to the city by 2005.

3 Kay, I would also like a letter to

4 Mr. Peter Arvonio, C. P. A., one of our

5 auditors, requesting a copy of the documents

6 pertaining to the excess insurance coverage

7 workers' comp fund. Also I would like to see a

8 copy of the deed for the children's library and

9 the Albright library. Finally, I have but two

10 citizens' requests, a letter to Mr. Brazil,

11 please pave the court behind the 1400 block of

12 Sloan Street between Watson, Sloan off Parrot

13 Avenue. This is an extension of Smith Place.

14 It is a dirt court and littered with

15 holes. Residents complain they have a

16 difficult time getting out of their garages

17 particularly in winter months. And a letter to

18 Mr. Dougher, can swings be placed on the swing

19 set at Clover Field? Residents of West

20 Scranton would like their young children to

21 enjoy a swing set while the older siblings play

22 midget football. And that's it.

23 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mrs.

24 Fanucci?

25 MS. FANUCCI: I'm going to be long

1 tonight. I'm sorry, but I have a lot to report
2 on. I'm going to start with the clearing banks
3 and streams money that was allocated in the
4 year of 1995.
5 This money was not allocated for
6 clearing bank and streams, but under that title
7 it was designated for property acquisition and
8 reconstruction in a certain project. It was
9 not used for that project. This money could
10 not get to lower Green Ridge or any project
11 with the flood in the flood project because the
12 army corps is there and army corps is in charge
13 of that project.
14 It is unfortunate that we cannot put
15 our funds in the city to help the flood
16 project, but then again we are benefitting from
17 that because the army corps is in charge of not
18 only designing, having their engineers take --
19 take over but also in funding it.
20 So our funds are not tied up in that
21 project, which is a good thing. So it does
22 seem and appear to me we are taking money away

23 from a project that we'd like to put money
24 into, but it is not that way. Also I want to
25 talk about the ten thousand which I believe
. .
34

1 that -- I believe Daniel got up and spoke about
2 -- was for digitizing parcel maps which was not
3 used. This money is a use-it-or-lose-it deal.
4 I understand a lot of -- it seems to be a lot
5 of there want it to be lost. I'm not one of
6 those people. I'd rather keep it in the city.
7 I will speak also on the Rejuven Essence. This
8 is not a hair salon. This is something we have
9 to start off with. This legislation is not
10 about a hair salon. It is about a wellness
11 center. It is not just the people from the
12 business that you had spoken of earlier. There
13 are three partners one which is out of state.
14 This is a huge business and a huge endeavor for
15 our city.
16 It's going to be in south side. The
17 reason a wellness center is important and I'm
18 -- this is something we can all relate to. As
19 part of a small business or big business when

20 you paid your health care insurance and you
21 promise that you people will take part in a
22 wellness program, your insurance premiums go
23 down.

24 This is the nature of this business
25 to help you, small business, and the big
.
35

1 business help your insurance premiums to go
2 down. The state does this right now. They
3 really. We all have to take part in that to
4 keep our insurance premiums down. They are
5 putting in 14 new positions. They will already
6 been exceeding what they were asked in the
7 first few months of business.

8 This project is not just about
9 beauty and -- it's about health. This is where
10 we're going in the future. I do think this is
11 wonderful, and it's also going in south side,
12 which to me is absolutely wonderful because
13 south side does need businesses.

14 I also want to talk about -- the
15 owners themselves are financing 55 percent of
16 this business. They are not saying we want you

17 to pay for our business. They are saying we
18 are putting in 55 percent of the money up front
19 and they are asking us to loan them the
20 250,000. This is how much money they are
21 investing. This is not just about what this
22 business can do for our city. We can go to
23 there, what can this do for us. There are many
24 high end jobs this will bring. A lot of jobs
25 which we probably aren't seeing this kind of --
.
36

1 this kind of salaries in our city, which is
2 what we want.
3 I understand that a lot of times we
4 don't realize, but they did whole -- they did a
5 whole study of benefits and what they would do
6 to create their jobs and how they are going to
7 go into the schools and help the schools and
8 the children of the schools and educate them
9 and also go to the teachers so that the
10 teachers can then have their health care
11 lowered so, therefore, saving the taxpayers
12 money in that respect.
13 It's a wonderful idea and a

14 wonderful concept. I didn't want this to be
15 miscommunicated. This is not a hair salon. It
16 is not just an extension of the business that
17 is in a K. O. Z. This is whole different ball
18 game. As far as I'm concerned, we should be
19 embracing this. This is something that we're
20 going to look back on and say we were on the
21 cutting edge because this is something that's
22 going on in major cities not in Scranton. I
23 happen to be a firm believer that this is that
24 -- knowing what the state does, this is
25 something that will help us out a lot.

37

1 I also want to speak on -- what else
2 did I want to speak on? Come on. There's a
3 lot. I want to speak on how I feel about the
4 Bouna Pizza. This seems to be an issue. I'm
5 certainly not going back on my word. My word
6 was that -- I said from the beginning if they
7 were included. Were they included? They had
8 to be included to be able to file a lawsuit.
9 They had to make an offer. Whether or not that
10 offer was taken or renege was part of their

11 choice. Does that bother me? I would -- I
12 like the pizza. I like Bouna Pizza. I think
13 it's a great business. I think we are very
14 lucky to have it in the city.
15 I said that from day one I want
16 every business here. But as far as the eminent
17 domain process and how that goes is not
18 something that I am going to stop a business
19 for. I know that one of my other colleagues
20 had done extensive research on this and is
21 going to come up with some -- will help explain
22 a lot of what I would like to say but I'm not
23 going to right now.
24 I also want to talk about -- block
25 grant funding and who applies for the block
.
38

1 grant funding and how we decide what we're
2 going to give out is a great process. People
3 from all over decide how much money they need
4 from us. This is where I believe that we can
5 feel good about what we do when. We can sit
6 down and come together on some of these
7 projects, and these are all wonderful projects.

8 And a lot of them when you see what goes on in
9 the neighborhoods and how they are expanding --
10 this is where we can come together. I believe
11 even in this room we can come together and
12 decide this is where our money should go. I'm
13 proud to be part of that.

14 I do have one more comment. I have
15 to say this after last week's meeting of being
16 accused for about 150 times being related to
17 somebody I am not certainly related to -- I
18 don't know what else to do here. I come here
19 every week and listen to people who just want
20 to get up and say what they want to say. I am
21 certainly not related to the man from Daron
22 Northeast. He is not part of my family.

23 Ozzie, I wish I can see that tree you have. My
24 whole family can't figure out how you got it.

25 He is not a relative of mine. And

.

39

1 the miscommunication here and for people to get
2 up and constantly say things that are either a
3 lie or major misinformation is not something I
4 will sit back and take every week. I am not

5 related to him. There's no way you can -- I am
6 more related to -- Ozzie, I am related more to
7 you than I am to that gentleman. But I am
8 going say you and I have more in common. But I
9 can honestly say I never met him, I don't know
10 him, he is not part of my family. His brother
11 is married to my mother's second cousin, yes,
12 but he's never been at a family reunion. I've
13 never seen him. I have no reason to be. Do
14 you know why? He's not related to me. Ozzie,
15 I don't know how figure out your relatives,
16 honey, but that's certainly not the way I
17 figure out mine.
18 He is not related to me. There's no
19 blood between us at all. So I am just not -- I
20 am not going to listen to that and take that
21 because it certainly was not the case. And, in
22 fact, when the legislation was before the
23 planning commission, it was from the recreation
24 authority. That's how legislation came down.
25 Also the planning commission is a recommending
.
40

1 body. We recommend.

2 We hold no -- we held no, you know
3 -- you decide if we think it's good or not. I
4 just have get that off my chest. I can't sit
5 every week and let people just say what they
6 want to say and go on and think that, you know,
7 because they put it out there it's true. It's
8 not true. And that is really all I have
9 tonight. Sorry to take up so much time.
10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.
11 McGoff?
12 MR. McGOFF: Thank you. First, the
13 -- 3200 block of Cedar Avenue, I, too, received
14 a number of phone calls from people in that
15 neighborhood. It seems as though the petition
16 that was circulated many people have opted to
17 reconsider. Some people still want to go ahead
18 with it. I think that given the fact there is
19 some controversy over it at this time until we
20 can get some adequate resolution maybe from the
21 residents and also from either PennDOT or
22 whoever would do this traffic survey in that
23 area that I would agree with Mrs. Evans that
24 perhaps it's in our best interest and best
25 interest of the people in that area to table

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41

1 the -- that -- to table that until further

2 information is gathered.

3 In response to the project in the

4 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue, when the vote

5 was taken that we would -- that we would not

6 hear or not vote on any resolutions or any --

7 anything dealing with that project, I think

8 that there was some -- there was some --

9 council was misled by some statements that were

10 made -- primarily that no offers had been made

11 to Bouna Pizza.

12 Upon further investigation, I -- I

13 -- I have discovered that is not true. And so,

14 therefore, I don't think that we can be held to

15 that vote since there was -- since there were

16 offers made to Bouna Pizza and now to -- coming

17 out to Coney Island as well. It's my

18 understanding that as far as Coney Island is

19 concerned that they opted out of the original

20 agreement by the choice of the owner and

21 subsequently wanted to be their own developer

22 and also wanted to try and sell their own

23 building or at least part of the building as

24 I'm told -- the upper two floors of the

25 building.

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42

1 When that failed and there were no

2 takers on it, now Coney Island is trying to opt

3 back into the project and the developers aren't

4 willing to perhaps entertain the amounts of

5 money that Coney Island is looking for to get

6 into the project. And I think that, you know,

7 it's not out our duty to protect the individual

8 interests of Coney Island at the expense of a

9 project that will benefit the city. With Bouna

10 Pizza, also it is my understanding offers were

11 made for the purchase of Bouna Pizza, that the

12 offers were rejected and that at another time

13 that eminent domain was invoked in August of

14 2006.

15 When this is done, the developer,

16 whoever invokes eminent domain, is required by

17 law to post a check in the amount of a fair

18 estimate value -- an offer -- fair estimate

19 value is posted, and that is the offer made for

20 that property, obviously rejected since it is
21 now in court.

22 And again, I don't think it is our
23 duty as council to determine the amount of
24 money that a business is going to receive that
25 is now in litigation. And I think that we are

43

1 serving -- I am constantly reminded by a number
2 of people that it is our job to protect the
3 taxpayers. And by delaying projects such as
4 this, it's costing the taxpayers in the city
5 money. And if we are weren't doing diligence
6 that we should push this project forward and
7 allow the courts to determine the amount of
8 money that will be received through eminent
9 domain for that property. It is not our job to
10 act as leverage for anyone in litigation. I
11 think it's in our best interest to allow this
12 project to continue. As far as the sidewalks
13 and street scape part of the project, again,
14 the property owners where the street scape and
15 sidewalks were being done have signed an
16 agreement to allow PennDOT to work on those

17 properties.

18 After looking at blueprints of the
19 project, the two -- as now they are being
20 called, the two anchor properties at the ends
21 of the block have not signed any agreement and
22 rightfully so. The developer is not going to
23 work on a property that they are not legally
24 entitled to work on. Until those cases are
25 settled, until Bouna Pizza is settled in court,
.
44

1 until there's some resolution to Coney Island,
2 there's absolutely no reason and no legal
3 reason for the developer to work on those
4 properties.

5 It would be like one of us working
6 on our neighbor's property without their
7 permission. It just cannot be done. That's
8 all. Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

10 Courtright?

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I will start out
12 with the 3200 block of Cedar Avenue. My calls
13 came more from Corey Street that I received.

14 It seems like I was only the one that got
15 calls, and it seems we might be possibly
16 tabling this. Sometimes PennDOT takes a real
17 long time when they do their surveys. I know
18 when Mr. Parker was here -- he was an engineer.
19 He did some surveys for us. I'm sure there's
20 someone in the city now doing engineering for
21 us or maybe we can ask Mr. Brazil whoever is
22 doing the engineering work to do a survey there
23 before -- it appears that it is probably going
24 to be tabled this evening.

25 C. D. B. G. -- every there's always

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45

1 changes we all want to make. The police
2 department put in for \$400,000 for more police
3 officers. I think just about everyone here on
4 this council would like to see as many police
5 officers on the street as possible. I would
6 like to see that figure put up. As Mrs. Evans'
7 -- Hyde Park baseball to me -- I used to walk
8 up those steps all the time when I was a child.
9 That would be nice if we can put some money. I
10 know they got money before, but it takes a lot

11 of money to take on a project that size. So I
12 would like to see that. Weston Park Little
13 League -- I think last year is the first time
14 in their history they got any money. They put
15 in for some money, I think 95,000. In speaking
16 to them, they might be more than willing to
17 take loss for the lighting project. I think
18 every park in the city needs lighting.
19 Kay, two things, Forest Glen Drive,
20 D. P. W. was up there a week ago and they did a
21 nice job patching there. There must be some
22 kind of subsidence under one of the patches
23 they did because there is a big maybe a six
24 inch circular hole in the patch -- it goes down
25 fairly far, if they can take a look at that.
.
46

1 And Vine Street at Adams Avenue if you're
2 heading north on Adams, which you have no
3 choice, it's a one way, the trees have grown so
4 much that they are blocking the traffic signal.
5 We need to get the trees cut there if we could.
6 Item 7 B. dealing with the University of
7 Scranton, I discussed this with Mr. Minora

8 quickly before we came out on the floor here.

9 He said it wasn't absolutely necessary, but I

10 think it would be in the best interest I

11 abstain from voting on 7 B. I have children at

12 the University of Scranton. I don't want

13 anybody to think I am voting in favor of them

14 to help my children out in any way.

15 I will be abstaining on 7 B. I

16 think I will reserve my comments on the Bouna

17 Pizza and Coney Island when it comes up for our

18 vote. I believe that's all I have. Thank you.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mrs.

20 Garvey?

21 MS. GARVEY: 5 B - FOR INTRODUCTION

22 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

23 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF

24 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO

25 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR

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47

1 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO

2 BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

3 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT

4 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY

5 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM.

6 MS. GATELLI: At this time, I

7 will entertain a motion that 5 B. Be

8 introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. EVANS: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

12 those in favor?

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

16 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. GARVEY: I believe you have a

20 motion to make.

21 MS. GATELLI: Do you have a motion?

22 MR. McGOFF: I'll make a motion that

23 we -- excuse me. I will make a motion that we

24 hold a public hearing on this legislation next

25 Tuesday, September 25th, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question, all

3 in favor?

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. GARVEY: 5 C - FOR INTRODUCTION

11 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.

12 33 OF 200 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING

13 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF

14 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY

15 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

16 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND

17 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE FUNDED

18 UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

19 (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

20 (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

21 (ESG) PROGRAM", BY CLEARING OF BANKS AND

22 STREAMS AND \$10,843.55 FROM PROJECT NO. 00-212

23 COMPUTERIZED MAPPING FOR A TOTAL OF \$250,000.00

24 TO PROJECT NO. 07-150.13 COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL

25 LOAN PROGRAM.

1 MS. GATELLI: At this time, I will

2 entertain a motion 5 C. be introduced.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes, I just -- I agree

7 with what Mrs. Fanucci stated earlier. But if

8 you can't use the money, you don't want to lose

9 the money. And it should stay in the city. My

10 question is though how does one transfer from

11 such -- from one project to another when they

12 are so unrelated, the areas of usage that would

13 be from basically a flood project to which

14 could not be used to the commercial industrial

15 loan program? It seems like quite a leap.

16 I am just wondering if perhaps those

17 funds could be used within the city in any

18 other ways that would be beneficial as well. I

19 think this is just -- this is not the final

20 reading, correct? It's introduction, so

21 perhaps we can find that out and consider an

22 allocation towards something that might be more

23 necessary in terms of our -- the priorities of

24 our citizens, and it's not that -- this is not

25 to say Rejuven Essence is not a fine project.

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1 We are all concerned with wellness. I think

2 though we also have other -- other projects

3 that concern us in addition to that, and I

4 would just like an answer to the question does

5 the money necessarily have to be transferred

6 into a commercial industrial loan program.

7 MS. FANUCCI: It's my understanding

8 from what they said that it's because the

9 project is ready to go, the money needs to go

10 somewhere right now and that project is ready

11 to go, it was applied for, all the loans --

12 everything is in place, and I think that that's

13 how they determine.

14 When the next person might be

15 applying for their loan and whatever money has

16 to be freed up at that time, I believe that's

17 how the system goes. I don't believe it was

18 like -- we have to look for a project that's

19 like this project.

20 MS. EVANS: I understand what you're
21 saying. They are ready to go in terms of a
22 loan project. My question is, can this be used
23 in the capacity other than the commercial
24 industrial loan program?

25 MS. FANUCCI: I believe if there was

51

1 a project that was that type of project, they
2 would put the money there. But right now there
3 was not a project being applied for that was
4 that type of project. That's what their
5 explanation is. That's why they're trying to
6 use it now before they --

7 MS. EVANS: Lose it. But again what

8 I'm saying is -- I think you're following me.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah, I do.

10 MS. EVANS: The -- for example, all
11 of the organizations that applied for C. D. B.
12 G. grants, many of them were awarded nothing
13 for this year. And, of course, everyone can't
14 receive funding because there simply isn't
15 enough funding received from the federal
16 government to supply the needs of all of those

17 who have applied.

18 However, I'd like to know if that

19 money could be used toward any of these

20 projects many of which are in low -- low to

21 moderate income areas. So that's what I'm

22 driving at.

23 MS. GATELLI: Just to butt in, it

24 wouldn't be able to be used on these because

25 these haven't been approved yet. These are for

52

1 next year. So they would be able to be used on

2 projects that are there already, maybe that are

3 underfunded. There's caps on social services,

4 and there's caps on neighborhood police.

5 Sometimes that's why the amounts aren't as much

6 because they capped on that particular

7 activity, but we will find that out. Anyone

8 else on the question? This is just for

9 introduction. All in favor?

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MS. GARVEY: 5 D - FOR INTRODUCTION

17 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

18 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY

19 OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND

20 MAKE A LOAN FROM THE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL

21 REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 07-150.03

22 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.00 TO

23 REJUVEN Essence MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC. TO

24 ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

25 MS. GATELLI: At this time I will

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53

1 entertain a motion that 5 D. Be introduced?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

5 MS. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Gatelli, I

6 waited until now to speak on this. I spoke to

7 a woman -- I don't know if she's a owner there

8 or a manager there. I'm not sure what her

9 title is. I asked her quite a few questions

10 because I, too -- I thought it was another hair

11 salon. And she gave me more information than I
12 can digest. She gave a lot of information,
13 what type of jobs were there going to be --
14 don't tell me a receptionist and -- one of the
15 jobs -- there will be more than one job there
16 -- title is -- I can't remember the exact name
17 -- but operating lasers, okay, for spider
18 veins. That's not going to be a minimal paying
19 job. There's sales reps that they are going to
20 be hiring going and out to other areas trying
21 to bring business in there. So that question I
22 did ask.

23 The collateral was going to be the
24 equipment they were buying because it is very
25 expensive. And she told me a host of other
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54

1 things and the programs such as Mrs. Fanucci
2 talked about, the wellness. I called over at
3 E. O. C. D. I questioned her about it, too.
4 And everything seemed pretty good to me. The
5 only thing -- the question I will not vote to
6 pass it this evening. Somebody said there was
7 a state tax lien on it here. I will certainly

8 find out if there is a state tax lien on this
9 before I vote next week. But I -- my belief is
10 there's not going to be minimum wage jobs.

11 That's all I have.

12 MS. EVANS: Do you think there would
13 be a possibility of just tabling it until next
14 week until we, A., learn about the state tax
15 lien situation and we receive the answer to the
16 question I posed?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm sorry?

18 MS. EVANS: If we can table this
19 until next week.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: You said you posed
21 a question. What was the question?

22 MS. EVANS: The question was
23 regarding the funds that can no longer be used
24 for the specified -- the originally specified
25 purpose what -- what else they might be able to

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1 be used for in addition to the commercial
2 industrial loan program.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: I guess you can
4 table it if you like. I personally -- if

5 there's a state tax lien, there's no way I am
6 voting on something with a tax lien and if the
7 information does come back, you know, if it can
8 be used for something else, I would also be
9 voting no.

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

12 MS. EVANS: Aye.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5 E - FOR INTRODUCTION
19 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
20 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
21 ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH
22 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
23 AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF RIDE AND MEASUREMENT
24 STANDARDS REGARDING THE SEALING OF WEIGHTS AND
25 MEASURES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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1 MS. GATELLI: At this time, I'll

2 entertain a motion that 5 E. be introduced.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4 MS. EVANS: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

6 those in favor?

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MS. GARVEY: 5 F - FOR INTRODUCTION

14 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

15 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND

16 ENTER INTO AN INVENTORY AND INSPECTION

17 REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 049013 WITH THE

18 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF

19 TRANSPORTATION (PENNDOT) TO RE-INSPECT LOCAL

20 BRIDGES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

21 MS. GATELLI: At this time, I'll

22 entertain a motion that 5 F. be introduced.

23 MS. FANUCCI: So moved.

24 MS. EVANS: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

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1 in favor.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. GARVEY: Was that seconded?

9 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I did that.

10 MS. GARVEY: 5 G - FOR INTRODUCTION

11 - A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION

12 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD

13 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF

14 APPROPRIATENESS FOR PROJECT DESIGN ON THE

15 COLONNADE LOCATED AT 401 JEFFERSON AVENUE.

16 MS. GATELLI: At this time, I'll

17 entertain a motion that 5 G. be introduced.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

21 those in favor?

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

2 have it and so moved.

3 MS. GARVEY: 5 H - FOR INTRODUCTION

4 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF TAX

5 CLAIMS TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE

6 CITY OF SCRANTON, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION

7 OF A PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT RELATING

8 THERETO; AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF MUNICIPAL

9 REVENUE SERVICES, INC. AND THE LAW FIRM OF

10 ELLIOTT GREENLEAF SIEDZIKOWSKI AND BALABAN

11 RELATING TO THE TRANSACTION.

12 MS. GATELLI: At this time, I will

13 entertain a motion that 5 H. be introduced.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

17 MS. EVANS: Yes. When I first ran

18 for this office, I stated that I believe more

19 aggressive collection of delinquent taxes

20 needed to be implemented, and so I do have a
21 great interest in this new program. I would
22 like to give it a try. In terms of M. R. S., I
23 believe we would be contracting with them for a
24 period of one year at which time, you know, at
25 the -- the expiration of one year, we could

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1 decide whether to renew or terminate the
2 agreement based on its success or failure. So
3 I would like to see this go forward. Now, on
4 the other hand, we do have draconian fines,
5 costs and penalties that were passed by this
6 council that do go hand in hand with the sale
7 of delinquent taxes and the collection of those
8 taxes, those properties. Now the problem lies
9 herein.

10 The city is able when you default on
11 your taxes -- the city inevitably is able to
12 take your property. The school district and
13 the county are not. And it was brought to my
14 attention by Mr. Quinn and his taxpayer group
15 that statewide taxpayer groups are jointly
16 looking for a form of relief in that they are

17 requesting separation of city taxes, the
18 collection of taxes -- requesting that
19 separation of city taxes from school district
20 and county taxes.

21 Since the city taxes are less, for
22 example, than the school district taxes,
23 perhaps more homeowners would be able to pay
24 their city taxes while simultaneously making
25 payment arrangements on their school district

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1 and county taxes thereby saving their homes. I
2 don't think it should be our purpose to put
3 Scranton residents out of their homes.
4 And so I was hoping that perhaps
5 this council could meet with representatives
6 Smith and Shimkus and the taxpayers group as
7 well and urge our representatives to present
8 such a proposal or bill in Harrisburg to
9 benefit the City of Scranton. I think our main
10 objective here has to be certainly collecting
11 taxes that are due but at the same time even
12 equally is important keeping people in their
13 homes. And so -- Kay, I would ask you send

14 each of our representatives requesting a
15 meeting among these groups and certainly it can
16 be a public meeting -- all of council should
17 attend. And this should be a serious
18 discussion that takes precedence for these
19 representatives.

20 We've seen the articles in the
21 newspaper. We can't afford to lose any more
22 homeowners. It hurts everyone losing that tax
23 revenue, and I really don't think it should be
24 our purpose to make our citizens homeless. So
25 I would ask that that meeting could occur as

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1 soon as possible, and hopefully we can get the
2 ball rolling here. I know municipalities were
3 able to set their own conditions on these types
4 of sales of delinquent taxes to third parties.

5 Unfortunately, Scranton has opted to do so in a
6 very punitive way. I am looking for relief
7 from that punishment.

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

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

14 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

15 have it and so moved.

16 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER - 6 A -

17 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 108-2007

18 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE

19 CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR

20 2008 PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S HOME

21 RULE CHARTER.

22 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

23 by title of 6 A. What is your pleasure?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that item

25 6-A pass reading by title.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

3 those in favor?

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

7 MS. EVANS: No.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. The ayes have it

9 and so moved.

10 MS. GARVEY: 6 B - READING BY TITLE

11 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 109-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

12 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A PARCEL OF LAND

13 ACQUIRED BY THE CITY THROUGH THE FLOOD CONTROL

14 PROJECT TO JEROME AND SUSAN M. GENOVESE D/B/A

15 THE GARDEN PATH, INC. AS PARTIAL COMPENSATION

16 FOR A PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR THE LACKAWANNA

17 RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT.

18 MS. GATELLI: We've heard reading by

19 title of 6-B. What is your pleasure?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item

21 6-B pass reading by title.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

24 those in favor?

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

3 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

5 have it and so moved.

6 MS. GARVEY: 6 C - READING BY TITLE

7 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 100-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

8 ESTABLISHING PERMIT PARKING ON THE NORTH SIDE

9 OF THE 700 BLOCK OF EAST GIBSON STREET FROM

10 MOIR COURT EAST FOR NINETY SEVEN (97) FEET.

11 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

12 by title of Item 6 C. What is your pleasure?

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item

14 6-C pass reading by title.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

17 those in favor?

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

23 have it and so moved.

24 MS. GARVEY: 6 D - READING BY TITLE

25 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 111-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

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1 ESTABLISHING A "NO PARKING" ZONE ALONG THE

2 SOUTHERLY SIDE OF MULBERRY STREET (SR 3027)
3 FROM THE NOW VACATED HITCHCOCK COURT TO MCKENNA
4 COURT, THE SAME DISTANCE AS MORE PARTICULARLY
5 DESCRIBED ON THE MAP/PLAN ATTACHED HERETO, TO
6 ALLOW FOR SIGHT DISTANCE FOR THE DRIVEWAY OF
7 THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON CAMPUS CENTER.

8 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

9 by title of Item 6 D. What is your pleasure?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6

11 D. pass reading by title.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

14 those in favor?

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

18 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

20 have it and so moved.

21 MS. GARVEY: 6 E - READING BY TITLE

22 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 112-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

23 REMOVING PARKING METERS ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE

24 OF MULBERRY STREET (SR 3027) FROM THE NOW

25 VACATED HITCHCOCK COURT TO MCKENNA COURT, THE

1 SAME DISTANCE AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON
2 THE SITE PLAN ATTACHED HERETO, IN THE "NO
3 PARKING ZONE" ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW FOR SIGHT
4 DISTANCE FOR THE DRIVEWAY OF THE NEW UNIVERSITY
5 OF SCRANTON CAMPUS CENTER.

6 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

7 by title of 6-E. What is your pleasure?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6.

9 E. pass reading by title.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

12 those in favor?

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

16 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

18 have it and so moved.

19 MR. McGOFF: Prior to reading 6 F.,

20 I'll make a motion to table.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I make a motion we

22 table Item 6 F.

23 MS. EVANS: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

25 those in favor?

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1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

6 have it, and the item is tabled.

7 MS. GARVEY: 6 G - READING BY TITLE

8 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO 114-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

9 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, ENTITLED

10 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

11 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON

12 TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE

13 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING

14 AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE

15 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

16 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT

17 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY

18 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY TRANSFERRING

19 \$70,000 FROM PROJECT NO. 05-1.3 ROCKWELL AVENUE

20 BRIDGE TO PROJECT NO. 07-1.10 PARKER STREET

21 BRIDGE.

22 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

23 by title of Item 6 G. What is your pleasure?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6

25 G. Pass reading by title.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

3 those in favor?

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes

9 have it, and so moved.

10 MR. MCGOFF: At this time, I would

11 like to make a motion to suspend the rules to

12 move Item 6 G. into 7th order to be considered

13 for final passage.

14 MS. EVANS: Second.

15 MS. GATELLI: On the question? You

16 will be given an opportunity for public comment

17 on this issue only before we pass it. Would

18 anyone care to make a comment on this issue?

19 All those in favor?

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

23 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

24 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

25 ayes have it, and so moved.

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1 MR. McGOFF: Mrs. Gatelli, perhaps

2 -- I was going to make a motion to allow civic

3 participation prior to reading of this item in

4 7th order and that time not to exceed two

5 minutes.

6 MS. EVANS: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: All in favor?

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? So

13 moved.

14 MS. GARVEY: 6 H - READING BY TITLE

15 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 115-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

16 REGULATING THE USE OF OUTDOOR FURNACES, AS

17 DEFINED HEREIN, ESTABLISHING ZONES FOR THEIR

18 AUTHORIZED USE, PROVIDING REGULATIONS FOR

19 EXISTING OUTDOOR FURNACES, AND PROVIDING FINES

20 FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE.

21 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

22 by title of 6 H. What is your pleasure?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that item 6.

24 H. pass reading by title.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

2 those in favor?

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. GARVEY: 6 I - READING BY TITLE

10 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 116-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

11 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 815 ADAMS
12 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LACKAWANNA
13 INSTITUTE, 544 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
14 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 FOR THE SUM OF \$4,500.00.

15 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

16 by title of Item 6 I. What is your pleasure?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6

18 I. pass reading by title.

19 MR. McGOFF: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

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70

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. GARVEY: 6 J - READING BY TITLE

3 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 117-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

4 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 817 ADAMS

5 AVENUE SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LACKAWANNA

6 INSTITUTE, 544 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SCRANTON,

7 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, FOR THE SUM OF \$7,000.00.

8 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

9 about by title of 6 J. What is your pleasure?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6

11 J. pass reading by title.

12 MR. McGOFF: Second.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

14 those in favor?

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

18 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. GARVEY: 6 K - READING BY TITLE

22 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 118-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

23 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT THE CORNER

24 OF LINDEN STREET AND TAYLOR AVENUE, SCRANTON,

25 PENNSYLVANIA, TO LINDEN TAYLOR, LLC, 56 LEDGE

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1 DRIVE, LAKEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, 18438, FOR THE

2 SUM OF \$2,000.

3 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

4 by title of Item 6 K. What is your pleasure?

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6

6 K. pass reading by title.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

8 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

9 those in favor?

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

14 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MS. GARVEY: 6 L - READING BY TITLE

17 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 119-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -

18 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 1736 PERRY

19 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO JAMES

20 HOWELLS, 1740 PERRY AVENUE, SCRANTON,

21 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508 FOR THE SUM OF \$3,100.00.

22 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

23 by title of 6 L. What is your pleasure?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6

25 L. pass by reading by title.

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1 MR. McGOFF: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

3 those in favor?

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. GARVEY: 6 M - READING BY TITLE

11 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 120, 2007 - AN ORDINANCE

12 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 2415,

13 HERMANS AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO

14 CLEMENT SKIRPAN, 2416 N. MAIN AVENUE, SCRANTON,

15 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, FOR THE SUM OF \$4,000.00.

16 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading

17 by title of Item 6 M. What is your pleasure?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6

19 M. pass reading by title.

20 MR. McGOFF: Second.

21 MS. GATELLI: All in favor?

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

1 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved. Before we get to
3 the next one, I would like to make a motion to
4 table this until I can do some investigating
5 and get some more information.

6 MS. EVANS: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All
8 those in favor?

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

13 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. GARVEY: 6 O - READING BY TITLE
16 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 122-2007 - AN ORDINANCE -
17 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 3 HERTZ
18 COURT, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ROBERT F.
19 RIVIELLO, P.O. BOX 13, GOULDSBORO,
20 PENNSYLVANIA, 18424, FOR THE SUM OF \$1,500.00.

21 MS. GATELLI: You've heard reading
22 by Title of 6 O. What is your pleasure?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6

24 O. pass reading by title.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

2 those in favor?

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MR. McGOFF: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. GARVEY: 7TH ORDER - 7 A. - FOR

10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY

11 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

12 167-2007 - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE

13 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD ("HARB")

14 AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF

15 APPROPRIATENESS FOR 500 LACKAWANNA DEVELOPMENT

16 CO. FOR FRONT FACADE TREATMENT OF PROPERTIES

17 LOCATED AT 508; 510/512; 514; 516; 518;

18 524/526; 528/530; 532 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

19 MS. GATELLI: What is the

20 recommendation of the chair on community

21 development?

22 MS. FANUCCI: As chairperson for the

23 committee on community development, I recommend

24 final passage of Item 7 A.

25 MR. McGOFF: Second.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. I have heard that

3 offers have been made, documents have been --

4 have passed from two hands to two hands. Does

5 anyone have a copy of those documents? Do you

6 have anything that in black and white that

7 actually contains the offers?

8 MS. FANUCCI: No. But the law is

9 they would have to made an offer to be able to

10 do so, so there's no -- I mean, they had to

11 have an offer to be able to file the lawsuit.

12 So I really didn't need a document to prove

13 that because the law states that there was no

14 way this lawyer could have filed a lawsuit

15 without that being the case.

16 MS. EVANS: Well, I know that I for

17 one would like to see a copy of the documents
18 provided by both the city and the attorneys of
19 Bouna Pizza and Coney Island. I'd like to see
20 the offers that were made in writing. And I
21 agree with Mr. McGoff that council should not
22 determine the amount of money received. That's
23 a matter between the business owners, the
24 developer, the city. City council has nothing
25 to do with it. That's true. However, we were
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1 never asked to act as leverage for a sale price
2 on buildings.
3 I've never had that discussion with
4 any business owner on the 500 block of
5 Lackawanna Avenue. But I was asked to help
6 business owners who are anchors of the city to
7 be included in a wonderful renovation project,
8 and the doors have been closed on them. I do
9 feel I'm obligated to do that. I gave my word,
10 as I said I'm going to keep my word, and I
11 think in all fairness council at the very least
12 should table this issue until you see documents
13 -- black and white documents rather than simply

14 taking the word of one party or another. I
15 myself have talked to the mayor. I've talked
16 to Mr. Moran. I've talked to Mr. Piccolino.
17 I asked the mayor to set up a
18 meeting between Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Greco, Mr.
19 Piccolino, myself, the interested parties. He
20 promised to do so. That was in the spring of
21 2007. To this day, that meeting was never set
22 up. So do I believe that the people involved
23 in this transaction don't keep their words?

24 You better believe I do. So -- I can say,
25 well, maybe the mayor forgot. I made phone

77

1 calls to his office. He was not there. I left
2 a message with his confidential secretary,
3 please remind the mayor of the promise he made
4 to set up this meeting and return the call to
5 me with a date of this meeting. Well, I'm
6 still waiting. So I would like to make a
7 motion to at least table this.

8 MS. FANUCCI: I'm definitely not for
9 tabling this. I will say why because to be
10 able to say that nothing -- there was no

11 meeting, of course -- there's no meeting once
12 it's in litigation. All negotiation stops.
13 That's what litigation is about. That's why
14 people file. That's why they have lawyers.
15 It's all hashed with lawyers. You meet before.
16 You get lawyers. Once you get lawyers involved
17 and everybody files suits, everything is off.
18 And that's how it works whether you like it or
19 not.

20 MS. EVANS: Right. The lawyers were
21 invited to the meeting. Mr. Greco -- there
22 were no meetings at that point in time. I
23 don't know what's transpired, you know, in the
24 last few weeks. But I know that I waited for a
25 meeting that was promised, and a lot of other

78

1 people did, too. I'm still waiting. So, you
2 know, to ask me to take on the -- to believe
3 the word of people who have not kept their
4 promises is to ask me to be a foolhardy council
5 woman.

6 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I -- this is

8 one of the very first projects that had ever
9 came up when I first came on council almost
10 four years now. Mr. Pocius was here, Mr.
11 McTiernan and myself. I can still remember
12 standing on Lackawanna Avenue saying this is
13 all great. All five agreed on this 100
14 percent.
15 The thing that sticks out more than
16 anything is they came on and put a beautiful
17 presentation -- I think it's a great project.
18 But the thing that was reiterated to us was the
19 fact if you wanted to be involved, fine, you
20 would get your facade renovated, if you did not
21 want to be involved, they'd buy the property
22 off you. I haven't seen anything. I mean, I
23 notice people that have come to the podium and
24 said they haven't been offered. We've been
25 told they haven't made offers. I am sad it's
.

79

1 come to this because it appears that we're
2 going to have beautiful buildings in the middle
3 of the block and on the end -- not that the
4 buildings are ugly -- but they are not going to

5 be all renovated who have old sidewalks and so
6 on. I'm torn. I don't know. Maybe I'm being
7 naive, but I haven't seen anything telling me
8 what they've been offered and not in a dollar
9 amount but they sat down and spoken -- nobody's
10 come in here in the longest time to talk to us
11 about it.

12 The two businesses that have been in
13 this city longer than any businesses I can
14 remember -- I think we need to sit down and
15 talk to them. If they've been talked to and
16 made an offer, if somebody would show to me it
17 was a reasonable offer, then I would vote in
18 favor of it. I will be voting no only because
19 I haven't seen anything and I don't want to see
20 two businesses that have been here forever -- I
21 certainly don't want to hold this project up.

22 I know that's what is said that will
23 be done. Mr. Minora is well versed on this.
24 He's gone through eminent domain. He explained
25 it to us in caucus. I am not in favor of

.

80

1 holding it up because I think it's a good

2 project. I am just not satisfied with the way
3 things have gone. That's my reason for voting
4 no.

5 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? I would
6 like to make one statement. I was not here on
7 the evening that resolution was voted on. So I
8 will be voting in favor of the project.

9 I never made a promise not to
10 because I wasn't here that evening. You can
11 laugh and giggle all you want in the audience.
12 This is a serious matter, very serious matter.
13 And I went through it once already with Mr.
14 Minora and with Mike Washo building the
15 Steamtown Mall. Yes, we had people that didn't
16 settle either. They went through the proper
17 litigation to be included in the project, and
18 they got a fair amount for their buildings.

19 One gentleman got about ten times
20 more than his building was worth because of
21 litigation. So litigation doesn't always save
22 the taxpayers money. It may cost the taxpayers
23 more money. So as far as I'm concerned, Mr.
24 Piccolino is in litigation, he has been made an
25 offer or there wouldn't be any litigation. You

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1 can't invoke eminent domain unless you had an
2 offer, and that's the law.

3 Mr. Moran wasn't included in the
4 project, and I don't know all the details there
5 because I hear two stories. So I will be
6 meeting with Mr. Moran as anyone else here can.

7 I do feel for him because as far as I can see,
8 he's the only one not included in the final
9 project. And that is sad that we're going to
10 do the whole 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue and
11 leave one person out. I have talked to
12 Attorney Minora about that situation, and he
13 and I are going to be meeting with Attorney
14 Moran -- or Tom Moran from Coney Island, and I
15 will also go to the mayor and to have them
16 included in some fashion.

17 So, yes, I want everyone involved.

18 Yes, I hope Mr. Piccolino gets a fair amount
19 for his building, and I'm sure he will because
20 the board of view comes in and relocation and
21 all kinds of things come into effect once
22 there's eminent domain. But I will be voting

23 yes on this issue, and I just wanted to explain
24 myself.

25 MS. EVANS: I just want to add I

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82

1 know Mr. Moran had wanted to come in speak to
2 council tonight. In fact, he would have liked
3 to have addressed the issue publically. But
4 since council allots only three minutes to do
5 so, he could not adequately present his
6 situation and what has transpired over these
7 many, many, many months, years. And so he
8 wanted to meet with council today before this
9 vote would be taken tonight. And
10 unfortunately, council didn't do so. And so I
11 know that Mr. Moran would like to meet with
12 council as a whole to explain his side of the
13 story, and I think he should be given that
14 opportunity before council passes legislation
15 that does exclude him.

16 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the
17 question? All those in favor -- roll call,
18 sorry.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Evans?

20 MS. EVANS: No.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci?

22 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright?

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83

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

2 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

3 7 A. legally and lawfully A. adopted.

4 MS. GARVEY: 3 B - FOR CONSIDERATION

5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -

6 RESOLUTION NO. 168-2007 - APPROVING, IN

7 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 147 (F) OF THE INTERNAL

8 REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED, A PLAN OF

9 FINANCING OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND

10 WELFARE AUTHORITY; AND DECLARING THAT IT IS

11 DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF

12 THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE

13 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE

14 AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE A PROJECT FOR THE

15 UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON.

16 MS. GATELLI: What is the

17 recommendation of the chair on finance?

18 MS. EVANS: As chair for the

19 committee on finance, I do not recommend Item 7

20 B.

21 MS. GATELLI: Anyone second? A

22 negative vote now will vote in favor of the

23 passage.

24 MR. MINORA: A negative vote now

25 will vote in favor of --

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1 MS. GATELLI: Right. Somebody has

2 to second it.

3 MR. MCGOFF: I will second.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: I am abstaining.

5 MS. GATELLI: I'll second it.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Bob seconded.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

8 call.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Evans?

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci?

12 MS. FANUCCI: No.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff?

14 MR. McGOFF: No.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Abstain.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Gatelli?

18 MS. GATELLI: No. I hereby declare

19 7 B. legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. GARVEY: 7 C - FOR CONSIDERATION

21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION

22 - RESOLUTION NO. 169-2007 - AUTHORIZING THE

23 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO

24 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS

25 NECESSARY TO AUTHORIZE UGI PENN NATURAL GAS,

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85

1 INC., FORMERLY PG ENERGY, TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE

2 AND REPAIR A NATURAL GAS REGULATION FACILITY

3 INCLUDING PIPES THEREFOR, ON WEST OLIVE STREET

4 IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

5 MS. GATELLI: What is the

6 recommendation of the chair on community

7 development --

8 MR. McGOFF: As for the chair for

9 the committee of public works.

10 MS. GATELLI: Sorry, public works.

11 MR. McGOFF: I recommend final

12 passage of Item 7 C.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

14 call.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Evans?

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci?

18 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff?

20 MR. McGOFF: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Gatelli?

24 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

25 7 C. legally and lawfully adopted.

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86

1 MS. GARVEY: 7 D. -- are you going

2 allow public --

3 MS. GATELLI: Yes. Would anyone

4 want to comment on 7 D.?

5 MS. GARVEY: Which was formally 6 G.

6 Read it first?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. GARVEY: 7 D., which was
9 formally 6 G - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
10 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
11 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 114-2007 -
12 AMDENING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, ENTITLED
13 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
14 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
15 TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
16 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING
17 AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE
18 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
19 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
20 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
21 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY TRANSFERRING
22 \$70,000, FOR PROJECT NO. 05-1.3 ROCKWELL AVENUE
23 BRIDGE TO PROJECT NO. 07-1.10 PARKER STREET
24 BRIDGE.

25 MS. GATELLI: Would anyone like to

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87

1 make a comment on that particular issue? Come

2 on up.

3 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, president

4 of the taxpayers' associations. I believe we

5 should use this money for housing, okay. I
6 don't know how much percentage you have in that
7 community block grant you approved tonight, but
8 we need more for housing than we do for other
9 -- we have less than ten percent of those --
10 over \$37 million the community received from C.
11 D. B. G. that was for housing. That's a bad
12 showing.
13 We go to our neighborhoods and the
14 housing is decaying, and the infrastructure is
15 decaying. Nobody is doing any positive
16 rehabilitation of homes. We can put that money
17 someplace where the taxpayers can benefit. I
18 don't think they should be using that there.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? Mrs.

21 Shumaker, are you coming up?

22 MS. SHUMAKER: I am. Marie

23 Shumaker, citizen and member of the Scranton
24 and Lackawanna County Taxpayers' Association.

25 I'd like to know what -- what this does to the
.

88

1 Rockwell Avenue bridge. For instance, are fire

2 trucks allowed on the Rockwell Avenue bridge

3 currently?

4 MS. GATELLI: I am not sure, but the

5 Rockwell Avenue bridge has been rehabilitated.

6 MS. FANUCCI: This is excess money.

7 MS. GATELLI: The money has been

8 allocated for that. This is excess that won't

9 be needed for Rockwell.

10 MS. SHUMAKER: Has it been done or

11 not been done?

12 MS. GARVEY: That hasn't been

13 rehabilitated yet.

14 MS. GATELLI: But it has gone

15 through all of the engineering and all that,

16 no?

17 MS. FANUCCI: This is the evaluation

18 money. This was not the physical --

19 MS. GATELLI: Right. This was

20 engineering money. That's been done for

21 Rockwell Avenue from what I know. And the

22 Parker Street bridge I think got it, too, on

23 the bridge report. So I think it really needs

24 to be done for the safety of the residents in

25 that neighborhood.

1 MS. SHUMAKER: But couldn't it be
2 taken from something other than the -- than
3 another bridge project that's also very needy?

4 MS. GATELLI: If it's not needed in
5 that bridge project, why would you keep it
6 there?

7 MS. SHUMAKER: I am not convinced
8 it's not needed. There's no proof it's not
9 needed as far as I can tell. So I hope we're
10 not coming back looking for money for Rockwell
11 Avenue bridge shortly. Thank you.

12 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? We did
13 pass legislation tonight for inspection of
14 bridges, but I know I did see the Parker
15 Street. And I think it got a two out of 100 --
16 really in bad shape. Anyone else like to make
17 a comment?

18 MS. GARVEY: Now it would be just --

19 MS. GATELLI: What is the
20 recommendation of the chair on community
21 development?

22 MS. FANUCCI: As chairperson for the

23 committee on community development, I recommend

24 final passage of Item 7 D.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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90

1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

2 call.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Evans?

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci?

6 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff?

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

11 MS. COOLICAN: Ms. Gatelli?

12 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

13 7 D. legally and lawfully adopted. Before we

14 get to public input, I just have a question

15 Mrs. Fanucci brought to my attention. Did we

16 schedule a public hearing on the capital

17 budget?

18 MS. GARVEY: Yes. That's next week

19 at 6:00.

20 MS. GATELLI: We already set it?

21 MS. GARVEY: Yes. That was already

22 in the paper.

23 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Sbaraglia?

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sparaglia,

25 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians, I did

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91

1 a little on the parking meters you are going to

2 lose. And at \$20 a day six days a week is

3 \$120. For a year it was \$2,240, ten years,

4 \$22,000. And 20 years we will lose \$44,000 on

5 them parking meters, them five.

6 So it does add up. You got to watch

7 the pennies if you want to save the dollars.

8 Okay. 5 H., Mr. McGoff must have figured I was

9 going to read it. He took off. I was going to

10 read it. I can't blame him. As you know, the

11 tax delinquent -- N. C. C. charges us 25

12 percent already. We got a ten percent on to

13 it. That's 35 percent.

14 That's a penalty, but that's not --

15 you got to press people a lot more -- really

16 push their faces into the dirt. So what do we

17 do? We impose greater fines. It's right here
18 in front of us. It goes from A. to S., next
19 page over there in the W. -- the fines range.
20 Let me read some of them -- \$35 for one --
21 delinquent laws, 175 costs of preparing filing
22 liens, \$175 for preparation and filing of a
23 writ of liens, 30 some dollars for this, 100
24 for that, 800 for filing of a writ of
25 execution.

92

1 This is nothing but some way to
2 steal property. Anybody that looks at it any
3 other way -- believe me, you have your head in
4 the sand. This is not a penalty. This is
5 oppression. For you to even entertain such an
6 oppressive act upon the taxpayers of Scranton
7 -- the average is like \$400. You're pushing a
8 fine on them of over \$3,000 if they don't pay
9 it. I don't blame people for being mad. Thank
10 God this is an election year.
11 People who vote for this should be
12 thrown out of office. There's no other way to
13 look at it. This is oppressive, and the

14 oppressiveness is the worst I have ever seen --
15 this piece of legislation. We don't need the
16 money on the backs of the poor people. That's
17 what is happening. Like I said before, I've
18 been talking about this since it was brought up
19 long ago, this is the most unholy act that you
20 have ever passed.

21 You should be ashamed and hang your
22 head in shame to even consider this piece of
23 legislation. It was garbage when it was put
24 into the budget. I thank you.

25 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn. I want to

93

1 thank Mrs. Evans for the motion to have a
2 meeting with the state representatives.
3 Thanks, Mrs. Evans, for looking out for the
4 little guy. I also want to comment in regards
5 to the capital budget in relationship to it not
6 being followed using the cafeteria style the
7 mayor is -- pick and choose. And this goes
8 along with the Scranton Sewer Authority with
9 the rates being raised 56 percent. Again, the
10 council was circumvented, and council didn't do

11 anything about it. That is under Section 502.

12 You are supposed to file -- adopt an ordinance

13 to raise or decrease the rates of any public

14 utility, and it's there in black and white.

15 And you just pushed it aside. How are we

16 supposed to run a city?

17 Well, I will tell you what. Three

18 of you there, Mrs. Evans -- Mrs. Fanucci, Mrs.

19 Gatelli, Mr. McGoff, you say that the capital

20 improvements program is a wish list. I say

21 it's a debt list being D. E. B. T. We are

22 going in debt, and we're going in debt. And we

23 are standing here and listening to these

24 programs being approved, three and two, three

25 to two, three to two, and it's obvious you're

.

94

1 going with the mayor and you're not going to

2 help the taxpayers. It concerns us very much.

3 It concerns the people down on -- who are being

4 flooded out and the people who are in these

5 homes, okay, without any kind of rehabilitation

6 program.

7 I want to ask, how much is in the

8 program for housing this year? You voted on
9 it.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can't remember
11 every one.

12 MS. GATELLI: Just the introduction
13 we voted on.

14 MS. EVANS: I can look through a few
15 things for you. For Habitat For Humanity
16 there's \$10,000. For --

17 MS. GATELLI: 236 for rehab, 250 for
18 the home buyer, 64,000 for the home program and
19 community housing 97,000. The whole money for
20 2008 is \$648,000.

21 MR. QUINN: Through the C. D. B. G.
22 program not counting the home or E.S.G. --

23 MS. EVANS: No, that's counting E.
24 S. G.

25 MR. QUINN: If you're counting the
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95

1 E. S. G. and the home program, you're talking
2 less than ten percent for housing. I do want
3 to mention one thing since I was held up in
4 time that tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m. on W.

5 I. L. K. David Baldinger, who is the -- the
6 administrator for the Pennsylvania Coalition of
7 Taxpayers Association, which we belong to, is
8 going to be on W. I. L. K. radio to explain the
9 School Property Tax Elimination Act of 2007.
10 And I ask council to please listen to it
11 because this is a very important thing that's
12 going before the legislators in Harrisburg this
13 fall, and it has an opportunity to eliminate
14 school property taxes. And he's the expert on
15 it, and he's going to explain it. Thank you.

16 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Les
17 Spindler.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
19 council, Les Spindler. Mrs. Evans, you must
20 have been reading my mind because I also was
21 going to say if offers were made, where are
22 they in writing. If offers were made over the
23 telephone or whatever, they don't count. Mr.
24 McGoff, you take somebody's word for it? I
25 know the Piccolino family for a long time.

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96

1 They said no offer was ever made. I believe

2 them.

3 You want to save the taxpayers

4 money? That's funny since you voted in favor

5 of a 25 percent tax hike. I don't think that's

6 saving the taxpayers money. And another thing,

7 Mr. McGoff, do you know who's paying for the

8 engineering of the sidewalks on that Lackawanna

9 Avenue project?

10 MR. McGOFF: Who is paying for what?

11 I'm sorry?

12 MR. SPINDLER: The engineering in

13 the sidewalks.

14 MR. McGOFF: I believe the

15 developers.

16 MR. SPINDLER: You're wrong. Know

17 your facts before you talk, okay. It's a grant

18 from the city that's paying for those. If it's

19 the city that's paying for it, Bouna Pizza and

20 Coney Island should be included. It's a city

21 project. So do more investigating before you

22 make comments.

23 Next thing, Mrs. Fanucci, last week

24 you said I was wasting your time. I've been

25 coming to these meetings for over six and a

1 half years. Plenty of council people I didn't
2 get along with, not one of them said I was
3 wasting their time.

4 MS. FANUCCI: You said I was --

5 MR. SPINDLER: Let me talk, will you
6 please? Ignorant. I come to this podium week
7 after week talking for the taxpayers of the
8 city. The only person you talk for is Chris
9 Doherty. You have a lot of nerve telling me
10 I'm wasting your time when I speak for the
11 taxpayers. That's more than you ever did.

12 MS. FANUCCI: I was voted to speak
13 for the taxpayers, Les, by the way.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Why don't you vote in
15 favor of some things that will help the
16 taxpayers?

17 MS. FANUCCI: I was voted to be here
18 by the taxpayers of the city. You come here on
19 your own. I come here representing the
20 taxpayers because I ran for office.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Let me finish my
22 thoughts, okay. You have your time to talk.

23 Let me talk. Laugh a little more. Laugh a
24 little more.

25 MS. FANUCCI: I am.

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98

1 MR. SPINDLER: In the paper last
2 Friday the area homes not selling, listings up
3 19 percent in Scranton. I can't imagine why.
4 Maybe because there's no jobs in this city
5 unless you want to work at Poochie. I forgot
6 -- I heard they are going out of business. So
7 we couldn't work there -- long term debt of
8 \$300 million, 25 percent tax hike and majority
9 of council is partially responsible for all of
10 this. I can't imagine why nobody would want to
11 live in this city.

12 Next thing, I asked last week did we
13 look into a smoking ban on minors like west
14 Pittston did. I want to add that also a cell
15 phone ban while driving in cars, I think that's
16 a big safety hazard. Thank you.

17 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Reverend

18 Simmons.

19 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening, council

20 members and junior council. I am Reverend
21 Kathryn Simmons. Tonight I represent
22 Lackawanna County Prison Ministry. I came this
23 night to talk to you about what is defined as a
24 gift to the City of Scranton from the Scranton
25 Housing Authority in the amount of \$900,000,
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99

1 what a wonderful gift to the city and its
2 middle and upper class residents.
3 What about the lower class, the poor
4 and the homeless? There is a housing project
5 in this city completely shut down in need of
6 repairs that have been needed for years, didn't
7 just happen. There's another project in
8 deplorable shape that needs repairs and
9 attention and has for quite some time.
10 And even you, Councilwoman Evans,
11 last week said that another of the projects
12 needed their roads repaired or repaved. All of
13 this and yet S. H. A. has \$900,000 for a gift
14 to the city. Something very unsettling is
15 going on here.
16 And so I have contacted the

17 following groups and/or individuals both on the
18 telephone and through letters requesting that
19 an investigation be conducted, the United
20 States Attorney General's Office, the
21 Pennsylvania state Attorney General's Office,
22 United States senator Robert Casey, state
23 representative Ken Smith and state
24 representative Frank Andrews Shimkus and the
25 H.U.D. office in Washington D. C.

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100

1 The time for using the backs of the
2 poor is coming to an end. It is time that you
3 as city council members defend all of
4 Scranton's residents, the poor and the low
5 class. Votes are just as important as all
6 others. Their taxes are paid from \$6.50 an
7 hour jobs just as well as \$16.50 an hour jobs.
8 Yes, they go to the polls and they do vote. I
9 would ask you this night to investigate where
10 and how this money was and is gathered. S. H.
11 A. is not above any of the other laws of
12 morality and ethics. Make sure they adhere to
13 them, and I would ask you before you decide

14 where you are going to spend this money you

15 look where it came from. Thank you.

16 MS. GATELLI: Bill Jacowicz.

17 MR. JACOWICZ: Bill Jacowicz, south

18 Scranton resident, member of the taxpayers

19 association, legion of doom, fair and honest

20 and open government, and one day we may have

21 that in Scranton. Nineteen percent increase in

22 houses for sale in the Scranton area. Does

23 anybody -- anybody wonder why? Possibly

24 because crime has increased, 3,000 new jobs

25 were promised but never were created, plus the

.

101

1 jobs that are being created the salaries are

2 low.

3 Southern Union headquarters vacant,

4 what a scam that was. New parking garages

5 being built, no jobs or low paying jobs,

6 approximately 48 homes being demolished, \$1.5

7 million gift to the realtors. I guess the

8 realtors knew the housing sales were going to

9 slump, new bars restaurants being opened and

10 closed, only source of income for residents,

11 bartenders, waitresses, taxes only raised three
12 times with a 25 percent raise in one shot, new
13 projects on Lackawanna Avenue, Moosic Street,
14 Mulberry Street and so on promised, never
15 completed waited two, three years, still going
16 on, nothing ever gets done, over 60 percent of
17 the residents are single in the City of
18 Scranton, 60 percent. And single people
19 normally do not buy homes. So that's going to
20 hurt also for taxpayer revenue.

21 We have the highest wage tax in the
22 area, 3.4. We have the lowest hourly wage paid
23 in the state, have been for many, many years.

24 We have the lowest per capita income in this
25 state, second highest unemployment rate in the

.

102

1 state, fire fighters, police and clerical
2 employees working without a contract for six
3 years now, 16 years as a distressed city,
4 possibly the worst in the state, \$60,000 in the
5 budget for pavement for the entire city, good
6 job, council.

7 One out of six residents living in

8 poverty, city council members not standing
9 behind their words and vote, not sure on what
10 they vote on most of the time, so why would you
11 not want to buy a house in Scranton? Remember
12 Scranton is a hip 24-hour city. Stores are
13 open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays now. Vote on
14 Tuesday, 6, November, 07, \$300 million plus
15 long term debt and rising, no ambulance service
16 in the city, very dangerous situation.
17 Ambulance drivers can't find the sick or the
18 dieing, no money budgeted for pool repairs.
19 Thank you, city council again, you passed the
20 budget, three of you. I guess you didn't look
21 at that part.
22 And the fees attached to the
23 delinquent or lat taxpayers, sinful,
24 outrageous. The three people who voted for
25 that should never hold elected office again.

.

103

1 Remember 6 November '07.

2 MS. GATELLI: Dan Devereux.

3 MR. DEVEREUX: Good evening, Dan

4 Devereux, resident and homeowner in Scranton,

5 upper nativity section of south side. I have a
6 problem with blight. The area which I live in
7 is all nice big single family homes. All
8 except for one home stands out in my opinion.
9 It's blighted. I believe if any one of -- I am
10 kind of nervous -- if any one of the five of
11 you drove by it, you would agree with me,
12 right. Anyway last fall, I watched the owner
13 of this property put up a two-story addition on
14 the back of his house, the full width of the
15 house two stories high.
16 And I mean, I'm talking no footers.
17 The place is just put together with glue and
18 whatever, right. Anyway, I called licensing
19 and inspections for weeks and weeks and weeks,
20 no answer. I called their boss up for weeks
21 and weeks and weeks, no answer. Maybe you will
22 remember, Judy, finally I called you and you
23 got back to me about a week later, right.
24 I finally got a phone call from -- I
25 think Todd something his name was. I finally
.

104

1 got a phone call from him. He said the owner

2 of the property was going to be cited for all
3 the garbage that was around the house. And
4 what was going to be done with the addition, I
5 really don't know. He didn't get into that
6 with me, right. Anyway, the addition sat all
7 winter long, bare wood exposed to the elements.
8 He stopped working on it. Nothing was done all
9 winter long, right, plywood peeling off the
10 addition. It's coming down. In my opinion
11 it's just become a bigger eye sore than it was
12 before, and now the gentleman is starting work
13 on the addition again. Like I said, the
14 property -- I have nothing against anybody
15 working on their house to better themselves to
16 make it look good.
17 But this property is already
18 blighted in my opinion, and I just can't
19 understand how come there's nothing being done.
20 In my opinion, he should be made to take it
21 down or bring it up to code. It's nowhere near
22 code.
23 MS. GATELLI: He violated the
24 zoning, too, didn't he?
25 MR. DEVEREUX: I don't know.

1 There's nothing being done.

2 MS. GATELLI: Give Neil the address.

3 I will send somebody down.

4 MR. DEVEREUX: That's all I have to

5 say. Me and my wife are thinking of moving out

6 of the -- we like where we're at but, man, it's

7 tough, you know. The blight has to be fought

8 before it happens. I appreciate the houses

9 being knocked down and stuff like that, but

10 something has to be done to stop it when it

11 starts.

12 MS. GATELLI: Absolutely.

13 MR. NEVEROSKI: It's always a

14 pleasure to address council. I'm Robert

15 Neveroski. I live at 304 Prescott Avenue,

16 Scranton, P.A. I am here as the president of

17 the Hill Neighborhood Association. Can I give

18 this to you, Mrs. Gatelli?

19 In you will notice on top there is

20 two staples. It came from the police bulletin

21 board. I'm sorry I don't have more copies, but

22 our copier broke. The Hill Neighborhood

23 Association is running a fund raiser for a drug

24 dog. On this here I passed you, ladies and

25 gentlemen, it has, Hill Neighborhood

.

106

1 Association supports the police K. 9 drug bomb

2 sniffing dog. Dear friend, the Hill

3 Neighborhood Association is running a fund

4 raiser supporting the Scranton Police

5 Department.

6 They wish to purchase a bomb

7 sniffing slash drug dog. All support is

8 appreciated. Remember all contributions may be

9 made tax deductible. No amount would be too

10 small. Make checks payable to the H. N. A.

11 Scranton police K. 9 fund and mailed to the

12 Hill Neighborhood Association, 419 Prescott

13 Avenue. Cash donations may be dropped off the

14 hill office between 9 and 2. I got this letter

15 today from Chief Elliott, an unsigned letter.

16 So I called the chief's office to

17 see it had come from him. It was not signed.

18 They said it came from him. Mr. Neveroski,

19 recently I received a flier to have distributed

20 by the Hill Neighborhood Association. He
21 didn't receive nothing. You will see the
22 staple holes on that -- I took that down to the
23 police department and asked them to put it on
24 the bulletin board so the guys would know that
25 the hill was supporting the police department.

107

1 In the past, we have bought four dogs for the
2 City of Scranton. The last time I was at city
3 council, I donated \$850. We bought Lackawanna
4 County a drug dog, and we gave the fire
5 department a \$1,250 carbon monoxide detector.
6 The Hill Neighborhood Association has always
7 supported the City of Scranton and its
8 employees. So he says, I recently received a
9 flier that has been distributed by the Hill
10 Neighborhood Association regarding donations
11 for a bomb slash drug dog. I am unaware if
12 anyone approached you about soliciting these
13 funds, but it is against our policy to solicit
14 funds.
15 In past, the Hill Neighborhood
16 Association has been very helpful in our

17 efforts to clean up the hill section and has
18 gone out of the way -- out of its way to supply
19 resources to our department. I just want you
20 to understand that we slash Scranton Police
21 Department are not soliciting funds for a K. 9.
22 If the Hill Neighborhood decided to make a
23 donation to our K. 9 fund, we would accept such
24 a donations as we do from other sources in the
25 community. But we cannot solicit funds for
.

108

1 that department.
2 Did that letter in any way mention
3 the Scranton Police Department was soliciting
4 funds? I certainly didn't see it. In
5 addition, the flier states we are looking to
6 purchase a bomb sniffing slash drug dog. This
7 is not correct, period. We are in the
8 beginning stages of looking to add to our K. 9
9 unit, but the type of dog has not been
10 determined. The dog will mostly likely be used
11 in control work and cross trained in bomb
12 sniffing or drug work. Is that a play on
13 words?

14 MS. GATELLI: Bob, your time is up.

15 And I will talk to you tomorrow. I will see if

16 we can --

17 MR. NEVEROSKI: I was going to give

18 the city a thousand dollars today. Do they

19 want it, or should I give it back to the

20 people?

21 MS. GATELLI: Absolutely.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: We will take it.

23 MR. NEVEROSKI: According to this,

24 they don't want it.

25 MS. GATELLI: Leave a copy with

.

109

1 Neil, please.

2 MS. EVANS: Before you go, on a

3 different topic, did you ever get your C. D. B.

4 G. allocations?

5 MR. NEVEROSKI: No.

6 MS. EVANS: Here we are still giving

7 things away and --

8 MR. NEVEROSKI: There's \$60,000

9 floating out here in limbo land that we're not

10 entitled to, but let's see if we are.

11 MS. EVANS: I'd like to see you get
12 your money because I know you've been waiting
13 how many years now?

14 MR. NEVEROSKI: Twelve. I'm a
15 patient guy. But, you know, this here --
16 either they want the money or they don't want
17 the money.

18 MS. EVANS: Maybe the money went
19 into another --

20 MR. NEVEROSKI: I will return it.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Bob.

22 MR. NEVEROSKI: I had a second phase
23 I'm even going to do. For the last dog, we
24 made 35,000 and gave it to the city. So I --
25 you know, you do things and you get beat up in
.

110

1 this town.

2 MS. GATELLI: Dave Dobson.

3 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, council.

4 When you thought you heard enough, here he
5 comes. I wanted to use this time to bring up
6 snow removal. If at all possible -- I think
7 Mr. McGoff is in charge of that -- to possibly

8 look into -- and it could be done -- even
9 coordinate it throughout the valley to have to
10 be with the county authority to give public
11 transit routes preference and get them clearer
12 faster so that people aren't homebound for a
13 week and a half, two weeks or whatever. And
14 like I said, it would definitely have to be
15 verified and coordinated with the county.
16 I think it's a good idea worth
17 considering. And in the future one of the
18 things that has occurred to me is Scranton
19 doesn't have any serious development of
20 industrial parks. Here we have a -- a little
21 cutout from the Times, Covington clamor
22 provokes residents. And what the article
23 entailed -- and there may have been another
24 article on it -- is noise and destruction in a
25 fashionable area of Lackawanna County.

111

1 And it also is causing pollution at
2 Eagle Lake and Big Bass Lake, and we don't have
3 any -- any plans of industrial park development
4 within the city. And I think it would be a

5 good idea some day if we get the message out
6 there and look into it because with Daron maybe
7 they are mislocated and an industrial park
8 would have been the answer for their troubles
9 with their neighbors. Other than -- it's very
10 difficult to contain some of that stuff in a
11 neighborhood. And once again, on the 500 of
12 Lackawanna Avenue, I don't want to point out
13 that anybody is a criminal or extortionist or
14 whatever or make any accusations to that. But
15 to me the sidewalks are public domain. If I
16 went into Mr. Piccolino's business, their sign
17 clearly is stating no smoking, he could ask me
18 to leave.
19 I can smoke all the cigarettes I
20 want until I die of cancer on the curb out in
21 front of his place. So the point being that
22 what I would like to see as a taxpayer and I'm
23 sure the residents of the city might agree,
24 many of them, we don't need to have a project
25 come in lackluster.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

2 Piccolino.

3 MR. McGOFF: I'm sorry. Just wait

4 one second. I just want to respond to one

5 thing. On the snow removal item, that

6 committee did meet again -- just very quickly,

7 we were discussing the possibility of snow

8 emergency routes which would need to be done

9 with the cooperation of PennDOT since many of

10 those roads are state roads and we're -- we

11 also talked about emergency numbers and also

12 dedicate a vehicle for medical assistance and

13 medical emergencies. So it is being discussed.

14 MR. DOBSON: On the bus service --

15 bus service was cancelled. It lost the county

16 money, and a lot of people in my neighborhood

17 were homebound because they didn't -- they

18 didn't have busses going past their house. It

19 would also be a good answer to people coming

20 downtown getting stuck and causing a problem

21 and maybe getting into an accident. They can

22 use the bus one or two days a year even. Thank

23 you.

24 MR. PICCOLINO: Giovanni Piccolino

25 resident. Good evening council and fellow

1 Scrantonians. I had a question. Who do you
2 think that these decline penalties and fees for
3 the taxes affect the most? It's not the youth
4 because the youth are packing up and leaving
5 the city like there's a plague going on here
6 and that plague is our current elected
7 officials. It's not the elderly. With the
8 cost of water, sewer, gas, medication and
9 everything going up, your loyalty to them with
10 these ridiculous penalties and fees, not mention
11 a 25 percent tax increase, followed by another
12 one that's almost guaranteed with a three to
13 two vote as usual.

14 I mean, where does it end? These
15 people are paying taxes, 20, 25 years. That's
16 loyalty to them? It shouldn't be that way at
17 all. You, Mr. McGoff, when you were talking
18 about the pizza shop -- to be included into
19 something, isn't an offer for your real estate.
20 It would be an offer to stay and do something.
21 That's not an inclusion in project. An offer
22 to leave is -- that's not included in a

23 project. I've never been offered to be

24 included at all.

25 Just like -- I really enjoyed that

.

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1 commercial you did with Mayor Doherty walking

2 side by side just. Like you did with the first

3 tax increase, are you going to do it with a

4 second tax increase, too?

5 MS. GATELLI: Dan Hubbard.

6 MR. HUBBARD: Good evening, council,

7 Daniel Hubbard, lower Green Ridge. Mr.

8 Courtright, have we made any progress from the

9 response from zoning?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I have to

11 apologize, Mr. Hubbard. I -- they did tell us

12 in the meeting that you would have answers to

13 each and every one of those questions. We

14 haven't gotten them. I sent two letters out.

15 I don't know what else to do.

16 MR. HUBBARD: I just wanted to ask.

17 I have some questions for council in general.

18 There's three of them. I don't need any

19 response tonight, but I would like a response

20 to these questions.

21 Does Scranton have environmental
22 protection statutes in place? Do you feel as
23 council they are adequate? Do you -- do they
24 measure up to state and federal laws? I don't
25 want a response tonight, but I want a response
.

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1 to those three questions.

2 Now, tonight -- when a business or
3 entity receives funding, does the funding stay
4 with the business or the property? In other
5 words, if you give a business money to renovate
6 a property and they leave, does that funding --
7 in other words, if somebody else comes into the
8 property, is the funding for the property or
9 the business?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Business.

11 MR. HUBBARD: Are you aware that the
12 Scranton Lace building was sold last year? No,
13 okay. Where is the \$500,000 that was given to
14 Lackawanna Junior College to renovate the
15 Scranton Lace building in 2004 because
16 Lackawanna Junior College no longer owns the

17 Scranton Lace building?
18 It was donated to them by the former
19 owners. They couldn't pull the project off
20 after the flood in 2004. Then it was sold to
21 Scranton Lace Partnership, L. L. C. When you
22 told me during the summer that \$500,000 was in
23 play, is it in play with the facility, or is it
24 in play with Lackawanna Junior College because
25 it was given to them to renovate --

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1 specifically renovate the Scranton Lace
2 building.
3 So where is that half a million
4 dollars because they no longer own the
5 building. Based on the newspaper articles that
6 came out last week, there is going to be a
7 green scape project for art studios and
8 artisans and their families for loft
9 apartments, not a recreational field, not a
10 field house and nothing that has to do with
11 Lackawanna Junior College. If that half
12 million is still in play with Lackawanna Junior
13 College, why is it still in play with them?

14 They were given it to renovate to lace works.
15 They no longer own the lace works. Where's the
16 money? Why were they given the money and the
17 money was not taken back, or why was it did not
18 anybody question the sale of that building and
19 where a half a million dollars of city funds is
20 because it was sold in 2006? It was purchased
21 by Scranton Lace Affiliates, L. L. P., so it is
22 no longer owned by Lackawanna Junior College.
23 And Mayor Doherty did give them half a million
24 so they can demolish the old Scranton Lace
25 Works to make way for a new \$9 million project

117

1 including fields and houses.
2 So that building did change hands,
3 and the money either was never given to them
4 and I would like to know if it was or wasn't
5 and if it was why was it not returned.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Okay.

7 MR. HUBBARD: Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Liz

9 Hubbard.

10 MS. HUBBARD: Good evening, council.

11 Liz Hubbard, city resident and taxpayer. I

12 just have a couple questions. Maybe they

13 should be directed at Amil. Is the City of

14 Scranton involved in any litigation -- city

15 council, city itself, zoning with Daron

16 Company?

17 MR. MINORA: The City of Scranton,

18 not that I'm aware of.

19 MR. HUBBARD: Not that you're aware

20 of. Last week when Mr. Hubbard asked some

21 questions regarding the questions that you

22 referred to, Mr. Courtright, that zoning

23 doesn't seem to be answering, Mrs. Gatelli made

24 a comment and so did you that you couldn't

25 answer that because it's in litigation. You're

.

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1 not in litigation with them. What I want to

2 know --

3 MR. MINORA: What I said is they are

4 in litigation. There's neighbors suing Daron.

5 According to the papers there's someone suing

6 Daniel all over the Daron situation. It is --

7 what I suggested to council was that it's

8 improper to take a side in litigation that's
9 going to be decided by a judge or a jury.
10 MR. HUBBARD: No, I don't think by
11 council demanding answers to questions asked by
12 a taxpayer and a citizen has anything to do
13 with the litigation. Those questions were
14 asked weeks ago.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hold her time for a
16 second. Does this litigation prevent the
17 people from answering the questions that I gave
18 to them? And if you don't know the answer --

19 MR. MINORA: I am not sure of the
20 question.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: You weren't here
22 that evening. Your brother was filling in for
23 you. I gave them a list of questions that Mr.
24 Hubbard had been bringing up each week. They
25 told me they would answer each one of those

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1 questions to the best of their ability. Mr.
2 Hubbard gave me the questions. We turned them
3 over. I sent letters. Is there a reason they
4 are not answering? Do you know that --

5 MR. MINORA: Administration?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: It was butler. Mr.

7 Wallace --

8 MR. MINORA: I'm not sure.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. Wallace works for

10 the city. Attorney Butler is a part-time

11 solicitor for the City of Scranton, so you

12 posed questions to the employees of the city

13 Scranton for answers about Daron. Since the

14 city is not involved in litigation with Daron,

15 I can't see any reason why the city can't

16 provide the answers to city council.

17 MR. MINORA: I suspect that Attorney

18 butler is giving them the same advice I'm

19 giving you.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Would you ask

21 Attorney Butler why he wouldn't answer my

22 questions -- we will have an answer at least.

23 MR. HUBBARD: My question is these

24 questions that Daniel presented had to do with

25 zoning issues, environmental buffer zones,

.

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1 things like that. What does the fact that

2 Daron is suing Daniel have to do with them not

3 answering the questions? That's all I want to

4 know.

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

6 don't know the answer to that.

7 MS. HUBBARD: Is the city in cahoots

8 with Daron?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I hope not. Mr.

10 Minora will ask Mr. Butler why they are not

11 answering the questions I posed to them.

12 Hopefully we will have an answer in a week to

13 why they are not answering questions. They did

14 -- there's no two ways about it. They told me

15 they would answer the questions.

16 MR. HUBBARD: If they were presented

17 in writing, they would answer.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Everything was done

19 properly.

20 MR. HUBBARD: Still no answer.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: We have no answers.

22 MR. HUBBARD: Okay. Thank you.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Ron

24 Ellman.

25 MR. ELLMAN: I'll try to get it

1 right this time. Mr. McGoff, I got a quick
2 question. Do you intend to keep this three
3 minutes during your tenure?

4 MR. MCGOFF: For the time being, I
5 guess this is what we're doing, yes.

6 MR. ELLMAN: I think -- I will
7 publically say you just lost my vote this
8 coming election, you know, on that issue. In
9 -- I come to many of these meetings. I just
10 sit out here instead of participating, and I
11 didn't -- I wasn't going to write tonight. I
12 just wrote a few notes after I got here. I
13 went three times last week to the I. C. U., and
14 I saw the poor soul that lives across the
15 street from the plant on Dickson Street laying
16 with all these tubes in her.

17 This is illegal an plant. All five
18 of you should -- are responsible. You didn't
19 vote -- you didn't bring it to -- have a motion
20 to bring it to a -- to a court system or
21 anything. They are not even paying taxes.
22 They got two K. O. Z.s. All they do is spew a

23 bunch of filth in the air over the whole city,
24 and I was told jokingly that it's not all bad.
25 I don't know how many of you all ever went to
.

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1 Hills when it was opened, but there used to be
2 thousands of seagulls -- used to go in the
3 parking lot in front. They left because when
4 plant opened, it has the filth in the air. So
5 it's not all bad, like I said. You know, every
6 morning you look at the paper.

7 What does somebody like me have to
8 look forward in the city? My taxes are
9 outrageous. The insurance on my house is just
10 crippled. I read about all this -- the people
11 on the school board, every last one of them
12 took bribes. They are cooks.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can't let you say
14 that. Mr. Ellman, I will not let you say that,
15 no.

16 MR. ELLMAN: I've already said it.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: It is
18 inappropriate.

19 MR. ELLMAN: No.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: It is.

21 MR. ELLMAN: They took a bribe.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: It is

23 inappropriate. I will not let you to say that.

24 MR. ELLMAN: They took our money and

25 squandered it.

.

123

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's your

2 opinion. That's your opinion. You cannot --

3 MR. ELLMAN: That's my opinion is

4 right.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have no proof.

6 MR. ELLMAN: It's the opinion of

7 thousands of people in this city also.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: They are entitled

9 today do. I will not allow you to say that.

10 MR. ELLMAN: It is said. Nothing

11 could be done about it. Something ought to be

12 done about them though. And before I leave,

13 Mr. Minora, in May you said that you were going

14 to have an opinion on the sewer rates, and

15 we've talked about it. You never gave it I

16 don't believe.

17 MR. MINORA: You have to refresh my
18 recollection. I'm not sure from the spring
19 what you're talking about.

20 MR. ELLMAN: Back in May when the
21 sewer authority was raising their rates and
22 all, you said you were going to give an opinion
23 on it. That silence is your answer?

24 MR. MINORA: That silence is your
25 time is up.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Next speaker, please.

2 MR. PATILLA: Hello, Ms. Evans.

3 There were three things in Scranton that
4 nauseated me, child molesters, sellouts and
5 beets. I will add a fourth to that list, the
6 excuses that this council gives for pushing
7 these agenda items, all right. I hope that
8 every senior citizen, every person of color,
9 every homeowner, every taxpayer remembers this
10 these agenda items, the delinquent taxes the
11 increases, come November 'cause a vote for
12 Doherty or vote for anybody Doherty supports is
13 a vote against the people of Scranton. We need

14 that chair.

15 I have two questions, Ms. Evans.

16 First, has Daron Northeast ever been cited by

17 the Commonwealth or the federal government for

18 any code violation of your knowledge?

19 MS. EVANS: They have been cited by

20 D. E. P.

21 MR. PATILLA: Has the City of

22 Scranton cited?

23 MS. EVANS: That I'm not sure of.

24 MR. PATILLA: That I would like to

25 have an answer. I can't understand how federal

.

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1 government can cite them and the city just

2 turns their other eye. That's exactly what

3 they he did. They turned their head and looked

4 the other way. You know, we have people that

5 have serious health issues. We have people who

6 can't keep their homes. We have people that

7 need emergency help, but yet and still you

8 never see those items on any of the agenda

9 items. You never see any relief as listed in

10 any of these agenda items. All you see is the

11 city giving our money away to L. L. C.s or
12 other limited liability corporations, who once
13 they bail, the owners aren't held responsible
14 for. We are put on the hook again along with
15 the sewer authority, parking authority, along
16 with the housing authority, all right. I want
17 every senior citizen -- I want every person of
18 color come November get -- make sure you
19 register to vote if it's not too late. Come
20 November you make sure you don't vote for him
21 or anybody else Christopher Doherty supports
22 because it's time for a change in this city,
23 it's time for somebody to start looking out for
24 the taxpayers, for the senior citizens, for the
25 children and for the people who live and pay
.

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1 the taxes in this city.
2 We're tired of being pressed on.
3 We're tired of being kicked on. We're tired of
4 having your head turned the opposite way. We
5 know if you're not trying to attract businesses
6 here because if you're attracting businesses,
7 you attract people like me and we're not

8 standing for it. You're not taking our money
9 from us anymore. You're not going to do what
10 you want to do. If you have your little -- I
11 don't want call them flunkies -- but that's
12 what they are -- want you -- allow to you do
13 what you want to do, be our guest. You can do
14 it. We'll give you space at the bridge that
15 goes nowhere, and you can do whatever you want
16 to do in it. We are taking our city back, and
17 you won't be sitting there in November.

18 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

19 MR. MILLER: Doug Miller, president
20 of junior city council. On Wednesday,
21 September 12th, the Scranton Junior City
22 Council held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Nay
23 Aug Park for the completion of our children's
24 handicapped accessible swing set project.
25 On behalf of the junior council, I

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1 would like to thank the following for
2 attending: Mrs. Gatelli, Mrs. Fanucci, Mr.
3 McGoff, Mr. Dougher, Mrs. Uchinsky, Mr. Keith
4 Williams, Mr. George Dunbar. We'd also like to

5 thank Mr. and Mrs. Ungvarsky for attending. We
6 appreciate the support from the residents of
7 Scranton.

8 I once again like to thank Mr.
9 George Dunbar for donating his time to install
10 our swing set. We appreciate his support and
11 his assistance. For the 2007, 2008 school
12 year, the Scranton junior city council has five
13 seats available for any interested high school
14 students.

15 Applications are available at West
16 Scranton High School and Scranton High School.
17 Students are required to answer an essay
18 question and receive a written recommendation
19 from a teacher.

20 All applications are due Monday,
21 September 24th, and we encourage all students
22 to fill out an application. Tonight I am
23 pleased to announce on behalf of junior council
24 we can now be viewed on the city's web site,
25 Scrantonpa.gov. We can be found on city

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1 council's web page. On behalf of junior

2 council, I'd like to thank the information
3 technology department for working with us to
4 create our web page. Residents can check our
5 page for any announcements of projects in the
6 city.

7 We are very happy to be part of the
8 city's web site. Tonight I am going to address
9 an issue that deals with the health and safety
10 of our citizens. I will give reasons why
11 Pennsylvania needs to pass a comprehensive
12 statewide smoking ban.

13 A comprehensive smoking ban will
14 ensure that employees all across the
15 Commonwealth are given a safe and healthy
16 working environment. This bill will include
17 restaurants. Those against the ban always say
18 if you don't like to smoke, go to another
19 restaurant. This is where our opponents are
20 misinformed.

21 This ban is not designed for
22 customers. It is designed to protect employees
23 from second-hand smoke. Last year Scranton
24 City Council overwhelmingly voted in favor of a
25 smoking ban for the city. This was proposed by

1 the students at West Scranton High School, and
2 again I commend them for stepping up. After
3 our ban took effect, smokers complained it
4 wasn't fair. And eventually we had to rescind
5 our ban so we can put pressure on the state and
6 force them to enact a statewide ban.

7 Tonight I urge city council and
8 citizens to contact Senator Bob Mellow's office
9 and encourage him to support a comprehensive
10 statewide smoking ban. Senator Mellow's e-mail
11 address is mellow@pasenate.com, and his office
12 number is 570-346-5721. Again, that's
13 570-346-5721. Now is the time for Senator
14 Mellow to step up and support a bill that will
15 ban smoking in most public places across our
16 state.

17 Lastly I will share to you proof
18 that such is a ban supported by citizens all
19 across the Commonwealth. In the Scranton Times
20 last week, this ad was in the paper, and it
21 shows here that 84 percent of Pennsylvanians
22 support a statewide ban. It's also supported

23 by the Pennsylvania Restaurants Association,
24 and it says here, what is Pennsylvania waiting
25 for. And that is the question. The time is

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1 now for the state to step up and enact a ban to
2 protect the health and safety of residents all
3 across the Commonwealth. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Shumaker --

5 MS. SHUMAKER: I'm sorry.

6 MS. GATELLI: I let her people go
7 beyond this evening. People were engaged with
8 other council members and spoke for seven or
9 eight minutes.

10 MS. SHUMAKER: I wasn't here to

11 witness that, but the policy --

12 MS. GATELLI: Well, they were. When
13 council members ask questions, then it causes
14 that person to be there longer. Come up, Mrs.
15 Shumaker.

16 MS. SHUMAKER: Mr. Davis is before

17 me.

18 MR. DAVIS: Salaam aleikam. I hope
19 God watches over me tonight because I really --

20 this is a tough crowd. I have at least three
21 people that I dislike very much within this
22 audience and dislike them for, like, 20 years,
23 one of which is Ms. Gatelli, the other of which
24 is Mr. Neveroski, the other which is Mr. --
25 well, it doesn't matter. Because you kids up

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1 there that are watching, this is a tough crowd.
2 Don't come here looking for an
3 ambiance any other way than you have to get
4 your message out, be curt, be successful and go
5 on with your business. I came here before, and
6 I tried to -- my anger got a hold of me, and I
7 couldn't read. I really couldn't read. This
8 doesn't happen too often. Ms. Gatelli knows
9 exactly what I'm talking about because our
10 experience has long lasted -- it will last for
11 a long while, too. But at any rate, this
12 election is so important for you.
13 You people up there in the audience,
14 this is so important that you get out and you
15 register to vote and you vote because this is
16 the only real freedom that you have. All the

17 guys that have gone in the service and
18 relatives died in the service, all those votes
19 that we lost, we need them. We need you to
20 stand up, the young people. We need you as
21 older people to come forth and go ahead and
22 vote. Vote for the person that you desire to
23 have in the position of control because this is
24 what that -- this is -- this city council is
25 controlling what goes on in this city by way of
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1 the mayor.
2 The mayor sends this thing here.
3 They work on it. They add their ideas to it if
4 there are ideas. If they don't have any idea,
5 they just go with what. The thing is you have
6 a voice, but you have to exercise that voice.
7 That's the real meaning of democracy when you
8 can exercise your voice and this -- this
9 palace, this is a beautiful place of freedom
10 and justice. Then you're going to do
11 something. Other than that it doesn't work.
12 You'll just be another animal or another slave
13 being led through the -- believe me. I wish --

14 I wish I can say more to help you.

15 I wish -- hope God blesses you. Go

16 out there and vote. Vote for the person you

17 like the most but not for a party.

18 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Shumaker.

19 MS. SHUMAKER: I'm still Marie

20 Shumaker and still a member of the tax Scranton

21 and Lackawanna County taxpayers. I have a

22 number of questions. First, I would like to

23 know if any of the materials requested -- the

24 administration, invoices and things have been

25 received to date. Second, I would like to know

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1 what happens to ordinances that are submitted

2 for consideration.

3 The way I read the -- I don't know

4 if it was the home rule charter or

5 administrative code, but something said

6 citizens can bring forth ordinances for

7 consideration, and I would assume because of

8 sunshine laws consideration would be in this

9 forum. However, last year I brought forth two

10 separate ordinances for pool maintenance,

11 requiring pool maintenance, and I never saw
12 anything last week. I brought one forth for
13 sidewalks being required when a new home is
14 being built.

15 That was not tonight's agenda. I
16 would like to know if that will fall into the
17 same black hole as the ones on the pool
18 maintenance. I certainly hope not I might add.
19 I want to know if we have a city engineer. I
20 have placed many calls. I have left messages.
21 I have not received a single phone call back.
22 And I wonder -- one project that I think is
23 particularly important has been ongoing is the
24 streetlights synchronization. When I first
25 started, I called the department of
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1 transportation and I was told that was put out
2 to bid in -- I believe it was November -- but
3 it was definitely '06. '06 went by. We went
4 into '07. It was going to be early '07, and I
5 called. Well, no, the contract still -- and it
6 was going to be late. The contract was going
7 to be late -- late '07. Well, it's currently

8 now '08, October of '08 before this thing is
9 even put out to bid.
10 Now, one of the problems according
11 to personnel at PennDOT is that the -- the
12 consultant who -- a company down in Allentown
13 -- are making changes, and I would think that
14 is definitely being impacted by the fact we
15 don't seem to have a city engineer. I have
16 other questions. And as I say, I don't get any
17 answers when I leave messages for the city at
18 the city engineer's telephone number. That's
19 not unique there I might add. I thought we
20 hired -- I thought the mayor hired a person to
21 answer phones so you didn't have this problem
22 when you called the department of public works.
23 Well, guess what? You still have the problem.
24 I counted up to 26 rings before I gave up. May
25 I continue for a few more?

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1 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

2 MS. SHUMAKER: So I would like to
3 know what happened to that person and if some
4 kind of hours can be set up. I had called

5 several days in for zoning. I have not had a
6 call back -- if there could be hours for these
7 people that have to be on the road because of
8 their job duties, if you can reach them between
9 8 and 8:30 in the morning or the last half hour
10 of the day, something that would be reasonable.

11 But certainly --

12 MS. GATELLI: There is a zoning
13 secretary, and she's usually always answers the
14 phone, Angela Nole.

15 MS. SHUMAKER: I put it into his box
16 because he -- because he needs to answer my
17 question. She can't answer the question. It's
18 a technical question. So that goes by the
19 wayside. And then I would like to comment --
20 we talked about why people don't want to be in
21 this city.

22 And again, using O. E. C. D. money
23 for streetlights and sidewalks, I question why
24 we're doing sidewalks and streets in the 500 of
25 Lackawanna Avenue before you start with --

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1 facades to me only get damaged, but that's only

2 my logical brain thinking.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

4 MS. SHUMAKER: I think the people

5 who have been paying taxes for 40 years on both

6 ends should be included in that city

7 development. Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Pat Rogan, west Scranton

10 resident. As Americans we are the most

11 prosperous country in the world, but in the

12 City of Scranton many seniors are losing their

13 homes because of increased property taxes. In

14 the past few months I have talked to many

15 widows and widowers who fear losing their homes

16 that they raised their families in and they

17 worked hard for years. These seniors provided

18 for their families and paid their taxes for

19 decades. Many of them served their country in

20 foreign wars.

21 Imagine being on a fixed income with

22 no means to bring in more money and having your

23 taxes go up 25 percent. Most seniors are

24 struggling just to pay for prescription drugs

25 and heating bills. They must pay an extra 25

1 percent just to stay in their homes? No senior
2 should be faced with the decision whether to
3 buy life saving prescription drugs or to pay
4 the taxes that allow them to stay in their
5 homes.

6 I know the city can not do much to
7 help with the cost of prescription drugs. We
8 can provide tax relief for all of Scranton
9 residents including seniors. The city of
10 Scranton currently spends far too much money on
11 lawyers and consultants which do very little to
12 improve the lives of Scranton's residents. As
13 a younger Scrantonian, it's heartbreaking for
14 me to see senior citizens such a tough
15 situation. Many of these seniors I am speaking
16 of are neighbors and relatives of mine.

17 The time too make things right is
18 now. It is not too late to change course. All
19 the spending in the City of Scranton must come
20 to an end, and property taxes must be reduced.
21 Once this is accomplished, Scranton can truly
22 begin to recover from the mistakes of the past.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. GATELLI: He has his pom-poms

25 tonight. Look out.

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1 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Forgot them, Jude.

2 Jude, what can you do? This week -- I want

3 them bad. I am going to beat them so bad. I

4 can feel in my bones right now. I want to beat

5 them so bad. I want to kill this team so bad.

6 I really do. Honest I really do. You know

7 something, Billy, west is best, Billy. I said

8 it tonight. West is best, buddy. Stick to

9 West Scranton.

10 MS. GATELLI: I will make a motion

11 to adjourn.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

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4 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

5 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

6 notes taken by me on the public hearings and council

7 meeting of the above cause and that this copy is a

8 correct transcript of the same to the best of my

9 ability.

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Laura Boyanowski, RPR
13 Official Court Reporter

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