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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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4

5 HELD:

6

7 Tuesday, October 9, 2007

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9 LOCATION:

10 Council Chambers

11 Scranton City Hall

12 340 North Washington Avenue

13 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI- COURT REPORTER  
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2 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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4 MS. JUDY GATELLI, PRESIDENT  
(Not Present.)

5

MS. JANET E. EVANS

6

7 MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

8

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF

9

10 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

11

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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13 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of  
2 reflection observed.)

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Roll call.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MRS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: No business Third

14 Order?

15 MS. GARVEY: No business in Third

16 Order.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Fourth Order,  
18 citizens participation on the agenda items  
19 and the first one I have is Mr. Sbaraglia.  
20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
21 citizen of Scranton, Fellow Scrantonians,  
22 member of the taxpayers' group. I want to  
23 say something on 5-C, that's some stream  
24 work apparently that is going to be done up  
25 there, I guess off of Newton Road somewhere.

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4

1 Did you see any really backup on it saying  
2 if we are responsible for any of the costs  
3 of the upstream stream work or this is going  
4 to be done by the Department of Agriculture  
5 through a grant?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Sbaraglia, you  
7 want me to wait until you are done?

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: Go ahead. Go ahead.  
9 There isn't much to talk on so go ahead.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: This particular one  
11 here is one I visited and the finances of it  
12 I'm not 100 percent sure, I visited this a  
13 couple of times with Mary Alice Burke. What

14 had happened there was this creek during our  
15 last big storm we had last year eroded away  
16 an embankment to the point where this  
17 gentleman couldn't get to his house. He  
18 actually had a ladder in the creek that he  
19 would go up the ladder and into his house,  
20 so that's what is entailed.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, no. I understand  
22 why it has to be done, I'm just asking are  
23 we going to pay it for any of the costs?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe that the  
25 funding is coming from the state and  
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1 possibly the federal government, I'm not  
2 100 percent sure.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's a full grant?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's my belief,  
5 but I'm not 100 percent sure. I'll check it  
6 out.

7 MR. SBARGALIA: Well, it's a good  
8 idea. You held up that piece of legislation  
9 last week we you were taking that money from  
10 flood control from a bank restoration and

11 giving it to some kind of a job somewhere  
12 along the line. Well, okay. Let me go on,  
13 like I say, two minutes goes pretty fast in  
14 this courtroom.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Courtroom?

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: 7-C. I didn't get  
17 quite all of the figures on the renting of  
18 the Packmasters. You did quote some  
19 figures, Mr. McGoff, but I didn't get them  
20 all. Do you remember exactly what they were  
21 or was that a yearly cost or a one-year cost  
22 or three-year cost?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. McGoff had  
24 those.

25 MR. MCGOFF: It was a purchase lease  
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6

1 and it was an annual payment, and I'm going  
2 to say approximately 80,000. I don't have  
3 it with me today and it was a five-year,  
4 five payments, so basically what it came  
5 down to was 80,000 per vehicle over a  
6 five-year period.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, that was the

8 total cost. That's reasonable for a

9 Packmaster.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Ozzie

11 Quinn.

12 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'

13 Association president. I want to speak on

14 7-B about the conveying of 3.7 acres of land

15 to the Scranton School District. To me

16 that's a de facto increasing of taxes by the

17 council because of the fact that they are

18 going to build a \$20 million school down

19 there for a \$60 million bond issue and you

20 know that that's going to increase our taxes

21 and with the city Doherty is going to come

22 up with a 25 percent increase in taxes for

23 next year's budget and you by de facto

24 conveying this land over to the school

25 district are increasing our taxes and there

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7

1 is no doubt about it. And I don't go to the

2 school board I go to you because you are

3 conveying the taxes.

4 Also, I want to discuss the fact

5 that you have seven pieces of land for sale  
6 tonight and this is a probably the last that  
7 you will be reading the vacant land, okay?  
8 Under the new ordinance that you passed for  
9 the sale of properties that are foreclosing  
10 on properties because of delinquent taxes  
11 they won't come before the city council as  
12 you know. The SRA board will draw all  
13 ordinances regarding that, okay? So, they  
14 will be selling tax delinquent property and  
15 us people, our people here will not have any  
16 say before the city council about somebody  
17 having their house sold out from underneath  
18 them, so I don't think that's fair and,  
19 again, I think it's circumventing the Home  
20 Rule Charter as our lawyer pointed out about  
21 504 of the Home Rule Charter, by the fact  
22 that we still didn't get a written opinion  
23 from Attorney Minora on that. Do we have an  
24 opinion on that, Attorney Minora in regards  
25 to us filing that suit or are you going try

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8

1 to negotiate that with our attorney?



2 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry?

3 MR. QUINN: For the Sewer Authority

4 circumventing the Home Rule Charter?

5 MR. MINORA: I did not file any

6 motions.

7 MR. QUINN: I can't hear you.

8 MR. MINORA: Are you asking me if I

9 filed a lawsuit?

10 MR. QUINN: No, our attorney sent you

11 a letter and sent Mayor Doherty a letter

12 about us filing a Writ of Mandamus, okay, in

13 regards to the council violating the Home

14 Rule Charter because the Home Rule Charter

15 states that they must pass an ordinance when

16 a public utility is increased, and by not

17 having the --

18 MR. MINORA: The Sewer Authority is

19 not a public utility.

20 MR. QUINN: The who?

21 MR. MINORA: The Sewer Authority is

22 not a public utility.

23 MR. QUINN: That's your opinion.

24 MR. MINORA: No, that's fact. It's

25 a municipal body.

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9

1 MR. QUINN: Are you going to answer--

2 MR. MINORA: It's a municipal body.

3 I saw the letter. You want an answer or

4 not?

5 MR. QUINN: Are you going to give a

6 reply to our lawyer?

7 MR. MINORA: My answer is this --

8 MR. QUINN: Reply to our lawyer, will

9 you, give our courtesy. He didn't look at

10 the clock and when he rang that.

11 MR. MINORA: Three minutes.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Lori Grudzinski, I'm

13 sorry.

14 MS. GRUDZINSKI: Hello, I'm Lori

15 Grudzinski, a voter and a life-long resident

16 of Scranton. I'm here this evening to speak

17 to you on behalf of the sale of a property

18 at Cedar and East Locust Street.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Lori, could I

20 interrupt? Just hold her time. We

21 discussed this in caucus and we are going to

22 table that piece of legislation due to the

23 fact that you had sent us all of this  
24 information that we weren't aware of so the  
25 attorney is going to take a look at it so

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10

1 when it comes up it will be tabled this  
2 week. You can continue to speak, I just  
3 wanted to let you to know that.

4 MS. GRUDZINSKI: Thank you. The  
5 parcel belongs to my husband, myself and our  
6 a children. The parcel of land previously  
7 owned by my father, Joe Scott, has been an  
8 interest of the city for many, many years.

9 My father tried to develop it several times  
10 to have one of the neighbors in particular  
11 nag the city into revoking every license he  
12 obtained of what he wanted to open there.

13 Granted, my dad had a lot of issues  
14 with the city, but he loved the city and he  
15 was trying to restore the pride. He wanted  
16 to get things going all the time. Weeks  
17 before his death he completed the building  
18 at the 300 block of Cecar Avenue which is  
19 now the sight of a beautiful artist's studio

20 in that section of downtown or our downtown.

21 However, my dad lost the property in

22 question at the Lackawanna County tax sale

23 in 1998. It was sold to a woman for \$64,000

24 at the sale who then should have assumed all

25 the prior liens including the taxes. This

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11

1 woman acquired downtown about developing the

2 land and when she started to run through the

3 same barricades as my dad. She sold it back

4 to me a year later in '99. I had no control

5 of this property, however, as long as my dad

6 was alive it was mine in name only.

7 March of this Katherine Ruane, who

8 was the city treasurer at the time, called

9 me from her office and wanted to know when I

10 would catch up the taxes on Cedar and Locust

11 from 1972 on. Well, I was nine years old in

12 1972, I didn't think I was responsible for

13 those taxes. She said that as far as the

14 city knew the property was always my dad's.

15 Where did the \$64,000 go from the tax sale

16 and why doesn't the city know who owns what

17 when the purchaser had a deed in her name  
18 and then transferred it back over to me at  
19 our transaction. There should be a record  
20 of this transaction somewhere you would  
21 think. She said she would look into it and  
22 get back to me with an exact figure on what  
23 I would owe, but it never happened. I then,  
24 of course, wanted to get it straightened out  
25 so I met with Mayor Chris Doherty and he  
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12

1 said I would need to pay the last seven  
2 years taxes, which is the same for all  
3 residents in the city, and that I would have  
4 no problem developing the land.  
5 I then met with a consultant at NCC,  
6 made a down payment, set up a payment  
7 agreement which I have been keeping up to  
8 date. Coincidentally, around the same time  
9 I spoke to city authorities and starting  
10 paying the taxes someone all of a sudden  
11 realized from over the hundreds of thousands  
12 in of properties that my city taxes were  
13 behind in that property and set forth to

14 steal the property from me and my family.

15 No one told me I had to pay the taxes

16 in full or lose the land. I received no

17 phone calls, no letters, there are no

18 notices at my house or the property in

19 question. Why is that? I know there are

20 people here thinking, "Just pay your taxes

21 like everyone else."

22 To date this year I have paid

23 \$12,585 in taxes on Cedar and Locust this

24 year alone and if I have to get a loan for

25 the balance then I will. What I am telling

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13

1 you today is a mystical slice of scandalous

2 events surrounding this property. My

3 husband and I were born and raised in

4 Scranton as were our parents and now our

5 children. Recently, we were looking to

6 build a new home and where do we choose to

7 build, Scranton. We could have went to all

8 of the new developments in the outer cities

9 and everything, but we love it here. I work

10 a full-time job and I'm running two homes

11 now why we are building and caring for five  
12 children, so I guess someone was hoping I  
13 didn't have time to see the council  
14 meetings. This all just became --I just  
15 became of all of this information this  
16 Saturday when I had an auction at the  
17 building. There was a building on the  
18 property and I auctioned off all the  
19 contents which was loaded to the ceiling, my  
20 dad had kept many things there, and that was  
21 my first step to auction everything off to  
22 obtain more money for taxes and get the  
23 property moving. I'm one person trying to  
24 dig out a pile of properties my father left  
25 by passing.

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14

1 I just want to start to rejuvenate  
2 the properties as long as I have bearings on  
3 the city's behalf and if I can't rejuvenate  
4 it I'll just sell the parcel. I'm asking  
5 tonight out of my love for the city to  
6 please consider this matter until it's fully  
7 researched. Thank you for your time.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. We are going  
9 to have our attorney look into it and we'll  
10 notify you what we found out. Bill  
11 Jackowitz.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South  
13 Scranton resident. I want to speak on 7-B,  
14 this 3.7 acres of land for the school board  
15 and the building of the new elementary  
16 school. I just want tonight is the last  
17 reading on it, tonight is the final vote, I  
18 just want to all four of you to take into  
19 consideration do the taxpayers of Scranton  
20 really need more taxes? Do we really need a  
21 new school? You know, new school buildings  
22 do not educate children, teachers educate  
23 children. I mean, most of our forefathers  
24 and so on and so forth were educated in  
25 one-room buildings. We don't need these new

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15

1 elaborate 80 million, 120 million dollar  
2 schools that are going to be built  
3 especially when they are being built off the  
4 taxpayers of the City of Scranton. We are



5 getting killed by the county, we are getting  
6 killed by the school board, we are getting  
7 killed by the city.  
8 One out of ten people in Scranton  
9 and Lackawanna County do not have health  
10 insurance, so, please, take that into  
11 consideration. Also, home heating oil will  
12 be going up 22 percent this winter, so take  
13 all of this into consideration because I  
14 really don't think we need a new school  
15 building. A new school building will not  
16 educate the people. Would it be nice? Yes.  
17 Would it make the city look better?  
18 Probably, yes, but do we really need it off  
19 the backs of the taxpayers? The taxpayers  
20 are really hurting. Take this into  
21 consideration when you make your final vote.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Jim  
23 Floryshak.

24 MR. FLORYSHAK: Good evening. My  
25 name is Jim Floryshak, I'm from 109 Emily

16

1 Avenue, Scranton, I'm here to speak on 7-B,

2 also. To the best of my knowledge this  
3 property abuts my property, I should my wife  
4 and my property. I wasn't aware that it was  
5 on the agenda earlier or two previous times,  
6 I apologize, I would have been here then.  
7 I'm not against the new school, I think the  
8 school is a good neighbor. I'm not a not in  
9 my back yard person, but I do have some  
10 issues with the overall plan of the school,  
11 I'll take those up with the school board,  
12 but two things I would like to mention to  
13 the council here.  
14 Number one, as I said, it's right  
15 along the border of my property and I have  
16 some pictures and a map here that I could  
17 show you. I'm not sure the school district  
18 needs all of that property for what amounts  
19 to an emergency access road from the new  
20 school building on down to the Bulworth  
21 Street. I would welcome the opportunity, my  
22 wife and I would welcome the opportunity to  
23 purchase 50, 75, 100 feet of that land to  
24 have a buffer zone between the school  
25 district property and our property and, of

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17

1 course, if we were able to purchase that  
2 that would be tax producing property and it  
3 would act as buffer zone, and to be quite  
4 honest with you from seeing the plan of the  
5 school, I would think that the school could  
6 still do their emergency access road and  
7 would have absolutely no bearing on the  
8 overall scheme of things.

9 Secondly, if that isn't possible,  
10 and I'm sure hope it is, I would like to  
11 know is there any way that some restrictions  
12 could be placed on that land or at least the  
13 trees could stay. I brought a couple of  
14 pictures, there is some beautiful oak trees  
15 back there that obviously have been around a  
16 lot longer than I have, and I would hate to  
17 see the school district get this land and  
18 all of a sudden just clear everything  
19 entirely away, we would have no buffer zone,  
20 we would have no trees, we would have no  
21 green space, so I ask you, I apologize once  
22 again that I'm coming on the third reading,

23 but I'm ask you to really reconsider this is

24 there anyway I could purchase a piece of

25 that land that would be tax producing

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18

1 property that would allow for a buffer zone,

2 the trees would be remain, and I think that

3 would be a great thing.

4 I hate to speak for my neighbor, but

5 I do have a neighbor next to me who also

6 said they would be interested in purchasing

7 a small piece of that land also so they

8 would have a buffer zone.

9 I realize once again I'm here a

10 little late, but please take it under

11 consideration. I have a couple of pictures

12 here, I have a map here's if you would like

13 to see them I'll be glad to bring them up.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure.

15 MR. FLORYSHAK: Thank you for your

16 time.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: You can give them to

18 Neil. Do you need them back?

19 MR. FLORYSHAK: No.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: David Dobson.

21 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council.

22 Dave Dobson, resident of Scranton, member of

23 the Taxpayers' Association. I'd like to

24 speak on 6-A. You know, I have some

25 concerns here that this doesn't -- it

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19

1 doesn't spell out what fines and so forth

2 would be and --

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Dave, if you would

4 like I can explain that to you if you would

5 like. You want me wait until you are done

6 speaking so I don't lose your time.

7 MR. DOBSON: Well, it's just a

8 second and then I'll be done and if we are

9 so concerned about particulars in beauty and

10 health and so forth I have noticed that

11 there is an ungodly amount of people that

12 don't have a 32-gallon garbage can and

13 that's what's attracting the skunks. I have

14 a little fellow that comes by every night

15 now and if I walk through a Court I see

16 garbage bags just tossed on the ground and

17 they are left there and my suggestion would  
18 be to have the people picking up the  
19 garbage, not delivering the garbage, maybe  
20 to start writing these people up that they  
21 could be sent a letter and please get some  
22 trash cans before we have a problem because  
23 scavengers bring a case and we get a case in  
24 town and somebody is a liable to get in more  
25 trouble than what's it's worth. Thank you.

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20

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Dave, your question  
2 was on 6-A; correct?

3 MR. DOBSON: Yeah.

4 MR COURTRIGHT: Yeah. Because I  
5 thought possibly I might have misunderstood  
6 it so I checked into it further, 6-A was  
7 requested by Lieutenant Mackie through  
8 Captain Graziano and then to the law offices  
9 of the City of Scranton. I think I might  
10 have said this last week, what happened is  
11 they ticket a vehicle and you have "X"  
12 amount of days to move that vehicle. What  
13 people are doing is taking that vehicle and

14 move it from the location that it was  
15 ticketed to another street and now they are  
16 reticketing vehicles and I believe  
17 Lieutenant Mackie and his department ticked  
18 to the tune of \$60,000 this year, I think  
19 that's the fee but, anyway, that's what it's  
20 for. It's amending an already existing  
21 piece of legislation for that and there was  
22 another section in there about the fees. It  
23 was requested by I think two of the police  
24 department and by some magistrates that  
25 were -- weren't quite happy with the way the  
·  
21

1 fees were, so that's basically what it's  
2 for.

3 MR. DOBSON: One of my concerns is  
4 how much is it.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: What's what?

6 MR. DOBSON: How much would it be  
7 increased to?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: We had the prices,  
9 the prices were there last week, I don't  
10 have them with me this week. I can get it

11 for you if you would like.

12 MR. DOBSON: That's not a final

13 reading anyway, right?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: No, we are only in

15 Six Order, so I'll try to have those for you

16 next week.

17 MR. DOBSON: It would be nice to

18 know.

19 MS. GARVEY: We have them.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, they're going to

21 be here this week?

22 MS. GARVEY: They are in there.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: If you to want to

24 stop by our office I'll get you a copy of

25 the fees and Kay or Neil will give them to

.

22

1 you.

2 MR. DOBSON: It's just a concern and

3 it seems like they are putting the cart

4 before the horse sometimes with bags of

5 garbage laying on the ground and torn apart

6 by skunks and dogs if they got loose or

7 whatever.



8 MR. COURTRIGHT: This is to deal

9 with vehicles.

10 MR. DOBSON: Yea, but it has --

11 according to the way it sounds, it sounds

12 like something to do with some of these --

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's just the

14 ordinance that it's amending.

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. Dobson, I have last

16 week's backup with me, and I can tell you it

17 reads, "Any person violating Subsection A is

18 guilty of a summary offense and shall upon

19 conviction be sentenced to pay a fine of not

20 less than \$100 for the first offense, \$200

21 for a second offense, \$300 for the third

22 offense, \$400 for the fourth offense, and

23 \$500 for each offense thereafter.

24 MR. DOBSON: Right. Right. And if

25 somebody contacts you about this are you

.

23

1 fined right up front?

2 MS. EVANS: Can you state that again?

3 MR. DOBSON: In other words, if

4 someone were to be notified that this car

5 was unacceptable where it's parked --

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: They have a certain

7 amount of time.

8 MR. DOBSON: They have a certain

9 amount of time?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, it's 30 days.

11 They have a long time, if you do it five

12 times you deserve to pay that money in my

13 opinion.

14 MR. DOBSON: Could be right, yes.

15 Then you are being stubborn.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Wanda

17 Rickard.

18 MS. RICKARD: My name is Wanda

19 Rickard and I live at Tripp's Park, 105

20 Emily Avenue and basically I'm going to

21 reiterate some of the things that my

22 neighbor said, Jim Floryshak. I'm here to

23 talk about the transfer of city-owned land,

24 of course, for the new school. I'm not

25 against the new school, so I do want to

.

24

1 state that, but I have been trying to

2 purchase the land behind my home for six  
3 years and, I mean, really working on it for  
4 six years and I was told that I couldn't  
5 purchase it. So, now it's being transferred  
6 into the city land, transferred over to you,  
7 and I'm still looking to purchase the land  
8 behind my home up to the emergency road that  
9 they are going to use, it's like my property  
10 line to the road, and the reason why I want  
11 to do is that ensure the quality of life  
12 that I sat out to build my home at there to  
13 have the tree space, the buffer zone, the  
14 esthetic view, and also for the noise factor  
15 that would another thing that we would be  
16 looking at, so I'm saying this in open forum  
17 that I would like to purchase the land from  
18 my property line to the emergency road  
19 access. Thank you.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Is  
21 there anything else on agenda items?

22 MR. BROZZETTI: Good evening,  
23 Council, I'm Michael Brozzetti, I'm actually  
24 the gentleman trying to buy the property on  
25 Cedar and Locust that the young lady just

1 spoke about. I'm not quite sure of the  
2 notification process, but I am quiet sure  
3 about the process that I went through to  
4 purchase the property. I went through the  
5 whole procedure for about a year and a half  
6 through the buying guide, through the law  
7 office here in the city, which also had to  
8 have it was four approvals in order to get  
9 this level. At that point it went through  
10 week one, there was a technicality issue, it  
11 got tabled, okay, there was two more weeks,  
12 last week it won't through and got back on  
13 council and went through, this week it was  
14 up for the final reading and, obviously,  
15 someone shows up to discuss it.  
16 I'm not quite sure of, like I said,  
17 the notification process, but I have  
18 information here regarding the past 15 years  
19 the taxes were not paid on it, okay?  
20 Approximately \$118,000 is due on the  
21 property. My main goal is to first put it  
22 back on the tax books for the City of

23 Scranton, the next goal is to start a new  
24 business along with moving an existing  
25 business to centralize into the Scranton  
.  
26

1 area. I'm not quite sure of the transfer  
2 processes that occurred as well. I'm not  
3 sure if you can sell something for a dollar  
4 and not pay any back taxes. As far as I  
5 know, any property that I bought all taxes  
6 were accrued up at the time of sale and at  
7 the time of transfer.

8 I guess what I'm asking you guys is  
9 it just seems odd that after five weeks  
10 someone has to come up and make a statement  
11 about something because either they were  
12 weren't notified or the notification process  
13 didn't happen, but, like I said, I went  
14 through the process and went through the  
15 legal department, through my lawyer, and I  
16 guess I'm just asking that this not be  
17 tabled and that this go through to get to  
18 the property back on the tax books for the  
19 City of Scranton and for the population

20 there. I mean, I have great ideas for the  
21 location, like I said, new business as well  
22 as moving an existing business to the  
23 exterior part. If you guys have any  
24 questions or anything you guys can ask me  
25 now or I'm not sure how that process goes,  
.  
27

1 but it just seems odd, like I said, that  
2 after five weeks all of a sudden someone  
3 comes up and talks about it. Thank you.  
4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Anyone  
5 else? Les?

6 MR. SPINDLER: I wasn't going to say  
7 anything tonight, but first of all, Les  
8 Spindler, city resident. I also live on  
9 Bulwer Street, and I'm not quite as far down  
10 as the previous speakers. If they want to  
11 buy land in back of their houses and  
12 contribute to the pay taxes to the city I  
13 think they should be allowed to instead of  
14 giving the land away to the school board.  
15 This city needs all of the money we can get  
16 and if these people want to buy land I think

17 council should let them buy it. Thank you.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

19 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

20 My name is Lee Morgan. I'd like to talk on

21 7-B again and I'd like to say the same thing

22 that I said last week. The Scranton School

23 District has violated it's own Code of

24 Ethics. There has been shenanigans with the

25 person that did the report in regards to

.

28

1 what we should do with the Scranton School

2 District, the Matisik report, and 7-B needs

3 to be tabled because that whole report is

4 flawed and we are going off on a report that

5 really has no validity because we don't know

6 how they came to their figures. The company

7 that did the report was looking for

8 contracts and now irregardless the City of

9 Scranton is going to give the school

10 district the property and the whole process

11 was flawed. It's just unbelievable the

12 corrupt things that happen in the city.

13 It's just terrible because all of these

14 people are sitting home they are watching  
15 this and they are wondering, how is the  
16 council going to transfer this, the Scranton  
17 Times reported on this whole thing, and the  
18 whole report has been thrown into question  
19 and we are going to just to say, "Well,  
20 here, take this land and build this school  
21 even the report was flawed, even though  
22 money was flying all over of the place and I  
23 really think there is something wrong with  
24 it.

25 And on 7-C, I asked last week in  
.

29

1 regard to this 7-C, doesn't Keystone  
2 Landfill give the City of Scranton \$100,000  
3 a year because we signed an agreement with  
4 them?

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know if  
6 that's still in effect. I think that's been  
7 exhausted, that's just my opinion. Do you  
8 know Mrs. Evans?

9 MS. EVANS: I tried to find that  
10 answer each year at budget time. I have



11 posed that as one of my questions to the  
12 administration, but that particular question  
13 has never been answered.

14 MR. MORGAN: I was under the  
15 understanding when I was here at council and  
16 heard that legislation go through that that  
17 continue through the whole length of the  
18 contract, and what I have to say here is  
19 this, if this council has no idea what's  
20 going on and you can't get information from  
21 you solicitor from the city what are we  
22 debating here? Why do we have anything on  
23 the agenda in that case because we are not  
24 getting any answers.

25 And on 7-A somebody has to look at

.

30

1 this process because you got two people here  
2 for this property and the lady is --

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: You time is up, Mr.  
4 Morgan.

5 MR. MORGAN: --made an agreement here  
6 and somebody should look into that.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Your time is up.

8 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Is there anyone

10 else? No one. All right. FIFTH ORDER.

11 Motions, Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good

13 evening. First I have the latest report on

14 the progress of the independent audit. We,

15 or I should say the auditors, still require

16 responses to the following memos: FEMA

17 flood protection summer and November 2006

18 flooding, general fund expenditure

19 questions, capital project interfund

20 follow-up, special cities East Mountain Road

21 follow-up, accounts payable follow-up, OECD

22 questions and entries, general fund entries.

23 In addition, they again do not have the

24 copy of the Scranton Parking Authority's

25 2006 audit report and they still await

.

31

1 responses from three confirmation letters

2 from attorneys.

3 With regard to an issue that has

4 been discussed by some of the speakers that

5 evening with regard to tonight's agenda,  
6 specifically, I believe it is seven --  
7 actually 7-A and 7-B, I will be making a  
8 motion to table both of those items.  
9 With regard to 7-A, it has come to  
10 our attention just today within  
11 documentation provided as evidence to  
12 sizable payments that have been made on  
13 these tax delinquencies at this property.  
14 Apparently, somewhere the wires have  
15 crossed, whether through the city and NCC, I  
16 really can't say because, as I stated, I  
17 wasn't aware until today, and it's my  
18 opinion that the process has to be reviewed  
19 and settled amicably and fairly to both  
20 parties, and before that can occur I really  
21 don't believe that council should be passing  
22 this particular piece of legislation.  
23 As for 7-B, I am going to request  
24 again as I did last week that council would  
25 table this issue for the following reasons:

.

32

1 I think those neighbors tonight who

2 have requested the purchase of the land  
3 that, indeed, serves as a buffer zone for  
4 their property should be given that  
5 authority opportunity by the city to do just  
6 that.

7 In addition, as I stated last week,  
8 I understand that this issue will come  
9 before the zoning board tomorrow evening,  
10 and I think it is ludicrous, frankly, for  
11 city council to pass this legislation and  
12 then place this project before the zoning  
13 board tomorrow night because that in effect  
14 in my opinion ties their hands. The ball  
15 has already been rolling and so what issue  
16 then can they look at objectively? It would  
17 seem that they would have no alternative but  
18 to agree to whatever is proposed. So, as a  
19 governing body I believe the zoning board  
20 should have the opportunity to hear the  
21 case, listen to both sides, both speakers  
22 who are representing both sides of the  
23 issue, render their decision and then that  
24 that decision will be forwarded to city  
25 council and we can then render our decision.

1 I think right now it's a matter of putting  
2 the cart before the horse.

3 In addition to that, as I said, I am  
4 very concerned that the citizens should be  
5 able to purchase from the city what the city  
6 would be giving I believe for a dollar to  
7 the school district.

8 In addition, I have quite a list of  
9 citizens' requests for the week. A number  
10 of these city residents are very upset that  
11 the calls to DPW that they have made are  
12 either ignored or not returned by  
13 management. Others are disgusted at the  
14 lack of patrol cars monitoring dangerous  
15 intersections. Of course, we are all too  
16 well aware that the police department is  
17 most often overwhelmed with urgent problems,  
18 but I must admit I do share their  
19 frustration and their dismay that their  
20 calls to some city departments appear to be  
21 irrelevant. So, let's get cracking, people,  
22 and here is a list that's been around most

23 of it for quite awhile and I'm expecting

24 that it's going to get taken care of this

25 time.

.

34

1 A letter to Mr. Brazil, DPW, 806

2 Phyllo Street, residents report a large deep

3 pothole in the road in front of the driveway

4 at this address, please fill.

5 Also for Mr. Brazil, 1319 Bryn-Mawr

6 Street, while paving the court in the rear

7 of this address the DPW loosened the dirt

8 and the property owner's fence. This senior

9 citizen has called DPW multiple times to

10 report this problem and request assistant

11 and to date she has been completely ignored.

12 Please contact the owner and return her

13 property to it's original condition.

14 Again, for Mr. Brazil, corner of

15 Riverside Drive and Depot Street, the

16 abandoned lot at this location still has not

17 been cleaned up nor have the overgrown weeds

18 and grass been cut, and that is the third

19 request.

20 A letter to Mr. Setizinger, 118  
21 Master's Street, residents of the block  
22 report that this property remains a haven  
23 for birds and that no work has been done to  
24 the house as was promised.

25 A letter to Mr. Brazil, the bushes

.

35

1 were never trimmed back at Hawthorne Street  
2 in the area of Emily Avenue. Also, the  
3 street sign for Emily Avenue was never put  
4 up. These requests were made on  
5 September 11 at a city council meeting by a  
6 resident of Emily Avenue. Twice an  
7 ambulance was unable to locate her home  
8 because of the lack of a street sign. In  
9 addition, health care workers cannot locate  
10 the same home. Consequently, the owner must  
11 travel by car to lead medical personnel to  
12 her home in order to assist her  
13 mother-in-law. Place the street sign  
14 immediately.

15 A memo to Chief Elliott. Residents of  
16 the 200 block of 14th Avenue continue to

17 report traffic traveling in the wrong way on  
18 their one-way street. Further, they  
19 continue to daily observe vehicles running  
20 three-way stop signs at the corner of Rachel  
21 Court and 14th Avenue. However, they do not  
22 observe any patrol cars monitoring these  
23 areas as was promised.

24 Also, the residents of the Plot  
25 continue to report trucks and cars barreling  
.  
36

1 through the stop sign at the corner or  
2 Shawnee and Depot Street. Both areas were  
3 previously reported to you, yet residents  
4 complain that no patrol cars have been seen  
5 in these areas despite the reports and your  
6 responses. Residents are fully aware of  
7 their city's rise in crime and the police  
8 department's burden in addressing countless  
9 cases of great and immediate importance.  
10 However, they believe that their concerns  
11 must be addressed as well. Particularly,  
12 since they have waited patiently for four  
13 months.



14 427 16th Avenue, the resident was  
15 promised a handicapped parking sign for many  
16 weeks now by the police department and DPW.  
17 The sign was long ago approved.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: They got that one.

19 MS. EVANS: We did today?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: If it's not there,  
21 it's going there.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, it better be going  
23 there because it was promised over and over  
24 and it was recently to be installed and as  
25 of yesterday it was not, so I'm hoping it's  
.  
37

1 there.

2 A memo to Mr. Brazil, residents of  
3 Grove Street complain that city residents  
4 have been dumping refrigerators, washers,  
5 furniture, lamps, etcetera at two dumpsters  
6 by the DPW shed. When the dumpsters are  
7 full items are dumped on the ground nearby.  
8 They would like these items taken away and  
9 want this procedure to halt since it  
10 negatively impacts their neighborhood.

11 A memo to Chief Elliott, city  
12 residents complain that vehicles are parked  
13 on sidewalks on Moosic Street. They state  
14 that they reported this to Mr. Hayes  
15 approximately a year ago and it was taken  
16 care of at the time, but perhaps the  
17 practice, unfortunately, has begun again.  
18 And residents of East Mountain request  
19 that an arrow be painted on the narrow  
20 street which is on the right coming up Route  
21 307, it takes traffic onto Snook Street and  
22 Conroy Avenue. They report that traffic  
23 doesn't know which direction in which to  
24 drive since the painted arrows have worn  
25 away.

38

1 And I wanted to say also regarding  
2 the tree branches at the corner of Snook  
3 Street and Seymour Avenue, I reported this  
4 to Mr. Santolli the first time it was  
5 reported to me and he examined the trees  
6 shortly thereafter and said in his opinion  
7 they were not in need of trimming at this

8 time, and just a quick check here, that's

9 it.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Mrs.

11 Fanucci?

12 MS. FANUCCI: I do have not much to

13 speak about tonight, but I just wanted to

14 invite everybody, Anthology, which is new

15 used and new book store that we actually

16 passed a few weeks ago downtown in the Casey

17 laundry building, which is part of the new

18 street on Center Street, they redid this

19 whole area, it's beautiful stamped concrete

20 and everything, they are actually having

21 party to bring in the street. It's

22 wonderful. There is lots of beautiful art

23 hanging down there, Art to Heart provided a

24 lot of the artscape, it's absolutely

25 beautiful, but the party is from six until

.

39

1 nine and it's free to the public and they

2 just want everybody to come down and take a

3 look at what's going on in the city, and it

4 sounds like it's going to be a good time.

5 There's going to be a band and lots of food

6 and so that is all I have.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

8 Mr. McGoff?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First, I

10 would like to congratulate the committee of

11 the Steamtown Marathon on another successful

12 marathon which has to this day raised

13 somewhere over \$340,000 for the benefit of

14 St. Joe's Children's Hospital, a wonderful

15 cause and a great event for the city.

16 Participants from literally all over the

17 world, all over of the country, I think

18 there were 35 different states represented

19 in this one, come to the area and it's just

20 a great event and I would like to especially

21 congratulate to Fire Captain Jack Davis who

22 finished in 304 and I believe was the first

23 Scranton resident to cross the finish line

24 somewhere around 50th place out of over 1800

25 runners, a really great run for Captain

.

40

1 Davis.

2 Also, I would like to -- the two  
3 items that have been discussed here this  
4 evening on property, number one, on the  
5 conveyance of the school property, we are  
6 not building a school. Now, I know that the  
7 people are trying to make a connection  
8 between us giving property to the school  
9 district and us okaying the building of the  
10 school, we are conveying the land for the  
11 development but it's not necessarily for the  
12 building of a school.

13 If somebody has a problem with the  
14 building of a school then I think that it's  
15 incumbent upon you to go to, you know,  
16 school board meetings and discuss it there,  
17 and whether it's the right thing to do, but  
18 I do have from the residents that have  
19 spoken it seems that the question that's  
20 emerging is how much land is needed and how  
21 much should be conveyed, are there better  
22 ways in which this land could be conveyed to  
23 where it could be conveyed. I certainly  
24 would at this point in time after hearing  
25 people speak I would go along with the idea

1 of tabling this. There seems to be no  
2 immediate need to convey this property to  
3 the school district. This is not a project  
4 that's going to take place, you know, within  
5 the next foreseeable time. I certainly  
6 would like to see if there is an opportunity  
7 for residents to make the purchases that,  
8 you know, possibly that they would want to  
9 make and, you know, make it something that  
10 is acceptable to the neighbors of the area  
11 and also, you know, that would maybe  
12 ultimately work to the benefit of the school  
13 district as well.

14 The second issue, I think I'm also  
15 prone to go along with tabling. It appears  
16 that we have two people who have legitimate  
17 claims to a single piece of property. I  
18 know Mr. Brozzetti said he has kind of done  
19 his due diligence and done everything he has  
20 needed to do in order to purchase the  
21 property, Mrs. Grudzinski, I'm sorry, if I'm  
22 pronounce it wrong, has also, you know, has

23 reason to believe that the property is hers.

24 She is taking payments on it and has no

25 reason to believe that it's not her

.

42

1 possession. Somebody has made a mistake and

2 I don't think that it's our responsibility

3 or I don't think that we have the means to

4 rectify that mistake. We need to go to the

5 city agencies that have lead to this problem

6 and have them resolve it.

7 Obviously, there is some

8 miscommunication somewhere and I know that

9 it's probably not going to work out to the

10 liking of both parties, but I think

11 somewhere along the way somebody has to make

12 a determination as to where this

13 miscommunication took place, and I don't

14 think that we can do it and so, therefore, I

15 will vote to table this. I will vote, yes,

16 on tabling this until we can get the

17 agencies together that are involved in this

18 problem, and that's all.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. I

20 believe we have announced this before, but  
21 it's coming up in the near future so I'm  
22 going to run it by you quickly again. The  
23 pancake and sausage breakfast on  
24 October 27th from 7:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. at  
25 St. Peter's Lutheran Church on Ash Street  
.  
43

1 and Taylor Avenue and, again, I believe  
2 somebody has mentioned it before, but it's  
3 coming up so I thought I would mention it  
4 again.

5 AED's are basically some type of  
6 defibrillators that I believe the police  
7 department was using and now they are no  
8 more, so I get an e-mail and somebody asking  
9 me are the defibrillators broken, yes, they  
10 are, they are not using them, but they asked  
11 me if I could find out what the cost of the  
12 defibrillator was because they might be  
13 interested in donating one to the city, so  
14 if you can just give me a reminder I'll call  
15 down to Dave Elliott and find out what they  
16 cost for the defibrillators, I'd like to see



17 them back in the police cars, they are  
18 definitely a plus.  
19 This a little peculiar, someone  
20 called my mom's house thinking it was my  
21 house and asked her if she could ask me if I  
22 could elaborate on the Home Rule Charter  
23 being violated each week and then they left  
24 a message at my karate school for the same  
25 question. I'm not quite sure if they want  
.  
44

1 to me to elaborate on so evidently you watch  
2 here. They wouldn't tell me or my mom, they  
3 wouldn't tell my the mom the phone number  
4 so, I can't call them back, so what exactly  
5 you would like me to elaborate on if you can  
6 give me a call and let me know I'll try to  
7 elaborate on it.  
8 I ran into the DPW workers today,  
9 there is a hole and I thought we sent this  
10 to Mr. Brazil, and I'll e-mail rather than  
11 have you send it out, Forest Glenn, the DPW  
12 came out and they filled a lot of holes and  
13 they put maybe a foot and a half of blacktop

14 in this one hole and that just isn't cutting  
15 it, it's sinking down in there so we need to  
16 get some equipment up there and take a look  
17 at that.

18 And one last thing talking about the  
19 area of a land back there brings the Tripp  
20 Park development to my mind and I asked the  
21 question quite a while awhile ago, there is  
22 some disgruntled people living in that  
23 development and rightfully so and the  
24 question was asked to me quite awhile ago  
25 and I asked him and still have not received  
.  
45

1 an answer, so this one, Kay, I will ask you  
2 to send a letter to, and send a letter I  
3 think we need to send it to Mr. Farrell,  
4 maybe Mr. Brazil, and anybody else that they  
5 could think of so hopefully I can get an  
6 answer.

7 MS. EVANS: Mr. Parker.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, Mr. Parker is  
9 still employed with us so we will end him  
10 one, too. The developer had to be put a

11 bond up and I'm trying to find out how much  
12 the bond was and was the bond given back to  
13 him. I hope the bond wasn't given back to  
14 him because he didn't do what we believe he  
15 should have. So, I asked that question  
16 quite awhile ago and I have not received an  
17 answer, and I apologize for letting that  
18 slip by, so we will try Mr. Farrell, we'll  
19 try Mr. Parker and we'll try Mr. Brazil.  
20 Hopefully one of those will get back to me,  
21 and that's all I have. Thank you. FIFTH  
22 ORDER.

23 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24 AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING  
25 ZONE IN THE 1000 BLOCK OF WYOMING AVENUE  
.  
46

1 (S.R. 3025) ON THE EASTERN MOST SIDE OF SAID  
2 STREET PURSUANT TO THE HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY  
3 PERMIT APPLICATION OF SCRANTON PREPARATORY  
4 SCHOOL AND THE ALTERATION FOR TRAFFIC  
5 PATTERNS AT THAT SITE.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: At this time I make  
7 a motion that Item 5-B be introduced and

8 moved into it's property committee.

9 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

12 All in favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

17 ayes have it and so ordered.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -

19 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

20 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

21 AND ENTER INTO A PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN

22 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE NATURAL

23 RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, UNITED

24 STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PERTAINING

25 TO STREAMBANK STABILIZATION AT THE END OF

.

47

1 CULVERT UNDER NEWTON ROAD IN OR AROUND 222

2 NEWTON ROAD AND ON PROPERTY AT 2711 FRINK

3 STREET.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: At this time I make

5 a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into

6 it's proper committee.

7 MS. FANUCCI: So moved.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

10 All in favor.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

15 ayes have it and so ordered.

16 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

17 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 126,

18 2007 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL

19 NO. 222, 2003, AN ORDINANCE "SECURING THE

20 PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE AND

21 PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF AND FOR THE

22 RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CITY OF

23 SCRANTON, BY THE REGULATION OF THE OUTDOOR

24 PARKING AND STORAGE OF ABANDONED AND/OR JUNK

25 VEHICLES, WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND TO

.

48

1 PROVIDE REMEDIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS

2 ORDINANCE" BY CHANGING THE PENALTIES AND  
3 DEFENSES FOR VIOLATIONS.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have heard

5 Reading by Title of Item 6-A, what is your  
6 pleasure?

7 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson I move  
8 that Item 6-A pass Reading by Title.

9 MS. EVANS: Second.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

11 All in favor.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

16 ayes have it and so ordered.

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

18 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 127, 2007 - AN ORDINANCE

19 - TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS FROM FUND 02

20 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNTS WHICH FUNDS AND

21 ACCOUNTS ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE

22 CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS, AND ABOLISHING AND

23 CLOSING SAID ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFERRING THE

24 FUNDS REMAINING IN THESE ACCOUNTS TO THE

25 ACCOUNT NUMBERS LISTED BELOW.

1 MR COURTRIGHT: You have heard  
2 Reading by Title of Item 6-B, what is your  
3 pleasure?

4 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Chairperson, I move  
5 that Item 6-B pass Reading by Title.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. Attorney Minora,  
9 are these transfers in compliance with the  
10 terms of the original grants and would the  
11 regulating bodies that gave the cities these  
12 funds sign off on these transfers?

13 MR. MINORA: You are asking a  
14 question I'm unprepared to answer because I  
15 haven't looked at it. If you would like to  
16 me I would.

17 MS. EVANS: Can you prepare an answer  
18 for next week's final vote?

19 MR. MINORA: After the meeting I will  
20 talk to you and if you let you know I'll do  
21 my Best to find the answer.

22 MS. EVANS: I couldn't hear the end

23 of that.

24 MR. MINORA: I said after the meeting

25 if you let me know exactly what you would

.

50

1 like I'll do my best to find out and get it

2 for you next week.

3 MS. EVANS: Very good. Thank you.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Do we have a second

5 on that?

6 MS. FANUCCI: I think there was a

7 second.

8 MS. EVANS: I was on the question.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: All those in favor.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

14 ayes have it and so ordered.

15 MS. GARVEY: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -

16 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 128, 2007 - AN ORDINANCE

17 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 436-436

18 1/2 RAILROAD AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,

19 TO DENNIS AND THERESA EDWARDS, 441 RAILROAD



20 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR

21 THE SUM OF \$2,000.00.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have heard

23 Reading by Title of Item 6-C, what is your

24 pleasure?

25 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Chairperson, I move

.

51

1 that Item 6-C pass Reading by Title.

2 MS. EVANS: Second.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

4 All those in favor?

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

9 ayes have it and so ordered.

10 MS. GARVEY: 6-D READING BY TITLE -

11 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 129, 2007- AN ORDINANCE

12 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 2200

13 BLOCK OF ROCKWELL AVENUE, SCRANTON,

14 PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEONARD F. AND BARBARA A.

15 FISHER, 2221 LEACH AVENUE, SCRANTON,

16 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, FOR THE SUM OF

17 \$1,250.00.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have heard

19 Reading by Title of Item 6-D, what is your

20 pleasure?

21 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Chairperson, I move

22 that Item 6-D pass Reading by Title.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

25 All those in favor?

.

52

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

5 ayes have it and so ordered.

6 MS. GARVEY: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -0

7 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 130, 2007- AN ORDINANCE

8 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 439-441

9 10TH AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO

10 JOSEPH G. AND MICHAEL KEEGAN, 102 ARLINGTON

11 WAY, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE

12 SUM OF \$3,500.00.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have heard

14 Reading by Title of Item 6-E, what is your  
15 pleasure?

16 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Chairperson, I move  
17 that Item 6-E pass Reading by Title.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

20 All those in favor?

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

25 ayes have it and so ordered.

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1 MS. GARVEY: 6-F. READING BY TITLE  
2 OF COUNCIL NO. 131, 2007 - AN ORDINANCE -  
3 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT GRAND  
4 AVENUE/BATLUCK STREET, ALSO DESCRIBED AS LOT  
5 NO. 134, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO KEVIN  
6 AND FRANCINE FITZGERALD, 309 BATLUCK STREET,  
7 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE SUM  
8 OF \$1,357.00.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have heard

10 Reading by Title of Item 6-F, what is your

11 pleasure?

12 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Chairperson, I

13 move that Item 6-F pass Reading by Title.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

16 All those in favor?

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

21 ayes have it and so ordered.

22 MS. GARVEY: 6-G. READING BY TITLE -

23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 132, 2007 - AN ORDINANCE

24 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT GRAND

25 AVENUE/BATLUCK STREET, ALSO DESCRIBED AS LOT

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1 NO. 154. SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO KEVIN

2 AND FRANCINE FITZGERALD, 309 BATLUCK STREET,

3 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE SUM

4 OF \$1,357.00.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have heard

6 Reading by Title of Item 6-G, what is your

7 pleasure?

8 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Chairperson, I move

9 that Item 6-G pass Reading By Title.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

12 All in favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

17 ayes have it and so ordered. And I think we

18 need to appoint someone as chairperson.

19 MS. GARVEY: As a temporary chair.

20 MS. EVANS: I am the Committee on

21 Finance. Mr. Chairperson, I move to table

22 item 7-A.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

25 All those in favor?

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55

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

5 ayes have it and so ordered.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

7 We need to appoint a temporary chair for the

8 Rules.

9 MS. GARVEY: Committee on Rules;

10 right.

11 MS. EVANS: I move to appoint

12 Councilman Courtright temporary chair for

13 the Committee on Rules.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: All those in favor?

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Opposed? The ayes

20 have it and so ordered.

21 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -

23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 125, 2007 - AUTHORIZING

24 THE TRANSFER OF CITY-OWNED LAND TO THE

25 SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE

.

56

1 CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW WEST ELEMENTARY

2 SCHOOL; SAID PARCEL LOCATED AT THE WESTERLY

3 END OF BULWER STREET --

4 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Garvey, before you

5 finish, I am going to preempt you and I move

6 to table Item 7-B.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

9 All those in favor?

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye. Opposed? The

14 ayes have it and so ordered.

15 MS. GARVEY: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION

16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR

17 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 176, 2007 -

18 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

19 CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A LEASE

20 AGREEMENT WITH 1ST SOURCE BANK FOR THE LEASE

21 PURCHASE OF THREE NEW 25 YEAR REAR-LOAD

22 PACKERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: What is the

24 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

25 Committee on Public Works?

1 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7-C.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question?

6 Roll call.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MRS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: She's not here. I

17 hereby declare 7-C legally and lawfully

18 adopted.

19 MS. GARVEY: EIGHTH ORDER. CITIZENS

20 PARTICIPATION II - GENERAL CITY ISSUES.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Andy Sbaraglia.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,



23 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I

24 heard a little mention of Mrs. Evans that

25 they haven't completed the audit for the

.

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1 Scranton Parking Authority?

2 MS. EVANS: That is correct.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: I could swear I read

4 in the paper that there was a preliminary

5 little article in the paper under legals

6 that it was done.

7 MS. EVANS: I'm not aware of that.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: And not only that

9 that they were 1 million in the red and I

10 would like to have seen a complete audit

11 just in case, but that would make a lot of

12 sense if that little abbreviated audit that

13 they put in for legal points, because I

14 couldn't understand why they would sell the

15 garage to the Scranton Parking Authority

16 from the Scranton Recreation -- from the

17 Scranton Redevelopment Authority, it didn't

18 make sense why they would do that, but if

19 the parking authority was a million dollars

20 in debt then it wouldn't make sense because  
21 they borrowed a lot of money, and they  
22 certainly had the sinking fund well-padded  
23 probably on it because I don't think it  
24 costs near that to build a garage they want  
25 to build, so hence we are borrowing money to  
.  
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1 pay off debts, but I keep telling you it's a  
2 house of cards. If they are0 -- if that  
3 audit that we will get it and check into it  
4 when we get ahold of it, I'll go down there  
5 and see if it's available. Like I said, it  
6 was only an abbreviated audit, if they  
7 weren't thoroughly in debt he came before  
8 you and told you how good his finances were  
9 when they came for that loan then that Mr.  
10 Wintermantle made a good presentation that  
11 they definitely are going to default.  
12 Mr. Court you asked him, have you ever been  
13 defaulted? And he said, no. But if he had  
14 to borrow \$38 million so he wouldn't default  
15 then something is drastically wrong in the  
16 parking authority, real drastic, and when in

17 a few years it will collapse like I've been  
18 telling you all along. You cannot do what  
19 he was doing. Whosoever is pulling the  
20 strings on Mr. Wintermantle, it's definitely  
21 not fiscal responsibility. You can't give  
22 away hundreds of parking space and say, "We  
23 don't want to pay nothing on it," for this,  
24 the hotel, and they gave away hundreds of  
25 spaces for free for the life of that hotel,  
.  
60

1 but somebody has to pay for that and  
2 eventually it's going to be the taxpayers of  
3 Scranton and at that point I hope you all  
4 removes yourselves if that comes about  
5 because it's not viable anything I told you,  
6 the hotel wasn't viable, but nobody would  
7 believe it because it looks good political.  
8 Everything that is done in this town is done  
9 political and not with the idea towards the  
10 final cost of the taxpayers. I thank you.  
11 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sbaraglia, just a few  
12 brief points: Number one, I didn't vote, as  
13 you know, for the parking authority to

14 borrow the approximate 35 million. I didn't  
15 vote for the deal at the Hilton Hotel  
16 either, however, I did find it questionable  
17 that the parking authority could obtain such  
18 a large bond issue without being in  
19 possession of a 2006 audit which lead me to  
20 believe perhaps the city's audit would have  
21 been used in place of that in which all of  
22 the authorities debts are included, but  
23 according to our auditors they do not have  
24 in their hands the audit of the Scranton  
25 Parking Authority.

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1 MR. SBARAGLIA: We'll see.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Ozzie

4 Quinn.

5 MR. QUINN: Thank you. Yeah,

6 Mr. McGoff, no matter how you put a spin on

7 it you are conveying that for the

8 development of that land. Subsequently,

9 either it's going to be a raise in our taxes

10 so you are going to increase those, regular

11 increases de facto, no doubt about it.  
12 Also, I tried to have mention the fact  
13 about the land that it was in controversy  
14 tonight over in south side, three weeks ago  
15 it was tabled, I brought it up two weeks ago  
16 and I told you about the problem with the  
17 SRA and the developer there and Mrs. Gatelli  
18 said, "I don't know anything about it," now  
19 you got yourself a big problem. See, you  
20 just don't want to listen. You don't want  
21 to listen. You just think, "Oh, he doesn't  
22 know anything," or whatever. Well, I want  
23 to tell you something, okay, we are in  
24 serious debt because of this mayor and  
25 because of the actions of the city council  
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1 people. We are making contracts out through  
2 our people who are making payments to the  
3 mayor's elections and we have cronyism, and  
4 yesterday was a piece in the Scranton Times  
5 Tribune by Erin Nissey and I'm going to  
6 quote the University of Scranton political  
7 scientist's, Professor William Parente, and

8 he spoke about political corruption, and he  
9 goes onto speak about it and I would ask you  
10 people to read it, okay, because it's like  
11 most of you people and the mayor looking in  
12 the mirror, okay, and he is not talking  
13 about some place on the other side of  
14 Pennsylvania, he is talking there is no  
15 doubt about it about Scranton, Pennsylvania,  
16 so let's stop this corruption and let's  
17 start getting this city back on the road.  
18 We don't care about what's happening down  
19 there in coffee shops or whatnot, believe  
20 me, we are more concerned about what we are  
21 doing to keep the people here and their  
22 homes being foreclosed and for the  
23 industries not coming in here and spoiling  
24 people's lives. Thank you.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Doug,

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1 you were out when I called you if you want  
2 to come up now.

3 MR. MILER: I apologize about that,

4 I stepped out. Thank you, though. Doug

5 Miller, Junior Council. To begin tonight,  
6 again, the announcement that the Scranton  
7 Junior City Council is raising funds to  
8 purchase Christmas lights to decorate the  
9 South Side Renaissance Center, 705 Pittston  
10 Avenue for the holiday season and, again, we  
11 ask the residents and businesses in the city  
12 to consider making donations towards the  
13 project. Please send donations to city  
14 hall, 340 North Washington Avenue, and you  
15 can visit [www.Scrantonpa.gov](http://www.Scrantonpa.gov) and for more  
16 information we can be found on city  
17 council's webpage.

18 To address an issue here tonight,  
19 over the last week I received numerous  
20 complaints from residents regarding Fellows  
21 Park in West Scranton. Residents have  
22 complained of loud noise, vandalism,  
23 inappropriate gestures and actions.  
24 Vandalism at the park consists of graffiti  
25 to lighting picnic tables on fire. Many

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1 residents no longer want to take their

2 children or grandchildren to the park  
3 because of it's lack of safety. Personally,  
4 I find this unacceptable and this issue  
5 needs to be addressed. The playground  
6 equipment needs to be repaired, perhaps  
7 installing new equipment would be more  
8 appropriate. Many other repairs need to be  
9 made, the list goes on and on.  
10 It is my understanding, however,  
11 though that Mayor Doherty just plan to  
12 invest close to \$50,000 in the park. I  
13 would like to know when the mayor plans to  
14 begin construction on the park and I'm  
15 asking council tonight to look into this  
16 matter so we can to try to get the ball  
17 rolling here. We need to think about the  
18 health and safety of our residents. The  
19 Scranton Junior Council is committed to  
20 helping to improve the park as tonight we  
21 have created a fund to Fellows Park where  
22 anyone interested in the city contribute to  
23 this fund so we can try to improve the park  
24 and we ask people interested to send their  
25 contributions here to the city hall, cash or



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1 check is acceptable, and you can make sure  
2 checks out to the Fellows Park Fund. Thank  
3 you.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. I'd  
5 just like to quickly say, this council voted  
6 to give a rather sum of money to Fellows  
7 Park I believe it was to the tune of  
8 \$70,000, I'm not 100 percent sure, and I was  
9 notified by I believe it was David D'Angelo  
10 that they were contacting Mrs. Woodruff from  
11 the West Scranton Crime Watch Neighborhood  
12 Association, I should say, so hopeful it  
13 will be going on soon. The problem with  
14 vandalism has been ongoing there. We had  
15 gotten to the point where the people would  
16 extend out to there and we are a little bit  
17 short of officers, there is a test coming up  
18 here on the 15th I believe, so hopefully we  
19 will have some more officers on the street  
20 and that will be a deterrent. Thank you,  
21 Doug.

22 MR. MILLER: Thank you. Appreciate

23 it.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Les Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

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1 Les Spindler, city resident. Mr. McGoff,

2 last week when Mrs. Krake was asking

3 questions you said there was no way you can

4 make a decision on something you can't see.

5 Well, why did you vote in favor of the

6 project in Lackawanna Avenue because it's

7 obvious you didn't know anything about that?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I said the questions

9 were hypothetical.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, but, Lackawanna

11 Avenue is a real project and you didn't know

12 anything about that one.

13 MR. MCGOFF: It has nothing to do

14 with knowledge, it has to do with whether

15 it's a real situation or hypothetical.

16 Define the definition for hypothetical.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Well, the Lackawanna

18 Avenue project was real and you lied when

19 you voted for -- first voted against it and

20 then you voted for it. That's all I have to  
21 say on that.  
22 The Railroad that's at Main Avenue,  
23 where Main comes into Euclid, the last two  
24 weeks trucks have gone into that and it's  
25 happened all the time. Now, I think that's  
.  
67

1 called a railroad problem, but would the  
2 city as far as signs, I noticed there is a  
3 sign right behind the bridge, that's a  
4 little late, and there is one just a little  
5 further up than that. I think maybe if  
6 there was a sign further up on Main Avenue  
7 it would help a lot more.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can ask about  
9 that, Les, believe me, we put signs all over  
10 the place on Luzerne Street and they are  
11 still getting stuck there, but I could ask.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Because the one last  
13 week that was there for hours and hours.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: The game was over  
15 and I just got out.

16 MR. SPINDLER: I live right there and

17 I go home that way all the time.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll ask one more

19 time.

20 MR. SPINDLER: And something else,

21 all the trucks that hit that bridge, I mean,

22 is that bridge constantly inspected, like,

23 could that do structural damage to it?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Each time that it's

25 hit the police department will call the COM

.

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1 Center whether they believe there is any

2 damage and someone needs to be sent out.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Those trains are going

4 over there pretty heavy. If that bridge is

5 damaged it can be something serious. That's

6 all I have.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Jim

8 Stucker.

9 MR. STUCKER: About three days, three

10 or four days ago they had a big wreck on

11 Market Street there by the Plot, and we need

12 to put a light there, that's what everybody

13 says. We need a light real bad there.

14 There is too many wrecks at that Market

15 Street Square.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

17 MR. STUCKER: Providence Square.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right, Jimmy.

19 MR. STUCKER: We have a lot of holes

20 again, a lot of holes.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Holes?

22 MR. STUCKER: In the road.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Where at, Jim?

24 MR. STUCKER: Everywhere.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Everywhere, I hear

.

69

1 you.

2 MR. STUCKER: But I heard somebody

3 just told me about two weeks ago somebody --

4 oh, that colored guy at the barber shop I

5 started saying that, the barber shop, the

6 guy in there at Market Street was harassing

7 me because I was walking the sidewalk up and

8 down and --

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Walk on the other

10 side of the street, Jim, then maybe he won't

11 bother you.

12 MR. STUCKER: And the pizza guy,

13 like, the whole block don't like him.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Don't say that,

15 Jim. Just go on the other side of the

16 street then maybe he won't bother you, okay?

17 Is that it?

18 MR. STUCKER: We need a light on that

19 Church Street, Church Avenue, again, I

20 complained about that.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

22 MR. STUCKER: Over up on Market

23 Street.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Church and Market.

25 MR. STUCKER: Market and Oak Street.

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70

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oak and Church?

2 MR. STUCKER: You go down that road.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, we'll check

4 it out, Jim.

5 MR. STUCKER: We need a light there,

6 a pole light.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Thank

8 you, Jim. I can't read this. It's Linda

9 maybe on CDBG.

10 MS. STYER: Hello. My name is Linda

11 Styer, I'm the Director of Meals on Wheels,

12 for Lackawanna County, good evening. I am

13 here tonight to ask council, I know we have

14 put in for funding for CDBG monies and you

15 are the bodies that review the applications

16 and I just wanted to have a face connected

17 and a name to the agency and kind of just to

18 give you an overview, if you would allow me

19 to, to talk a little bit about the agency

20 and how long we have been in the county and

21 what services are provided and so forth.

22 Meals on Wheels of Lackawanna County

23 has been here 37 years, started with a \$50

24 donation and serving 14 individuals and has

25 expanded currently in 2007 to feed over 900

.

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1 individuals per day and it's border to

2 border Lackawanna County and it's over

3 200,000 meals. Our recipients are one of

4 the most frail populations in our area and

5 our services allow them to remain  
6 independent in their homes by receiving a  
7 nourishing meal that meets the requirements  
8 for individuals 60 years of age and older.  
9 And I just wanted to take this opportunity  
10 to let you know that about 300 of the  
11 persons that we serve reside in the City of  
12 Scranton and we do also feed a small segment  
13 of the population that's between 18 and  
14 59 years of age and I just want to thank you  
15 again for your time and I ask council and  
16 the administration to consider this when you  
17 are reviewing the application for funding.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: If I might respond to  
20 you, I have site unseen having never spoken  
21 with you prior to this moment I had included  
22 Meals on Wheels on my list of additional  
23 allocations. At this point, unfortunately,  
24 that has not been granted. Now, I have  
25 heard, for example, talk that because it is

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1 an agency that's serves Lackawanna County



2 and not specifically Scranton that could  
3 hinder an allocation, but, on the other  
4 hand, I do know that there are, for example,  
5 senior citizens centers that are serving  
6 senior citizens thankfully who are not all  
7 Scranton residents and yet they have  
8 received allocations, CDBG allocations in  
9 the past that I know for a fact. So, I  
10 think what applies to Peter should apply to  
11 Paul and I very much would like to see you  
12 get that money, and I apologize to you, I  
13 have tried I believe. It is a very worthy  
14 cause. I know of many, many individuals  
15 that you have served not only the nutritious  
16 and warm meal they receive per day, but the  
17 only visit, the only human contact that they  
18 receive as well, which is a very sad  
19 testament to the manner in which our elderly  
20 are taken care of these days and, again, I  
21 apologize to you. If I were -- if I had my  
22 way you would be receiving your money.

23 MS. STYER: Thank you very much.

24 Thank you for your time.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're welcome. Lee

1 Morgan. Are you here?

2 MR. MORGAN: Yes, I was talking to  
3 the Scranton Times reporter, if that what  
4 you want to call that gentleman. But, no,  
5 he's a nice guy. I want to spend my three  
6 minutes to say that --

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Could you state  
8 your name again.

9 MR. MORGAN: Oh, yeah, my name is  
10 Lee Morgan, and I'd like to start tonight by  
11 saying one thing, this city has two major  
12 problems, they have voters that don't vote  
13 and don't know the issues and complain about  
14 what's happening here and don't get involved  
15 to a major degree and then we've got a  
16 council that just passes stuff without  
17 regard to the residents in most instances.  
18 Really for the life of me, I can't see how  
19 7-B even could have been considered when  
20 it's known throughout the whole community  
21 that the Scranton School Board violated  
22 their own Rules of Ethics and there was

23 money floating around fast and furious, and  
24 then you look at how, you know, Mr. McGoff  
25 talked about the hypotheticals, well, when  
.  
74

1 the Scranton Sewer Authority raised it's  
2 rates and started council I didn't know that  
3 was hypothetical. I didn't know that all of  
4 the legislation we are going to bring before  
5 council every time we ask a question, we  
6 almost never get an answer, not this week,  
7 not last week, not the week before that.  
8 There are some councilmen who try to give us  
9 answers, Mrs. Evans is one of the, but the  
10 truth of the matter is that most times  
11 Mrs. Evans can't get any answers and we are  
12 going to all talk about hypotheticals here,  
13 and we are going to talk about a revision of  
14 -- the revival of the city. How is it go to  
15 happen? All the projects we are doing in  
16 this city are done with grants basically  
17 driven by grants. It's not private  
18 investors coming here and investing.  
19 I'm going to tell you something, in

20 2000 I went to Washington State, the houses  
21 we're tearing down in neighborhoods, I went  
22 to look to buy a property there in Sumner,  
23 Washington, they wanted \$184,000 for a house  
24 that was built in 1884, and the plan was for  
25 the house to rip it down and build a new  
.  
75

1 one. In this city we rip them down and  
2 nobody builds anything, but in that city  
3 they paid \$184,000 for the opportunity to  
4 rip that building down and build a new one  
5 and nobody was coming there with a million  
6 dollars worth of grant money saying, "Let's  
7 go."  
8 So, when you start talking about  
9 economic vitality of this city, the politics  
10 has to end and there has to be a rebirth of  
11 an informed electorate and a reversal of all  
12 of the borrowing. We are a BB. We are --  
13 how much closer to the ground can we go, I  
14 no idea. We are leasing everything, we got  
15 policemen buying their own police cars. You  
16 know, the volunteer fire department in

17 Honesdale has a truck for sale for 25 grand.

18 You go up and by it, '95, \$25,000. I mean,

19 where are we going here? You know, it's

20 time to start thinking about the residents

21 and their homes. Now we are going to put

22 all kind of fees on you if you can't pay the

23 city's share of the taxes. Is that

24 progress? I don't think so. I think it's

25 abuse of the tax base. I think that's why

.

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1 everybody is abandoning this city. I think

2 that it's time for all the smug little

3 answers to end and for the council to vote

4 on information they actually possess, and

5 I'm not singling out any single person here,

6 it's time to think, it's time for you to be

7 leaders and it's time for the city to go in

8 a new direction and 7-B points the road.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Dan Mossey.

10 MR. MOSSEY: Hi, City Council, my

11 name is Dan Mossey, and I'm a south side

12 resident. I'm here on the matter of public

13 safety. This weekend, this past Saturday

14 afternoon, me and couple of my friends were  
15 crossing in the cross walk at Cedar and  
16 Matt's Avenue when we were missed by an inch  
17 of getting hit by a truck. I was wondering  
18 if there would be a way that city council  
19 would talk to DPW and have them erect a  
20 pedestrian cross walk sign?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Where is that, Cedar  
22 and where?

23 MR. MOSSEY: Cedar and Matt's Avenue  
24 by --

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Matt's?  
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1 MR. MOSSEY: Yeah, by General  
2 Dynamics.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, we will check  
4 with DPW for you.

5 MR. MOSSEY: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: You are welcome.

7 David Dobson.

8 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, again,  
9 council. Dave Dobson, resident of Scranton.  
10 I'd like to talk tonight about some issues I

11 have been seeing in the Scranton Times on  
12 sewage, and this article appeared a few days  
13 ago, I forget what day it was, that  
14 Representative Kanjorski states Congress has  
15 approved 20 million to cleanse parts of the  
16 Susquehanna, and the article goes on, it's  
17 based on overflow which we are facing down  
18 \$175 million bill potential or \$150 million.  
19 There is an editorial here from the Scranton  
20 Times that I cut out where they basically  
21 have the say how come they get it and we  
22 don't, and that's my idea and instead of us  
23 fighting with each other over how little  
24 money we have every week and this is a  
25 future issue maybe we should be approaching  
.

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1 our Congressmen and so forth and trying to  
2 get something for us.  
3 We have another part of the article,  
4 Matthew J. Earhart, executive director of  
5 the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Pennsylvania  
6 Office in Demuth, so people down the river  
7 would be more than overjoyed if they didn't

8 have to swim in sewage and people in  
9 Scranton would certainly be overjoyed if  
10 they didn't have to pay \$150 a month some  
11 day sewer bill, and to me it sounds like a  
12 win-win situation except for the federal  
13 government getting them to come up with the  
14 money. But I would like to ask anybody  
15 involved and especially you people because  
16 you are in an elected office to more or less  
17 lobby are Senators and so forth and try and  
18 get some going on this before in other year  
19 or two everybody is yelling about that. I  
20 thank you and have a good night.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thanks, Dave. Janet  
22 Rickard.

23 MS. RICKARD: Hi. Thank you, Janet,  
24 for readdressing my serious problem with my  
25 street sign. I do want to point out that

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1 Mr. Brazil did return my phone call directly  
2 the next day, and he said that he was going  
3 to get back to me with whatever he was going  
4 to try to do. So, I let the end of the week



5 go and I placed two calls back to him and I  
6 haven't heard from him, so that left me very  
7 disappointed. Janet has very clearly stated  
8 my situation, but I'd like to do it one more  
9 time.

10 I have home health coming in. I  
11 have OT, occupational therapy, three days a  
12 week, that's three different people. PT,  
13 it's never the same person as well. I have  
14 a vitals nurse and a person who comes out  
15 and does blood work regularly. I have three  
16 separate shifts of nurses that come and  
17 each-- nobody works seven days in a row so,  
18 therefore, that leaves me with new people  
19 coming all the time because they are  
20 rotating shifts.

21 So, as I said, you know, I don't  
22 know when I'll need an ambulance again, I  
23 think I got that covered if they are the  
24 same people that come to my home all the  
25 time, but all I'm asking is simply trim back

.

80

1 the -- you know, the trees for the sign for

2 Hawthorne Street, at least that gives me  
3 something to help, you know, to find  
4 Hawthorne Street, and I don't see how hard  
5 it would be to just put a sign where  
6 Hawthorne comes up and meets Emily, just  
7 simply put a sign there that says "Emily",  
8 and then this also gives not only my home  
9 this potentially could be someone else on  
10 that corner of my section of the  
11 development, so anything that council could  
12 do to help me with that I would greatly  
13 appreciate it.

14 MS. EVANS: We'll make sure it gets  
15 done.

16 MS. RICKARD: Thank you. Thank for  
17 your time. Good night.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Is there anyone  
19 else?

20 MR. SCOTT: My name is Barbara  
21 Scott, 1422 Prospect Avenue, and it's in  
22 reference to the property at 1212 and 1210  
23 Cedar Avenue, Cedar and Locust, and what I  
24 want to say is that property was sold to a  
25 Sharon Argo in 1998 and I was told that I

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1 think it was sold for approximately \$5,000,  
2 and then it was transferred to another party  
3 and I also have money invested in it. I was  
4 never given notification as to it being sold  
5 and right now I'm in the process, I have  
6 taken steps to have it investigated. So, I  
7 just wanted to tell you that.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Thank  
9 you. Is there anyone else?

10 MR. PATILLA: Good evening, Council.  
11 Sam Patilla, taxpayer and city resident,  
12 homeowner. It feels kind of free not having  
13 the police officer here. I think it's the  
14 second time since I have been here I haven't  
15 seen one. All right, real quickly, the main  
16 reason I'm here tonight is because last week  
17 Mr. Davis got up here and stated that maybe  
18 people shouldn't vote, you know, and that  
19 didn't sit too well with me. A lot of great  
20 people die to ensure that the people in this  
21 country have the right to vote and, you  
22 know, we could do like the other citizens

23 are doing, we can pack up, ship and move out  
24 some place else, but that doesn't solve the  
25 problem, it doesn't help the problem, it  
. .  
82

1 just creates the problem. We need everybody  
2 that's registered to vote to get out and  
3 vote because 90 percent of the people that I  
4 contacted and communicate with are senior  
5 citizens and they Scranton has been the same  
6 which for 50 years or for 100 years. Well,  
7 if Scranton keeps going the same way it's  
8 going we are going to be a half trillion  
9 dollars in debt, and the reason I say that  
10 is I woke up this morning and I saw my  
11 Frosted Flakes box, "Made in China," and I  
12 grew up on Corn Flakes, General Mills,  
13 Quaker Health, Quaker Oats, and to see "Made  
14 in China" on the cereal box from my youth  
15 kind of shook me back and it brought to my  
16 mind maybe that's the problem with corporate  
17 America running our cities or our cities  
18 trying to run themselves like businesses.  
19 Everything is being outsourced instead of

20 growing from within. You know, we really,  
21 truly need to come to together as a people  
22 and the only way we can do that honestly is  
23 for everybody to get out and vote. People  
24 in the office that are for the taxpayers and  
25 for the citizens, that are for the City of  
. . .  
83

1 Scranton itself. You know, we talk about  
2 tearing down houses. I walked two and a  
3 half blocks from my home, I drive throughout  
4 the city. I see weeds in lots where homes  
5 have been knocked down three and four feet  
6 high. I see them in the lots by the school  
7 heading down towards Providence 6, 7, 8 feet  
8 high. You know, it's one thing to knock  
9 them down, but it's another thing like the  
10 parks not to be maintain them. What's the  
11 sense of knocking them down, there's an open  
12 space there wild and free when we could have  
13 refurbished those homes and rented them out  
14 and sold them and got some tax base and some  
15 tax monies coming in to help support this  
16 city. You know, one of the main problems

17 that people fail to realize is when you are  
18 in a crunch you need to tighten your belt,  
19 all right, and it needs to start from the  
20 top, everything else starts from the top.

21 So, in order to get this city back on track  
22 we need to start from the top and get rid it  
23 of that dead weight up there so that we can  
24 come back together and start from scratch  
25 and build from the ground up, you know,

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1 everything changes over time, you call it  
2 progression. Scranton can't stay the same  
3 as it was 50 years ago or 100 years ago or a  
4 day ago or two hours ago. It has to move  
5 along with society for the world with  
6 history, with time, all right? And once  
7 again, everybody out there that is  
8 registered to vote get out and vote. I'm  
9 not going to tell you who to vote for, but  
10 get out there and vote. Thank you.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Anyone else? Okay,  
12 Phyllis.

13 MS. BERNADETTE: Good evening, City

14 Councilmen and women.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: State your name for

16 us, Phyllis.

17 MS. BERNADETTE: To the Muslims my

18 name is Stata Yaski (phonetic).

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: English for us,

20 please.

21 MS. BERNADETTE: To the Catholics and

22 Americans my name is Mary Phylomica

23 Bernadette. This is very hard for me, and I

24 want to try to do the best I could, (witness

25 speaks in untranscribable verbage). To all

.

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1 my church leaders, to all of the leaders of

2 the government, Senators and our president,

3 but most of all I send my love to the

4 military and to Colonel Jimmy Matisko and

5 Colonel Leon Matisko. They are my cousins

6 and Michael Matisko, III. I'm very

7 American, but I dress because of my mission

8 I am an ambassador for peace.

9 What I want to tell you is this,

10 last week I told you that someone was on

11 there and we needed an interpreter, so I'm  
12 going to extend to you what was said. I was  
13 called by Sheik Abdul and my documents went  
14 in the middle east and he is with us for  
15 peace, I'm trying to do the best I can to  
16 extend peace to everyone and show them the  
17 love of the Lord Jesus Christ. I will be  
18 meeting with these ambassadors in time. I  
19 don't ask anybody for a penny, I do the best  
20 I could. For Homeland security, for the  
21 CIA, the FBI and all those who protect my  
22 country I want to thank you for your  
23 yesterday, my dream came true. In front of  
24 the federal building the Holy statute with  
25 the 4,000 flags was placed looking at the  
.

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1 federal building. They support peace.  
2 People don't understand what war is all  
3 about. War is about greed, selfishness,  
4 killing, everybody's got to turn back to  
5 peace in your home, your towns, your cities,  
6 all of the way up. Without peace we don't  
7 have anything. What we have, you complain



8 about the holes in the roads and the hunger.  
9 There is children in other countries that  
10 are hungry, they are listening to bombs and  
11 seeing big holes being blown in their  
12 houses. We've got to be grateful for what  
13 we have and what we could do to do the best  
14 we could and not just squeezing the common  
15 dollar out of the poor people.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you, Phyllis.

17 MS. BERNADETTE: So that's all I want  
18 to say and thank you, everybody, for your  
19 patience and your prayers.

20 MS. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

21 MS. BERNADETTE: And God Bless you  
22 and may the peace of Jesus Christ come to  
23 all of us.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you, Phyllis.

25 Is there anyone else?

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1 MS. GRUDZINSKI: Lori Grudzinski,  
2 Scranton. First of all, I was shocked to  
3 see that my mom came on the same property  
4 issue that was in our family for so long,

5 she just came for a tour of our new home we  
6 are building. She is still fighting with my  
7 dad, although my dad has passed. They had  
8 the longest divorce in the history of  
9 Scranton, it was about 25 years long. I  
10 just want to say, I'm happy with your  
11 decision tonight. I appreciate your full  
12 attention to this matter. If I owe more  
13 money on the property I'm willing to pay it  
14 or sell the property on my terms. However,  
15 it's the only one of the nine properties  
16 that my dad owned when he died that he  
17 willed to me and my husband and five  
18 children so it's our inheritance and that's  
19 all I have to say. Thank you.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Is there  
21 anyone else? You already spoke, ma'am. I  
22 can't let you speak again, I'm sorry.

23 Chris, you coming up, Buddy?

24 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Billy, what is  
25 going on, Bill?

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: West side.

2 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right, baby.

3 They had a nice game the other night, they  
4 played a good game down there Friday night.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes, it was. I think  
6 both teams played exceptionally well and  
7 nobody has anybody has anything to be  
8 ashamed of.

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: No fights or  
10 nothing down there, no fights.

11 MS. EVANS: That's right.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: The bell goes back  
13 to us, Billy.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you, Chris.

15 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
16 council, I'm Tom Ungvarsky. I'm also a  
17 member of the Scranton Lackawanna County  
18 Taxpayers. I understand that the city is  
19 going to tear down the US Post Office in  
20 South Side. It seems like we are getting  
21 into the business of tearing down buildings.  
22 We tore down a plant in lower South Side, we  
23 tore down the Holiday Motel. We tore down  
24 several buildings on Moosic Street and we  
25 tore one down in North Scranton. This

1 building is a fairly new building. It's a  
2 well-constructed building and it could  
3 probably be used for something else such as  
4 a neighborhood center. Has anybody checked  
5 with the people in the area what they would  
6 like? There are quite a few homes that are  
7 very close to this project and whether they  
8 would want a neighborhood center or a park  
9 there. Before we do anything it might be  
10 well for city council to look in it. Thank  
11 you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: I will answer part of  
13 that, the neighbors were contacted,  
14 neighbors up and down Orchard Street were  
15 pleased with the decision to turn it into a  
16 park and a green space. As a matter of  
17 fact, many of them actually volunteered that  
18 they would help maintain the park once it  
19 was put in, so the neighbors were contacted  
20 and it was the decision to make the park was  
21 actually proposed by members of that  
22 community.

23 MR. UNGVARSKY: Well, that's fine,  
24 but it seems like that may have been lead a  
25 little bit and didn't have a choice of a  
. . .  
90

1 neighborhood center or the park, but either  
2 way I'm not against a park, it just seems  
3 ashamed to tear down a building of that  
4 structure. Thank you.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Anyone  
6 else?

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South  
8 Scranton. You know, whether it be Tuesday  
9 or whether it be Thursday, when we have  
10 these meetings or whenever there is a  
11 taxpayers' meeting in this building we hear  
12 sirens all of the time. You know, sirens in  
13 most cases belong to the city police  
14 department and the city fire department who  
15 out there in inclement weather like tonight  
16 and they are responding to these emergencies  
17 and doing their job, doing their job as best  
18 as they can, and the best -- and they are  
19 qualified to do their jobs, the men and

20 women on the police department and fire  
21 department, but, yet they are working  
22 without a contract for six years now. City  
23 council, it's time to do something about  
24 that. I hear a siren right now as I speak.

25 You need to do something about this. Get

.

91

1 with the mayor and get a contract signed,  
2 sit him down even if you have to drag him in  
3 by his hair. Get him here and get these  
4 contracts signed now. These guys and men  
5 and women work too hard.

6 Hypothetical or hypocritical?

7 Mr. McGoff, every week council votes on  
8 issue that they have not read, seen or  
9 understand. Proof, every week council  
10 either does not answer citizens' questions  
11 or on occasion they give misleading answers.

12 So, again, I say, hypothetical or  
13 hypocritical. I say a mixture of both  
14 resulting in distressed city status. High  
15 employment, low wages, blighted property,  
16 loss of population, lowest per capita wages

17 in the state. Firemen, police officers and  
18 clerical workers no contracts. Citizens  
19 being arrested for speaking out. Council  
20 members being medicated. Houses being torn  
21 down, more blight. Business owners being  
22 forced out of their properties. Taxes being  
23 increased, services being cut, realtors are  
24 being given \$1.5 million in taxpayer money.  
25 Houses not being sold in the city, just torn  
.  
92

1 down. One out of six residents living in  
2 poverty. No money budgeted for pool repairs  
3 or road repairs. Middle management  
4 positions created at high salaries, worker's  
5 positions eliminated. Elected officials  
6 family members are given jobs, given jobs  
7 within the city. So, I ask you,  
8 hypothetical or hypocritical? Hopefully the  
9 voters answer that question on Tuesday, the  
10 6th of November of 2007. You can also  
11 substitute these words, facts or fiction?  
12 Real or unreal? Fair or unfair? Like I  
13 say, hypothetical or hypocritical.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you. Anyone

15 else? I make a motion to adjourn.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: We're adjourned.

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

2

3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

5 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the

6 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true

7 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my

8 ability.

9

10



11  
CATHENE S. NARDOZZI  
12 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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