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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 HELD:

6

7 Tuesday, October 23, 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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MS. JUDY GATELLI, PRESIDENT  
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6 MS. JANET E. EVANS

7  
MS. SHERRY FANUCCI  
8

9 MR. ROBERT MCGOFF

10  
MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT  
11

12 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

13  
MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK  
14

15 MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. GATELLI: Roll call, Neil.

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 MS. GATELLI: Here.

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

15 PETITION FOR A STOP SIGN ON LAKE SCRANTON

16 ROAD AT THE ENTRANCE TO LUTHERWOOD.

17 MS. GATELLI: Are there are comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT

20 FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007.

21 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

22 If not, received and filed.

23 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE

24 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON

25 SEPTEMBER 26, 2007.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

2 If not, received and filed.

3 MS. GARVEY: That's all for third

4 order.

5 MS. GATELLI: Before we start

6 citizens participation, I would like to

7 announce that as you can see all of us our

8 wearing or red ribbons. It is a red ribbon

9 week that's sponsored by the Lackawanna

10 County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

11 and the school and the county celebrate this

12 week to alert everyone to the dangers of

13 drugs and alcohol. So, we are all wearing

14 our flyers tonight in support of this cause.  
15 Last week someone mentioned, I believe  
16 that it was Mrs. Jones, about a property on  
17 Pittston Avenue and Harris Street that was  
18 overgrown and I wanted to clarify this  
19 because she said that the owner was  
20 Mr. Brazil, and I wanted to clarify that  
21 Mr. Brazil has not owned that property for  
22 the last year and a half. I did not want  
23 that to be said about someone when indeed  
24 it's not true, so I just wanted to clarify  
25 that.

.

5

1 I also wanted to thank, and I'm not  
2 allowed to say their names for  
3 confidentiality reasons, but there were  
4 several children that were on juvenile  
5 probation and their probation officer had  
6 them clean up the Billy Barrett playground  
7 in Minooka. There was a lot of graffiti on  
8 the sliding boards and on the walls,  
9 etcetera, and these children do community  
10 service, they worked there all day, and they

11 did a wonderful magnificent job at the  
12 playground, so anonymously we would like to  
13 thank them for their work in that effort.

14 Also, the Elm Park Church youth  
15 group at the corner of Linden and Jefferson  
16 is having a spaghetti dinner on November 3  
17 from 4 to 7. Adults is \$6, children are \$3,  
18 Eric Lushak is the youth advisor and that's  
19 all I have. Does anyone else have any  
20 announcements? Mr. Courtright?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just one, I know I  
22 said it before, but I ran into some people  
23 this weekend that asked if I would remind  
24 you that the 27th of October from 7 a.m. to  
25 11 a.m. will be the St. Peter's Lutheran's  
·  
6

1 Church pancake and sausage breakfast and  
2 that's at the corner of Ash and Taylor  
3 Avenue. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone  
5 else?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Might I?

7 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I received an e-mail  
9 last week and I got it to late to mention it  
10 for last week's meeting. It's from two  
11 students at West Scranton High School who  
12 are conducting what they are calling the  
13 Turkey Chase Race, a 5-K run and walk to be  
14 held at McDade Park on November 4 at 10 a.m.  
15 It's to benefit a student at West Scranton.  
16 It's a charity event. It's a 5-K race.  
17 There is a registration fee of \$15 or you  
18 can register the day of the race. If there  
19 is anyone interested I have some numbers to  
20 contact, two students, Katilyn Farrell and  
21 Matt Fabri, but I know it's short notice but  
22 if there is anybody that's interested in  
23 that type of event and hopefully worth  
24 raising money, as I said, for a student at  
25 West Scranton, I assume a friend of theirs,

7

1 but I have the information and it's I think  
2 also on-line. Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone  
4 else?

5 MS. FANUCCI: I just want to say for  
6 everyone to say a special prayer for my dad  
7 who underwent surgery yesterday so please  
8 just keep him in your prayers. Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: The first speaker is  
10 Andy Sbaraglia.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
12 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians,  
13 under "B" here for introduction, you are  
14 taking the money from project No. 05-154,  
15 \$86,000, and transferring the same money and  
16 the same organization. I was just curious,  
17 what is 05-154 originally -- what was the  
18 money originally for? I don't believe you  
19 are going to find it there, I looked or I  
20 wouldn't have asked.

21 MS. GATELLI: I'm not sure it says,  
22 Andy, but sometimes if the money is not used  
23 they have to put it in a new account.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize that, but  
25 it could have been for -- it might have been

.

8

1 for a critical project, maybe it was better



2 than the other project, who knows.

3 MS. GATELLI: It may be the same

4 project and they just haven't used it yet,

5 so they have to put it in a new account.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: But there is no way

7 for you to know and there is no way for me

8 to know exactly what's going on, that's all.

9 That's the only question I had is --

10 MS. GATELLI: We will find out for

11 you.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: You know what I mean?

13 Because it's good to know exactly what this

14 money is being transferred for and what was

15 the original intent of the money there.

16 MS. GATELLI: Well, it has to be

17 something that's eligible.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Everything in this

19 world is eligible if you write it, so don't

20 give me that.

21 MS. FANUCCI: That's not true.

22 That's not true.

23 MS. GATELLI: Not necessarily. HUD

24 is very fussy.

25 MS. FANUCCI: That's not true with

.

9

1 HUD.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, it's true. If

3 you know the right people and the right

4 lawyers everything becomes eligible one way

5 or another.

6 MS. GATELLI: Well, tell the people

7 that haven't received the money and they'll

8 tell you differently. HUD is very strict.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: I know why they

10 didn't get the money.

11 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Quinn.

12 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, president

13 of the local Taxpayers' Association. Yes, I

14 too want to speak on 5-B and 5-C in relation

15 to the fact that this money goes back to

16 2004-2005, how much more money is in the

17 coffers down at OECD that we don't know

18 about in projects? I'd like you,

19 Mrs. Fanucci, as the chairperson for the

20 OECD to come up with how much money is in

21 reserve down there for projects that are not

22 approved. Why I'm asking this is because

23 I'm a member of the Hill Neighborhood  
24 Association and I spoke to Bob Neverosky who  
25 was here about a month ago and we were very  
. . .  
10

1 much concerned because when the Connor's  
2 administration was leaving I wrote a grant  
3 for the Hill, which I'm a member of, and it  
4 was approved.

5 Subsequently, there was no money.  
6 Then we wrote one, I wrote one again for the  
7 Doherty administration for \$60,000 and that  
8 neighborhood association provides the police  
9 up there, provides the DA, it provides the  
10 food banks, just everything. There is 1,300  
11 households that belong to that, and also the  
12 fact is that, you know, the only  
13 neighborhood association would actually need  
14 a staff. Now, that \$60,000 is laying down  
15 there someplace in the building where you  
16 are paying rent for which you could be  
17 occupying up on the third floor and yet  
18 these people up in the Hill Section are not  
19 getting that money that was approved.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Ozzie, it was approved  
21 and I did check into it after the meeting  
22 that was here when Mr. Neverosky came. It  
23 was -- he went through the inspection. When  
24 they went down they could not provide that  
25 money because the meetings would be held on

11

1 second floor. They will not release the  
2 money to them because it is not handicapped  
3 accessible so they let them have the money.  
4 They didn't comply was the problem, so the  
5 money was approved, but they can't give it  
6 to them because of the handicapped  
7 accessibility.

8 MR. QUINN: It is accessible for the  
9 first floor.

10 MS. FANUCCI: They can't fit the  
11 amount of people in the first floor to  
12 convey the meetings.

13 MR. QUINN: We had meetings there on  
14 the first floor.

15 MS. FANUCCI: I understand. As far  
16 as HUD is concerned --

17 MR. QUINN: You can talk to Bob

18 Neverosky.

19 MS. FANUCCI: -- there was not enough

20 room -- -

21 MR. QUINN: You can twist and turn

22 how want to --

23 MS. FANUCCI: Me and HUD are just out

24 to get you, Ozzie.

25 MR. QUINN: Yeah, I'd like to look

.

12

1 into how much money is down there in their

2 coffers.

3 MS. GATELLI: Ozzie, just to

4 interrupt you for a minute, I'm not quite

5 positive, but I think that the money that

6 Bob wanted was to renovate the second floor.

7 MR. QUINN: That's correct. Right.

8 MS. GATELLI: And the point was that

9 the second floor was not accessible.

10 MR. QUINN: The fact is it's

11 accessible to the Scranton police, it's

12 accessible to the D.A.'s office.

13 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, but they are not

14 handicapped.

15 MR. QUINN: The handicap goes into

16 the first floor. That's a poor excuse.

17 MS. GATELLI: Well, that's what we

18 were told.

19 MR. QUINN: Well, who told you that?

20 One of your inspectors?

21 MS. GATELLI: The people from HUD.

22 MR. QUINN: That's a shame that those

23 people up there in the Hill with all of work

24 that they do for the people in this

25 community that you can't give them that

.

13

1 \$60,000, I want to find out how much money

2 is left there in the coffers, I'd appreciate

3 that.

4 MS. GATELLI: Well, as of today, I

5 believe it was today, the mayor has

6 appointed a new OECD director and we will --

7 I will call her and find out about Bob's

8 money and see exactly --

9 MR. QUINN: I'd appreciate that.

10 MS. GATELLI: -- what it is.

11 MR. QUINN: I don't want politics get

12 involved in the neighborhood --

13 MS. GATELLI: It shouldn't. It

14 shouldn't. And it certainly wouldn't with

15 another neighborhood leader, and Sherry

16 lives there, so --

17 MS. FANUCCI: I love the Hill.

18 MS. GATELLI: We will set something

19 up with Linda and see exactly what it is

20 with that money and if it can be released it

21 will be released, okay? Next is Dave

22 Dobson. Not here? No? Anyone else? Mrs.

23 Evans?

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I ask for

25 your prayers for Mr. Joseph Reap whose great

.

14

1 courage, perseverance and optimism daily

2 transformed his disability into

3 uncompromising abilities and gentility and

4 for his family and friends whom he leaves

5 behind.

6 Also, please remember in your

7 prayers Mr. Frank Shalipco who passed away

8 on Saturday and his family and friends,  
9 particularly his daughter, Mary, whose  
10 tireless work in her Pinebrook neighborhood  
11 surely made her father, Frank, very proud.  
12 We did receive a report on the status  
13 of the 2006 audit. There has been great  
14 progress I would say within the last two  
15 weeks. The auditor still requires responses  
16 to the FEMA flood protection summer and  
17 November 2006 flooding, the Scranton Parking  
18 Authorities' 2006 audit report and three  
19 confirmation letters from attorneys.  
20 However, as I said, there has been great  
21 progress within the last two months.  
22 The Pennsylvania Economy League  
23 intends to begin updating their recovery  
24 plan in order to reflect the progress made  
25 to date and address the current financial  
.

15

1 position of Scranton. Last updated in 2002,  
2 the recovery plan and accompanying  
3 distressed city status have been in effect  
4 for longer than the total of the combined



5 years of service of all five seated council  
6 members. PEL has requested Mrs. Gatelli's  
7 participation in their forthcoming efforts,  
8 however, I believe that another five-year  
9 plan will earn us nothing other than the  
10 reputation of Scranton, the city of  
11 perpetual distress.

12 Now, just as a child reaches the age  
13 of emancipation and perpetuity, so our city  
14 has aged to the point of financial freedom  
15 for the betterment of our people. Let the  
16 executive and legislative branches of the  
17 government take the reigns. They both  
18 already bear the responsibility and  
19 consequences rather than another five years  
20 of absent oversight, platitudes and false  
21 projections city government should seek  
22 emancipation. And, Mrs. Gatelli, I do  
23 recall a meeting at which you made a public  
24 statement suggesting that Pennsylvania  
25 Economy League would release us from that  
.

16

1 status.

2 MS. GATELLI: And I'll second that

3 motion again.

4 MS. EVANS: And so --

5 MS. GATELLI: I will not be attending

6 in case you are wondering.

7 MS. EVANS: Oh, I was just going to

8 suggest were you doing so you would deliver

9 that message to them.

10 MS. GATELLI: I won't be going so I

11 can't deliver the message.

12 MS. EVANS: Okay.

13 MS. GATELLI: That notice is in the

14 circular file.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Channel 61

16 is in need of funding. Council has a few

17 available options to enable this station to

18 survive. It can vote to amend the 2007

19 operating budget to include a \$13,000

20 allocation to Channel 61. Other

21 Pennsylvania municipalities provide such

22 funding in their annual operating budgets

23 for public access television or council

24 could, I should say and/or, council could

25 provide a \$25,000 allocation in the

1 forthcoming 2008 operating budget. At the  
2 same time negotiations for a new cable TV  
3 contract will begin in 2008 and funding for  
4 Channel 61 should be one of several new  
5 requirements in any future agreement, but  
6 the present beckons and I have no doubt that  
7 the mayor can find \$13,000 perhaps in the  
8 contingency fund or interest earned on TANS  
9 or CD's. Just as a few weeks ago \$25,000  
10 was a tawdry amount in the minds of the  
11 administration, the same individuals who  
12 thought nothing of spending an extra \$25,000  
13 per year for any friendly bloated auditing  
14 firm or money spent for the mayor's  
15 advertising campaigns, banners and rugs.  
16 Further, the administration wisely  
17 donates \$50,000 annually to the Everhart and  
18 to a wildlife center. Surely the people's  
19 access to all city and county government  
20 meetings should be at least half as worthy  
21 as our zoo in a democracy unless, of course,  
22 the mayor prefers a covert operation to a

23 transparent accountable city government.

24 Therefore, I move that Attorney Minora

25 draft legislation for next week's meeting to

.

18

1 amend the 2007 operating budget to provide

2 \$13,000 to Channel 61.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. I should indicate

6 that council did meet this evening with

7 representatives of Scranton Today and

8 Channel 61. Without this infusion of

9 \$13,000 Channel 61 screen will go black

10 effective almost immediately and this will

11 continue through December 31st at which time

12 hopefully three government bodies: County,

13 city council and the Scranton School

14 District will choose again to fund the

15 station for one additional year.

16 I believe firmly that it would be a

17 great detriment to the citizens of this

18 municipality to lose the services of this

19 station particularly in light of the fact

20 that we are, of course, a one newspaper  
21 town. I do appreciate the comments made and  
22 the information provided this evening by  
23 Channel 61. I thank all of you for your  
24 years of service and voluntarism to this  
25 this community. It's priceless. I wish

.

19

1 that I were able to fund you properly, so  
2 that you would be competitive with stations  
3 throughout Pennsylvania and other states who  
4 can certainly provide more extensive  
5 programming, but, then again, they are  
6 receiving far more extensive funding.  
7 I might also add that it is not  
8 unusual for any municipality to provide an  
9 allocation in their operating budget to a  
10 public access station, so we are certainly  
11 not attempting to set a precedent.

12 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the  
13 question?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I am prone to vote  
15 in favor of this motion. I think that the  
16 continued operation of Channel 61 to the end

17 of the year is important. I think it is, as  
18 you said, the most reasonable access that  
19 many people have to city, county, and school  
20 district operations and it would be a great  
21 loss to see it removed from the air and so  
22 the \$13,000 that was indicated that would be  
23 needed to continue the operation until  
24 December 31 I think is important and I will  
25 vote, yes.

.

20

1 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

2 MS. EVANS: And I just might add for  
3 those of my colleagues who do have the ear  
4 of the mayor, I would appreciate your  
5 intercession with him to find the proper  
6 source of this funding and I, of course, as  
7 we discussed this evening, Mrs. Garvey is  
8 going to contact the D.A.'s Office and learn  
9 exactly what remains in contingency, and I  
10 suggested the TAN and gave you the amounts  
11 earlier of what is currently available, but,  
12 as I said, for those of you who can implore  
13 for the survival of Channel 61 at least

14 through December the 31st with the mayor I

15 would urge you to do so.

16 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? All in

17 favor?

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MS. EVANS: I also have citizens'

25 requests from the last week. A letter to

.

21

1 MAM, residents of Cherry Street and Kurst

2 Court report dim streetlights. They request

3 brighter lights as a safety measure in their

4 neighborhood. The Cherry Street pole number

5 is 56976 and 45349, and there is a number

6 that I have listed as well for the Kurst

7 Street pole or Kurst Court pole I should

8 say. They have previously called the

9 electric company for assistance without

10 success. Please address as soon as possible

11 so that these residents can enjoy security  
12 in their neighborhoods.  
13 A letter to the city tax office:  
14 I'm asking for an update on a \$52 EMS tax  
15 refund for a particular gentleman, he hasn't  
16 received his refund to date. I don't want  
17 to give his name on air, however, I did wish  
18 to add that council received an announcement  
19 regarding the changes in the EMS tax that I  
20 would like to share with you this evening.

21 There is a site that you can access by  
22 computer [www.PLCM.org](http://www.PLCM.org), and click on the  
23 local services tax link at the bottom of the  
24 home page and you will find exemption and  
25 refund forms and frequently asked questions  
.  
22

1 to help with implementation and I'm hoping  
2 that this will assist residents as the EMS  
3 tax swiftly approaches for 2008.  
4 And, finally, a letter to  
5 Mr. Setizinger, residents of the 2400 block  
6 of North Main Avenue request an inspection  
7 and possible condemnation of 2419 North Main



8 Avenue as soon as possible, and that's it.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

10 Mrs. Fanucci?

11 MS. FANUCCI: I only have one thing

12 to clarify, last week's meeting when I had

13 stepped out to use the ladies' room, someone

14 had indicated that I was wrong in what I was

15 stating about the library. The Scranton

16 Library, what I said and what I'm going to

17 restate is that the library is not closing.

18 It will be a branched, it will still remain

19 open. I did not indicate that south side

20 would not have a library as in the plan, but

21 the plan will keep Scranton Library in the

22 City, so I just wanted to clarify that. I

23 had to watch the replay of the meeting and

24 had saw that that question had come up and I

25 wanted to make sure that I indicated it

.

23

1 correctly, and that is all I have. Thank

2 you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. McGoff?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Just one quick

5 clarification, I received a couple of phone  
6 calls about the property that we discussed  
7 last week on Cedar and Locust Avenue --  
8 Cedar Avenue and Locust Street, a number of  
9 people thought that that property was  
10 residents from some of the things that were  
11 said in council that there was somebody  
12 residing on that property and that their  
13 property was being sold away from them. I  
14 just wanted to make to clarify that that is  
15 not a residence, there is nobody on that  
16 site at the present time and so no one's  
17 home is being sold from them, and that's  
18 all. Thank you.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just two items, I'll  
20 send this out myself, Kay. Across from Carl  
21 Servino's Funeral Home on South Main there  
22 is a street light and it's dark there  
23 because of the fact that the tree has grown  
24 over the streetlight, it's blocking out the  
25 light, the tree is blocking out the light,

24

1 so I'll ask Mr. Brazil if they can get

2 somebody down there to trim that away, and  
3 Mrs. Cook brought up last week about Center  
4 Street so I have been going back and forth  
5 all week long about Center Street.  
6 Evidently, those poles and pillars or  
7 whatever those things are call them that are  
8 in there were supposed to be temporary.  
9 They weren't supposed to be permanent, I'm  
10 being told that they could be removed. I  
11 was under the impression they were going to  
12 be removed but they are still there. The  
13 court is no longer vacated and cannot be  
14 there. There is some people very upset  
15 about it, they have been calling all week  
16 long so maybe I'll speak with Mr. Hayes  
17 about getting those removed, but you are  
18 correct, that's street has not been vacated  
19 and I don't know if it's illegal, but it's  
20 closed and it shouldn't be, so I will speak  
21 to Mr. Hayes about getting those removed.  
22 If, in fact, they do want to vacate it  
23 I think they need to take a good hard look,  
24 vacating that entire street, maybe a portion  
25 of that would be bad, that entire street is

25

1 going to reek havoc, I don't believe I'll

2 talk to Mr. Hayes about it this week.

3 That's all I have. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: When did you last

5 speak to someone?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Today. Someone

7 from, I don't want to get them fired, from

8 the bank down there, evidently there were

9 some big shot from the bank in and he is not

10 happy about the fact that I guess they are

11 using the bank's lot to cut through and get

12 out of there and it's just causing big

13 problems, so --

14 MS. GATELLI: I'm only asking because

15 I spoke with someone this afternoon and that

16 he said the vehicles could get through.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: They got both ends

18 blocked.

19 MS. GATELLI: I don't know if it's

20 true, I didn't check myself.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's a bad

22 situation. I've been down there several

23 times.

24 MS. GATELLI: The intent is not to  
25 close it and from what I was gathering it

26

1 was passable, you know, there was enough  
2 room for a fire truck, etcetera, to get  
3 through 24.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: They've got it  
5 blocked. You can't get in from Washington  
6 Avenue, you can't get in from Adam's Avenue,  
7 I don't know what you call those things.

8 Mrs. Cook, do you know what they are called?

9 MRS. COOK: Bollards.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Bollards, okay.

11 You've got them on both ends and you just  
12 simply --

13 MS. GATELLI: Well, then I was given  
14 the wrong information. I was told it's not  
15 going to be vacated.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So, we'll check on  
17 it. Thank you for looking into that.

18 MS. GATELLI: That's exactly what was  
19 on my notes to talk about. And the only

20 other thing is the issue of the streetlights  
21 again. Mrs. Evans brought it up and Mr.  
22 Courtright and I know Mr. Courtright sent a  
23 letter to Mr. Brazil about a streetlight  
24 petition and I gave Neil one tonight to send  
25 to Mr. Brazil, but as you recall in the  
.  
27

1 summer we did get a notice that streetlights  
2 there is no allocation of funds for  
3 streetlights, so you can put all of the  
4 requests in you want, you are not going to  
5 get a streetlight because there are no funds  
6 allocated for that. Now that PPL is not  
7 involved we are charged for streetlights and  
8 it's approximately \$800 per streetlight.  
9 So, you know, maybe we ought to look at  
10 that for our budget, also, for 2008 to  
11 appropriate a portion of funds for street  
12 lighting. It is imperative in the  
13 neighborhoods when it is dark and it is a  
14 deterrent to crime when your neighborhood is  
15 lit up properly, so I think we should  
16 investigate that and maybe we can even ask

17 OECD if they can pay for them and then we'll  
18 owe out of the money there is. So, just for  
19 the record, no one will be getting them real  
20 quick, so if you put one in and you are  
21 expecting one it's not going to happen  
22 because there is money, and we will continue  
23 as a council to work on that to provide safe  
24 streets for our neighborhoods, and that's  
25 all I have.

28

1 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, may I?

2 MS. GATELLI: You may.

3 MS. EVANS: The request I made this  
4 evening was simply for them to check it.

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

6 MS. EVANS: It may need a new bulb

7 or --

8 MS. GATELLI: That would probably not  
9 be much.

10 MS. EVANS: Right.

11 MS. GATELLI: So I'll have Jeff take  
12 care of that.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MS. GATELLI: For the new ones I  
15 think we need to put some kind of funding in  
16 place because none have been put in.

17 MS. EVANS: Maybe talk to Mr. Kurz  
18 from MEM.

19 MS. GATELLI: All right.

20 Mrs. Garvey?

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
23 68, 2004 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING  
24 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF  
25 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY  
26 .  
27  
28  
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1 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED  
2 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
3 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE  
4 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
5 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
6 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
7 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY  
8 TRANSFERRING \$86,000, FROM PROJECT NO.  
9 05-154 FRIENDSHIP HOUSE TO PROJECT NO.  
10 05-154.1 FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ENERGY FACILITIES



11 IMPROVEMENTS.

12 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

13 entertain a motion that 5-B be introduced.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

17 those in favor?

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

23 ayes have it and so moved.

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

25 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.

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30

1 155 OF 2005, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE

2 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

3 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

4 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE

5 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY

6 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS

7 AMENDED) TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY

8 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME  
9 INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND  
10 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM BY  
11 TRANSFERRING \$40,000.00, FROM PROJECT NO.  
12 00-212 COMPUTERIZED MAPPING CAPACITY  
13 BUILDING TO PROJECT NO. 06-229.5 UNITED  
14 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.

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

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

19 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
20 those in favor?

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

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1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. GARVEY: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -

3 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

4 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

5 AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
6 CONTRACT WITH GREENMAN-PEDERSEN, INC. FOR  
7 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR DESIGN  
8 OF CRISP AVENUE CULVERT REPLACEMENT.

9 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
10 entertain a motion that 5-D be introduced.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
14 those in favor?

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The  
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
23 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER  
24 INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
25 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND

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32

1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") FOR ITS URBAN

2 DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM TO RECEIVE A  
3 \$5,000.00 GRANT FOR POOL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE  
4 NOVEMBRINO SWIMMING COMPLEX.

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

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

9 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
10 those in favor?

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

17 MS. GARVEY: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
19 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER  
20 INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
21 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
22 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") FOR ITS URBAN  
23 DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM TO RECEIVE A  
24 \$10,000.00 GRANT FOR SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO  
25 STURGIS PARK.

1 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
2 entertain a motion that 5-F be introduced.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
6 those in favor?

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The  
12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MS. GARVEY: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
14 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY P.  
15 TROZZOLILLO, 115 EMILY AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
16 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TO THE CIVIL SERVICE  
17 COMMISSION EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 5, 2007. MR.  
18 TROZZOLILLO WILL BE REPLACING ANDREW E.  
19 BUBSER, WHO RESIGNED EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12,  
20 2007. MR. TROZZOLILLO'S TERM WILL EXPIRE  
21 WITH THE TERM OF MAYOR CHRISTOPHER A.  
22 DOHERTY.

23 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

24 entertain a motion that 5-G be introduced.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

3 those in favor?

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. NO

11 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO

12 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. EIGHTH ORDER,

13 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION II - GENERAL CITY

14 ISSUES.

15 MS. GATELLI: Douglas.

16 MR. MILLER: Good evening, council,

17 Doug Miller, Scranton Junior City Council

18 President. After weeks of reviewing

19 applications from students interested in

20 serving on our council, Junior Council vice  
21 president Ian Miller and I have nominated  
22 two students who we feel will represent  
23 their school and classmates with great pride  
24 and commitment. The nominees to fill the  
25 vacancy on our council are Casey Bales, a  
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35

1 Junior from West Scranton High School and  
2 Nicole Bierie, a freshman from West Scranton  
3 High School. We believe that these two  
4 students are the best candidates because of  
5 their involvement in the community and their  
6 commitment to make our city a better place.  
7 With that said, I ask council president  
8 Gatelli to make a motion to formally appoint  
9 Casey Bales and Nicole Bierie to the  
10 Scranton Junior City Council.

11 MS. GATELLI: I'll make a motion to  
12 appoint Casey Bales and Nicole Bierie to the  
13 Junior Council.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

15 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
16 those in favor?

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MR. MILLER: Congratulations and

24 welcome.

25 MS. GATELLI: Why don't each of you

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36

1 come up and just introduce yourself and say

2 a few things about yourself, I'm going to

3 put you on the spot.

4 MR. BALES: I'm Casey Bales and I'm a

5 junior at West Scranton. I participate in

6 drama club and German Club at West Scranton

7 High School. I also take classes at David

8 Natchee School of Dance and I also take

9 archery lessons.

10 MS. BIERIE: My name is Nicol Bierie

11 and I'm a freshman at West Scranton High

12 School and I'm involved in the drama club,

13 the chorus club, the spirit club, the



14 Spanish club, the mock trial club and I'm  
15 currently running for secretary of our  
16 class. I also traveled with the school on  
17 the last retreat and I traveled to Florida.

18 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. We welcome  
19 you.

20 MR. MILLER: Last week I shared with  
21 council a proposal for Junior Council. This  
22 proposal involved creating a contest that  
23 encourages residents to take pride in their  
24 neighborhoods. We researched this project  
25 in the City of Wilkes-Barre's website. We  
.  
37

1 hope council is supportive of this  
2 opportunity to improve our neighborhoods.  
3 Last week that I stated that we would give  
4 council a week to review this plan and that  
5 tonight I would ask for council to make a  
6 motion to approve this project. So, at this  
7 time I ask council to please make a motion  
8 to approve this project so that we could  
9 begin the planning stages of this project.  
10 This project involves restoring pride in our

11 neighborhoods and I believe we are all  
12 supportive of any efforts that will help  
13 improve our quality of life.  
14 MS. GATELLI: I don't know about  
15 anyone else, but I really didn't get a  
16 chance to discuss it with any of my  
17 colleagues or to discuss it with the mayor.  
18 I think that he would have to be involved  
19 and probably Sandy Mashinski down in Parks  
20 and Rec and maybe even in the Architectural  
21 Heritage Association because they gave  
22 awards for homes that are very well done  
23 according to their standards. So, why don't  
24 we give it a few weeks, Douglas, and I'll  
25 talk to my colleagues about it and see how  
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1 they feel. I personally think it's a good  
2 idea, but I think some bugs have to be  
3 worked out and we need the cooperation of  
4 everyone else before we can commit to it.

5 MR. MILLER: Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Sbaraglia.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

8 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
9 read in the paper that Mr. Krushefski is  
10 leaving the administration. I would like to  
11 know how this affects the audit in any way.  
12 We have been waiting for that audit, you  
13 were all to blame that the audit was not  
14 forthcoming because you didn't act fast  
15 enough, now we get a guy that's leaving,  
16 leaving at the most critical time of the  
17 whole city. You prepared a new budget and  
18 this is the man that was supposed to do most  
19 of the work on the new budget and he decided  
20 to leave. It brings up a lot of questions.  
21 Why would a man at the most critical time in  
22 the city, a man that's his job to do would  
23 leave? And it's hard to say. I don't know  
24 why, I was hoping maybe some of you may have  
25 an answer on why he should leave other than

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1 being sick and tired of doing what he has  
2 been doing. I guess I would be, too, though  
3 maybe that's the reason. I would get sick  
4 and tired of putting out that garbage

5 reports after report and having to stand by  
6 it and say, "This is how it should be," and,  
7 "This is how it will be," and you know darn  
8 well it isn't to be.

9 That's why every year at the end of  
10 the year you are looking for money. I am  
11 just wondering if the TANS money is  
12 available and that's a good question. There  
13 is millions of dollars in TANS that has to  
14 be paid at the end of this year, could that  
15 be one of the reasons why he would leave? I  
16 don't want to have to explain to the  
17 taxpayers why we haven't got this money  
18 available to pay off a lot of things that  
19 have to be paid. Maybe he is right. Maybe  
20 he should jump ship at this time. It's a  
21 good time to leave. He can always get a job  
22 somewhere, he is an accountant.

23 As you know, my son has many, many  
24 doctorate degrees in accounting and he just  
25 don't understand any of it, why somebody at

40

1 a critical time. I can see after the budget

2 was out maybe leaving, at least you have  
3 done their job to the people of Scranton and  
4 paid your salary all of them years, but to  
5 jump ship at this time it doesn't really  
6 smack good in my eyes, probably doesn't  
7 smack good in anybody's eyes, it's just  
8 something that he has done and there is  
9 nothing you can do about it.  
10 It's too bad the city is going to  
11 suffer because if anybody should know about  
12 the finances of the city it's him. He  
13 should know if we are deeply in debt, if we  
14 can't come up with the TAN money or any of  
15 these things. You haven't I get seen the  
16 budget and I guess it's not ready to come  
17 before you yet or they must have talked to  
18 you a little about but, well, regardless  
19 it's going to come before, it's going to  
20 blow off I guess and it's a sorry sad of  
21 affairs if we can't get that TAN money if we  
22 have to borrow again to borrow on top of it.  
23 Thank you.  
24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sbaraglia, just a bit  
25 of information for you, TANS Series A is

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1 traditionally paid in full in July each year  
2 and that occurred once again this past July.  
3 TANS Series B has a last report of the  
4 controller's office has not yet been  
5 touched. There is ten million and  
6 fifty-thousand dollars in an account labeled  
7 TAN Series B.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

11 Les Spindler, city resident. First of all,  
12 as a citizen in this city, Mrs. Evans, I'd  
13 like to thank you for making a motion for  
14 the \$13,000 for Channel 61 because it's the  
15 only way that the truth gets out of the  
16 things that happen in this city because we  
17 all know in the Doherty newsletter they  
18 don't tell the truth.

19 Next thing, Mr. McGoff, last week  
20 you were asked a question about immigration  
21 and you wouldn't answer it in public in an  
22 interview and wouldn't answer it in private

23 out in the hallway, why is that? Is that  
24 you don't want the people to know the truth  
25 about how you feel about things? I guess  
.

42

1 the answer was -- the question was answered  
2 in Saturday's paper when you said, "We need  
3 to embrace all immigrants."  
4 I take it to believe that you are in  
5 favor of illegal immigrants in this country.  
6 People that are getting tax free, everything  
7 tax free, they don't pay for medical  
8 insurance, and we pay for that and I guess  
9 you are in favor of illegal immigrants,  
10 that's wonderful. You don't care about us  
11 taxpayers, you care more about illegal  
12 immigrants. Mrs. Fanucci, again on your no  
13 empty store fronts that you brought up last  
14 week, four more counting -- plus the four I  
15 asked you last week, 214 Wyoming Avenue, 219  
16 Wyoming Avenue, the old -- where Quint's  
17 Army/Navy was and where North American  
18 Warhorse was on Mulberry Street, those jobs  
19 went to Dunmore, so I don't know where all

20 of your filled up store fronts are, but you  
21 are living in the same dream world as Chris  
22 Doherty is with his 3,000 jobs he brought  
23 into the city.

24 Next thing, Mrs. Fanucci, you say to  
25 bring up productive things, which I did, but  
.  
43

1 nobody does anything. Why don't you make a  
2 motion to have your solicitor draw up  
3 legislation to have the smoking ban for  
4 minors in public places and a ban on cell  
5 phone use while driving?

6 MS. FANUCCI: Would you like an  
7 answer?

8 MR. SPINDLER: Yes.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Because right now they  
10 are look into a state ban for cell phones so  
11 I did not feel it was necessary to do that.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Well, why don't you  
13 be proactive --

14 MS. FANUCCI: Well, do you want the  
15 answer?

16 MR. SPINDLER: I don't want all of my



17 time used up.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Well, it's going to be

19 used up if you ask me a question.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Answer the question

21 when I'm done. We should be proactive like

22 West Pittston laws and like Carbondale does

23 and make their own laws. They didn't wait

24 for the state.

25 Last week, Mr. Courtright, thanks

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1 for answering my question about Center

2 Street, I also saw those things there, it's

3 a safety hazard. If one of those buildings

4 back there gets on fire they are going to

5 burn down because fire trucks can't get back

6 there and I'd love to know what rocket

7 scientist was that okayed that. Thank you.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Piccolino. He is

9 not here? Mr. Quinn.

10 MR. QUINN: Thank you. Over the

11 weekend the Associated Press unequivocally

12 stated that the America's working poor

13 cannot support and is being stretched to the

14 breaking point. The story is about  
15 household income that where it shows that  
16 consumers, especially those making less than  
17 \$30,000 a year, are cutting spending on  
18 food, medical care and critical services.  
19 According to the news story these households  
20 are living from paycheck to paycheck.  
21 In the City of Scranton, according  
22 to the US Census, the median household  
23 income is \$31,900. That means that there is  
24 \$29,999 households, approximately 14,000  
25 almost half the households, are below  
.

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1 \$30,000, so they are really having very  
2 difficult time.  
3 And why I bring this up is because  
4 of the -- it's that time of the year when  
5 you are going to pass a budget and it's  
6 already been I guess supported by some  
7 members of the council here that you are  
8 going to increase the taxes here in the City  
9 of Scranton, 25 percent. Judy, you said,  
10 no, but I don't know what the other ones

11 said, okay? I know Janet is for it.

12 MS. FANUCCI: I want to know where

13 the rumors started that I --

14 MR. QUINN: I'm talking please.

15 MS. FANUCCI: You made it up.

16 MR. QUINN: Tell her to keep quite.

17 MS. GATELLI: Go ahead.

18 MR. QUINN: The fact is that the

19 school board is going to pass -- they passed

20 the \$60 million bond and they are going to

21 execute it and you are going to see a raise

22 in their taxes. The county commissioners

23 they decreased the taxes, but they gave an

24 increase in 2004 so they put a spin on it

25 and it was still 26 percent, so what I'm

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1 saying is the fact is that people are

2 hurting out there and you passed an

3 ordinance, the fact that you are going to

4 take homes away from people, elderly and

5 people who I mentioned here under the

6 \$30,000 who can't afford the basics yet they

7 are going to have to paying -- we are paying

8 taxes now that's exorbitant, you are going  
9 to take away their homes from them and I ask  
10 you again to go back and try to look at the  
11 social economic data in the City of Scranton  
12 and make your proposals, your budgets as per  
13 the social economic data not what the mayor  
14 says or not what anybody at council says,  
15 okay, but do it that way with the exception  
16 of Janet Evans. Last year she came up with  
17 a budget, finance chairperson, ignored it.  
18 I hope that they won't ignore Mrs. Evans  
19 this time, okay?

20 Now, the last thing that really  
21 astounds me is the fact that the City of  
22 Scranton franchise Comcast receives over  
23 \$800,000 a year from Comcast for the cable  
24 and you can't fund 61 with over that  
25 \$800,000? If that isn't a political snafu I

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1 don't know what it is. You know, you can't  
2 -- it's not looking out for the people,  
3 those people who are sitting at home  
4 18 percent elderly one in four poverty 17.2

5 percent in poverty, the state is 11.9, the  
6 state's medium income is \$40,000, so,  
7 please, look out for the people, your  
8 electorate and do something, look at the  
9 data. Look at Mrs. Fanucci, try to think  
10 about it Mrs. Fanucci. Don't try to think  
11 of coffee shops and whatever, do us a favor  
12 sometime. Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Mr. Quinn, I wanted to  
15 respond to your final statement regarding  
16 the Comcast, in actuality the figures  
17 plugged into the 2007 operating budget  
18 exceed what has been received by the city  
19 this year in terms of payments made each  
20 financial quarter reflecting the 5 percent  
21 Comcast profits, so we are actually not only  
22 receiving less money than we did last year,  
23 but the monies received will not even equal  
24 what has been plugged into the current  
25 operating budget. They are under budget if

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1 you will, under our budget.

2 MR. QUINN: What are talking about

3 dollarwise?

4 MS. EVANS: Pardon?

5 MR. QUINN: How much are you talking

6 about dollarwise?

7 MS. EVANS: Oh, I'm going to have to

8 do the math for you, but I believe it's 700

9 and some thousand that was put into the 2007

10 operating budget and I think at this point

11 in time we did receive a payment very

12 recently that is normally not received until

13 November and it was for, I'm going to

14 approximate here, about half of what it

15 should be, and I think this reflects a

16 pattern of cancelled contracts between

17 viewers and Comcast. Their numbers

18 obviously are down because we know that, you

19 know, they have levied increases regularly,

20 but the money simply isn't there. It isn't

21 being received by the city, so there will be

22 a gap in this particular budget line item.

23 MR. QUINN: But they will be

24 receiving 700 and some thousand dollars?

25 MS. EVANS: The city?

1 MR. QUINN: Yeah.

2 MS. EVANS: I don't believe we will.

3 MR. QUINN: How much do you think we  
4 will be receiving?

5 MS. EVANS: It's difficult to gauge  
6 because of the final payment is not made --  
7 the final payment for this current fiscal  
8 year will not be made until February 2008.

9 MR. QUINN: Well, let's put it back.  
10 I mean, last year, the 2007 budget --

11 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Quinn, we are  
12 going to have to address this --

13 MR. QUINN: I was having a  
14 conversation.

15 MS. GATELLI: I know, but we can't  
16 because the other people don't have that  
17 opportunity. Mrs. Evans, can you find that  
18 out for him later?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes, I'd be happy to.

20 If you want to e-mail I can --

21 MR. QUINN: Certainly. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Share the facts.

23 MS. GATELLI: She will look it up for

24 you.

25 MR. QUINN: Thank.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

2 Mr. Dobson.

3 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council.

4 Dave Dobson, resident of Scranton and a

5 Taxpayer Association associate. I'm going

6 to put my sewage talk on the side for now

7 and address the 61 issue I wrote a little

8 statement here. I feel it's important to

9 fund Channel 61. It's unconscionable to

10 pledge \$25,000 and not deliver it after the

11 services are rendered, and these people

12 provide uncolored news without comment for

13 our citizens. They don't tell anybody what

14 to think, they just show the results of the

15 various meetings, and take my word for it,

16 if somebody got out of line here or was

17 insulting or embarrassing or off center, I

18 talk to a lot of people around town, and the

19 citizens don't always have the best opinions



20 of these people, so if somebody is out of  
21 line or whatever usually the people that  
22 watch the program are capable of determining  
23 that and they don't really consider them  
24 heroes.

25 And the people that I see propose to

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1 take it over they have a political agenda of  
2 their own and sometimes they can't separate  
3 facts from their own fiction. News reports  
4 are edited. One time I attended a town  
5 meeting at a local university, social  
6 security was the issue, and the former  
7 congressman was allowed himself time on  
8 privatization, many young people cheered him  
9 despite his lack of objective impulse. He  
10 left without allowing sufficient comment for  
11 objective views, many people were standing  
12 in line and they just weren't given any  
13 chance to make a comment and basically, this  
14 is just an example, but it violates common  
15 sense on that objectivity and also IRS rules  
16 involving - for nonprofit involving

17 politics, if a none profit or church group  
18 is going to invite one candidate they are  
19 supposed to invite most of the candidates  
20 and give them an opportunity to speak  
21 irregardless of whether they agree with  
22 their agenda or not. That's an IRS rule for  
23 nonprofits, so I would appreciate if we  
24 could look into it and wherever if you have  
25 to raise my taxes a dollar big deal.

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52

1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Davis.  
2 MR. DAVIS: Salaam aleikum. My name  
3 is Jim Davis and I'm here tonight to talk  
4 about the eviction, the eviction of  
5 Washington Plaza. Has anybody ever found  
6 out what happened to the people and what we  
7 are going to do about the houses that lay  
8 their empty? Has anybody inquired into it?  
9 Does anybody care? That's my problem  
10 because I can go through the Hill Section  
11 and I can start on Mulberry Street and I can  
12 start looking down Taylor Avenue all the way  
13 to Prescott Avenue, I have never seen -- it

14 looks like a bombed out shelter, it really  
15 does. All of those houses were taken down.  
16 All of those -- I used to know most of the  
17 people that lived there, that whole  
18 community was dispersed and destroyed in a  
19 lot of ways. As you know and I know, once  
20 you have been raised in a certain area you  
21 destroy the homes you destroy the community,  
22 I have gone through that four times, I saw  
23 Adams Avenue in the city, this beautiful  
24 thing of modern -- what was that called,  
25 Midtown Redevelopment and the Judy Gatelli.

53

1 Okay. Jimmy Connors, Mrs. Gatelli,  
2 University of Scranton, Hill Neighborhood  
3 Association went through the Hill Section  
4 and exterminated -- or they didn't  
5 exterminate, they --  
6 MS. GATELLI: Yes, that's correct, we  
7 did exterminate, you are right, we did.  
8 MR. DAVIS: You exterminated that  
9 whole community I'll tell you what, we have  
10 not forgotten, but you know the people said,

11 "Vengeance is mine sayeth the Lord."  
12 You know, whenever I hear you being  
13 afraid of this or afraid of that and I can't  
14 understand who pays for this guard, your  
15 personal guard? Who pays? Because when you  
16 are not here he is not here, so who pays for  
17 that, you? Does that come out of your  
18 salary? I hope so at least. Then we can  
19 say, "Hey, if she -- if see doesn't come,  
20 good. We are saving money," but the thing  
21 is you have been -- you have been a pain the  
22 sides of many people that I know personally  
23 for an awful long time and I think you  
24 should do something about it like resign.

25 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Davis, I don't

.

54

1 intend to resign. When I worked there I

2 closed drug houses.

3 MR. DAVIS: Can I finish?

4 MS. GATELLI: They were drug houses

5 that I closed.

6 MR. DAVIS: All the houses were drug

7 houses?

8 MS. GATELLI: Most of them were drug  
9 houses, yes, they were.

10 MR. DAVIS: Have you been up there  
11 lately?

12 MS. GATELLI: Yes, they were drug  
13 houses.

14 MR. DAVIS: Have you been up there  
15 lately? Have you seen the houses that are  
16 gone?

17 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

18 MR. DAVIS: Have you seen the  
19 properties that are totally wiped out?

20 MS. GATELLI: Marie Schumacher.

21 MR. DAVIS: Totally wiped out. You  
22 are a shame. You should be ashamed of  
23 yourself.

24 MS. GATELLI: Well, I'm not. I'm  
25 very proud of my record in community

55

1 development.

2 MR. DAVIS: I'm quite sure that God  
3 will do the right thing with you.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,

5 resident and member of the Scranton  
6 Lackawanna Taxpayers' and Citizens'  
7 Association. A few things tonight, I want  
8 to do some follow-up so even though I  
9 may ask questions if you would wait until my  
10 three minutes have been consumed or I  
11 complete before you answer.  
12 To start off though, I would like to  
13 speak to the rumor that Mrs. Fanucci talked  
14 about on the tax incentive, that was PEL and  
15 their presentation here, I believe it was  
16 last year, that promised us a 25 percent tax  
17 increase last year for 2007, 2008 and 2009  
18 and if you go back and check the records you  
19 will find that's what they promised.  
20 And also a point of information  
21 before I get to my follow-ups, and that is I  
22 don't know yet whether the city has hired an  
23 engineer, but the lack of an engineer or  
24 anybody apparently in that department to do  
25 any follow-up on their subcontractors is  
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1 really affecting the citizens. By now we

2 should have had the traffic signals  
3 throughout the city, should have been timed,  
4 that whole project should have been  
5 completed, instead, it hasn't even been put  
6 out to bid yet and why? Because the  
7 Allentown company that was contracted by the  
8 city to do that work hasn't been producing  
9 and who is there to follow- up? With the  
10 price of gas going up it really hurts a lot  
11 of people to sit at a red light when they  
12 are not timed, if they were timed and had  
13 sensors they could be back on their way  
14 instead of burning unnecessary fuel.  
15 And now to my follow-ups. First,  
16 last week as promised I delivered a series  
17 of letters to you, two of which requested  
18 specific information on specific budget  
19 items. I delivered those copies they were  
20 -- two of the letters were two months old,  
21 the others were more recent, I delivered  
22 those to Mrs. Fanucci and Mrs. Gatelli and  
23 Mr. McGoff because they are the three who  
24 said they had no problem getting information  
25 from the mayor. I'd sort of like -- if I

1 moire time I'd like to play a game I have  
2 seen on the Price is Right where you get a  
3 car if you -- if you ask -- if you have one  
4 number right and then a sound comes on and  
5 then another, "Do I have two numbers right,"  
6 and a sound comes on, and the prize that I'm  
7 looking for is some transparency in  
8 government, and I'd like to go through all  
9 nine questions that were addressed in those  
10 documents and say, "Do I get one answer? Do  
11 I get two answers?"  
12 I would really love the answers and  
13 after I hope you will inform as to whether  
14 or not you are going to be able to provide  
15 those for me. Mr. Courtright, can you  
16 respond on the plans for the police  
17 headquarters finishing?  
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I haven't gotten an  
19 answer yet, sorry. I'll ask again.  
20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Maybe you can ask  
21 one of your three colleagues who has no  
22 problem. Any answers to any of the



23 questions on those? Nothing. Thank you.

24 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else?

25 MR. DANSICO: Good evening, again,

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58

1 council, my name is a Lou Dansico, I'm here

2 representing Scranton Today, and I've come

3 to the lectern to just thank you for the

4 action that you have taken tonight. That

5 action will allow us to continue to operate

6 the station for the balance of the year. I

7 thank you on behalf of the citizens of the

8 City of Scranton who I guess we all serve,

9 us in the capacity of being a medium by

10 which your message gets and I thank you on

11 behalf of the citizens who want you to

12 receive that message. I also look forward

13 to next year the opportunity of once again

14 receiving money from the city to continue

15 the work of Scranton Today. Thank you very

16 much.

17 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Piccolino, I called

18 you a little while ago so you can come up.

19 MR. PICCOLINO: Giovanni Piccolino,

20 taxpayer, business man in Scranton.

21 Scranton police are investigating a pair of

22 fights that sent two University of Scranton

23 students to a hospital. Two unidentified

24 men were assaulted on the 440 Block of

25 Costello Court about an hour apart Friday

.

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1 police said. The alleged attackers names

2 were not released, but the police said they

3 were also college students. The first malae

4 involved eight to ten men who alleged

5 another man unarmed around 7:00 a.m. police

6 said. The second victim in the same area on

7 Costello Court happened around 2:5 a.m. The

8 second victim was also a man who was

9 allegedly beaten by a couple of other men

10 police said. In this incident the victim's

11 leg was placed on the roadway curb and

12 stomped breaking a bone the police said.

13 The victim initially didn't want anything

14 done, but is now working with investigators

15 said Scranton police captain Carl Graziano.

16 Both incidents remain under investigation,

17 no charges have within filed.  
18 My point of this is that we are  
19 constantly handing things left and right to  
20 the University of Scranton and when you are  
21 trying to make a town a college town there  
22 is more violence and propensity or people  
23 drinking and whatnot to create more  
24 violence, and I think like violence in the  
25 City of Scranton has to be an issue that we  
.  
60

1 look at a little bit more when we are  
2 handing this and that and things out left  
3 and right to the University of Scranton.  
4 You bring in a lot of students, a lot of  
5 mixture and that's not a good situation.  
6 Each and every time our public safety is  
7 called out there, you know, it's a burden on  
8 the taxpayers. There has got to be some  
9 kind of way that we could somehow someway  
10 get some kind of money out of the "U". I  
11 know it's a nonprofit, but, you know, if we  
12 come up with this NCC deal where we have an  
13 ordinance where we come up with these

14 ridiculous \$2,300 in penalties and fees if  
15 you can't afford to pay your taxes, there  
16 has got to be some kind of ordinance we can  
17 do in order for us to get some kind of money  
18 out of there, because, you know, all of  
19 these things, putting a kid's leg on the  
20 curb and stomping it and breaking it in half  
21 and the taxpayers are paying for that kind  
22 of stuff, at the same time th "U" is  
23 building up left and right and left and  
24 right and basically taking our tax dollars  
25 and our police force and our firefighters  
.  
61

1 and everything with it and it's a very, very  
2 heavy burden on the City of Scranton  
3 taxpayers and we should definitely do  
4 something about it.  
5 Another issue I would like to talk  
6 about is Channel 61. That is very, very  
7 vital to all of the citizens of Scranton  
8 especially the people who can't get here and  
9 handicapped and whatnot, for us to say we  
10 are giving them money and then pull it away

11 I think is a big shame. You know, again  
12 with all of this tax money that we are  
13 digging out of the all taxpayers' pockets,  
14 there's got to be some kind of money  
15 available for the TV stations so people have  
16 the freedom of speech and they can see how  
17 their government is being run. Thank you  
18 very much.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'd just like to  
21 comment on one thing Mr. Piccolino said  
22 because I have been thinking about it for a  
23 long time and I wanted to wait after the  
24 election, I don't want to sound like a  
25 political speech, but a lot of businesses  
.

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1 throughout this city higher police officers  
2 extra duty, The Ice Box, South Side Complex,  
3 I think Mr. Piccolino's business, and I  
4 thought maybe we could go, I said I will  
5 wait to all of the election business is  
6 over, maybe we can go to the University of  
7 Scranton and ask them to try to be a good

8 neighbor and maybe they can pay for two  
9 officers up in the Hill, even on the  
10 weekends when the kids are a little bit more  
11 crazy, but I think what you need to do is  
12 you got officers sometimes working extra  
13 duty and they only get straight time, and  
14 that's not an extra duty job that they are  
15 going to go running for because they are  
16 going to really work hard on the weekend up  
17 there, so maybe if we get the University to  
18 agree to hire two police officers on Friday  
19 and Saturday and they were to get time and a  
20 half, I think we could control a lot of  
21 problems up there. So maybe I'll try to  
22 take that on and see if I can't speak to  
23 somebody over there and see if they would be  
24 willing to help us out with that and I think  
25 it would benefit them and us. That's all I

.

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1 have. Thank you.

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

3 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, citizen

4 of Scranton. I'm speaking tonight on behalf

5 of Dan Dowrimple, who as you all know,  
6 graduated from West Scranton High last year  
7 and Dan is a student at Berkley College  
8 music in Boston. Dan put out a CD out of  
9 his own costs, it's an instrumental CD, ten  
10 original songs, and Dan asked me to convey  
11 the message that he would like anybody who  
12 wants to buy that CD at \$5 a piece to please  
13 do so, send the money to Channel 61, that's  
14 Dan's contribution to trying to help Channel  
15 61.

16 And I would also like to take issue  
17 with the mayor and council that this is a  
18 terrible example to set for the citizens and  
19 the for the kids in this community that with  
20 the exorbitant fees that we pay to Comcast  
21 for our TV stations that they can't afford  
22 an extra 25 grand, it is sad, but here is a  
23 kid who just graduated from high school and  
24 is paying his way through college and he is  
25 going to donate five bucks for each CD that  
.

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1 he paid for to Channel 61, and I would

2 encourage anybody who is interested in  
3 purchasing it to please contact Channel 61.  
4 Mr. Piccolino has graciously offered to  
5 handle some of the CD's down at his place.  
6 If anybody needs anything call me at  
7 Scranton Large or I'm sure they can call  
8 Channel 61 and get that information and  
9 thank you very much. And I'm hoping that  
10 Channel 61 will stay on the air.  
11 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South  
12 Scranton resident. This is the third time  
13 in six weeks when I come up to speak  
14 Mrs. Fanucci has left the room. Life,  
15 paycheck to paycheck. Many signs indicate  
16 America's working poor and not so poor are  
17 being stretched to the breaking point and  
18 Mr. McGoff is advocating that we take care  
19 of the illegal immigrants and nondocumented  
20 immigrants who are living and working in  
21 this city for under the table wages and  
22 sending most of the money back to their  
23 relatives back home. Well documented,  
24 Mr. McGoff. Money that you still have four  
25 days will only last two days. Americans,



1 Scranton citizens are increasingly unable to  
2 stretch their dollars to the next pay as  
3 they juggle higher rents, food, and energy  
4 bills and higher taxes. Now in Scranton  
5 they must worry about losing their homes  
6 thanks to Mr. McGoff, Mrs. Fanucci and  
7 President Gatelli.

8 Food prices in the last year, milk  
9 21.3 percent increase; eggs, 43.9 percent  
10 increase; chicken, 8.1 percent increase;  
11 coffee, 6.8 percent increase; beef and veal,  
12 6.4 increase, and many others. Also, gas  
13 prices and heating oil on the rise again.

14 Economists and analysts fear the strain will  
15 get worse as people are hit with higher home  
16 heating bills this winter. Mortgage rates  
17 are going up and Scranton politicians  
18 raising city taxes 25 percent, Mr. McGoff,  
19 Ms. Fanucci and President Gatelli to make it  
20 easier for Scranton homeowners to lose their  
21 homes, but yet Mr. McGoff advocates making  
22 it easy for undocumented illegal immigrants

23 to take jobs away from Scranton, US  
24 citizens. This will create a larger burden  
25 for Scranton taxpayers, illegals do not pay  
.

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1 taxes. All cities, council members, the  
2 mayor and Austin Burke should visit Labor  
3 Ready on Wyoming Avenue at 5 a.m. every  
4 morning and also at the end of the day when  
5 workers are paid. They are usually paid by  
6 vouchers or by check which, by the way, no  
7 taxes are taken out of them, so, again,  
8 illegals and undocumented do not pay taxes.

9 Mr. Courtright, I never said that you  
10 do not support Channel 61. What I said was  
11 that you and the other council persons voted  
12 for \$25,000 for Channel 61 not knowing if  
13 the money was available, so if anyone was  
14 wrong it was you and you fellow council  
15 members for voting for a donation you did  
16 not have.

17 And, Mr. McGoff, I stand corrected,  
18 you did not vote for the \$25,000, I  
19 misquoted you, I misstated last week. Miss

20 Fanucci, Scranton does not have one-store  
21 front property available downtown, you are  
22 correct, there are more available than you  
23 can count with more becoming available.

24 It's a totally misleading statement, but  
25 Scrantonians are intelligent people, we just

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1 vote the wrong people into office. Thank  
2 you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

4 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

5 Tonight I would just like to say that I  
6 really hope that city council comes through  
7 with the money for Channel 61, but I would  
8 also like to inform all of the people in the  
9 City of Scranton and outside of the city  
10 that Channel 61 is an major asset to this  
11 community and I think that people fail to  
12 realize that it severs more than just the  
13 people in Scranton, I think it's audience is  
14 very wide and broad and I think it's goes  
15 all the way to Pittston. Myself and Ozzie  
16 Quinn, who is the president of our tax

17 group, has sat down in the last month and  
18 had discussions about Channel 61, we didn't  
19 know that there financial situation was as  
20 bleak as it is right now, and I would like  
21 to say that I seriously hope that council  
22 comes through with the money that they have  
23 talked about tonight and that the Scranton/  
24 Lackawanna Taxpayers' and Citizens'  
25 Association is going to do a drive to raise  
. .  
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1 money for Channel 61, but our position is  
2 going to be multifaceted because we would  
3 like to see Channel 61 go to low power FM.  
4 We would also like it see them broadcast on  
5 a lot of different bands like Internet,  
6 computers and so forth and so on, so we are  
7 going to do a very wide ranging fundraiser  
8 that we have already talked to people, I  
9 have personally talked to people to bring  
10 this about. And the tax group came forward  
11 when the free swim came and we accomplished  
12 that mission and we are going to tackle this  
13 one and we are a small group and we are

14 looking forward to council working with  
15 Channel 61 to give them and give us enough  
16 time to try and help Channel 61 and for  
17 everyone to please give a donation to  
18 Channel 61 at 500 Vine Street. No matter  
19 where you live in the county it's very  
20 important, this channel is a major asset  
21 which really brings forth freedom of speech  
22 in every way. Judge Munley has a show  
23 there, we have -- we just have so many  
24 people there that have so many things that  
25 are so vital to this community, not just  
.

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1 Scranton, places outside of the city in  
2 Lackawanna County and I think that everybody  
3 should consider sending a donation to  
4 Channel 61 and also to support the tax  
5 group. You can call Ozzie Quinn at 347-8813  
6 or you can call me at 558-1648, and this is  
7 a real thing and we are going to make it  
8 work. Thank you.

9 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

10 What I'm saying tonight is just my opinion I

11 feel very strongly about it. I would like  
12 the people in the city to understand where  
13 Mr. McGoff is coming from, in my opinion.  
14 Mr. McGoff was quoted on October 26 when  
15 asked a question by Mr. Courtright why he  
16 wanted the job, Mr. McTiernan's seat, he  
17 said, "I have no political aspirations. I  
18 have no real political affiliations."  
19 Well, I believe that, in my opinion,  
20 to be an out and out lie, and if Mr. McGoff  
21 would lie about something like that he would  
22 lie about anything else. Then he also went  
23 onto say, and here's a good one, he wants to  
24 find someone who he feels he is the kind of  
25 person has not been corrupt, has not been  
.  
70

1 corrupted, and he says, and I use that not  
2 in a criminal way, but has not been  
3 corrupted by political process, somebody who  
4 doesn't have an affiliation of constituency,  
5 someone holding them, someone going through  
6 the city and representing the people.  
7 Well, Mr. McGoff, if anybody, if

8 anybody, is politically corrupt you are  
9 number one along with Mrs. Fanucci and  
10 Mrs. Gatelli. I mean, my gosh, you  
11 certainly don't represent the people in the  
12 city when you give them a 25 percent tax  
13 increase. And then you said you wanted it  
14 only for a year and then Mrs. Gatelli said  
15 she wanted to bring someone here that had  
16 ties -- that had ties to either -- that did  
17 not have ties to either political party, so  
18 she would like to appoint Mr. McGoff to the  
19 city council. Well, this is totally  
20 unbelievable.

21 Mr. McGoff, you are all about  
22 politics. You are like everyone else there  
23 on council you are there to represent the  
24 people that appointed you, and the people  
25 that appointed you are Mrs. Gatelli and

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1 Mr. Chris Doherty. You are there to do his  
2 work and his agenda because you have to be  
3 responsible for the person who put you in  
4 that seat and that's Mayor Doherty. You are

5 not there for the people who work and live  
6 everyday and pay and pay and pay the taxes  
7 that you as a swing vote enacted upon them  
8 and you expect us to want you as a council  
9 person? You were never elected by the  
10 people. You were appointed, you owe Mayor  
11 Doherty and you owe Mrs. Gatelli so how  
12 could we possibly want someone like you in  
13 office? If anybody has any brains at all  
14 they will never put you in office. And so I  
15 say remove the politics, remove the taint  
16 and remove yourself from council,  
17 Mr. McGoff.

18 MS. GATELLI: Ray Lyman.

19 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman. Mrs.

20 Gatelli, the Pinebrook Association

21 dissolved, Jerry Richardson told me that.

22 Him, Mary Shalipko and Mr. Pittick dissolved

23 the association because Mary's father,

24 Mr. Shalipko died, and Jerry said that since

25 the lack of officers they dissolved it and

.

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1 he told me that my neighborhood association



2 is getting a \$5,000-block grant. Now, if  
3 I'm -- now, I filled out a block grant  
4 application for \$500 for a camera and was  
5 turned down, do you remember, Sherry, you  
6 told me that?

7 MS. FANUCCI: It wasn't turned down,  
8 Ray, remember, you sent it to the wrong  
9 place? They never received it.

10 MR. LYMAN: I sent it to Sara  
11 Hailstone.

12 MS. FANUCCI: It was never received  
13 to Sara. Remember, you told me you sent it  
14 to the wrong place?

15 MR. LYMAN: And then I delivered -- I  
16 mailed it back to the right address.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Right, but at that time  
18 it was late, it was too late that  
19 the expiration date had gotten away, that  
20 was the problem.

21 MR. LYMAN: Oh, but either way, he  
22 told me that it was sent, that I'm getting  
23 \$5,000 and then the Greenridge Neighborhood  
24 Association is saying that. Now, I want to  
25 know the truth? Am I getting \$5,000 for the

1 Bell Street Neighborhood Association? Yes

2 or no?

3 MS. GATELLI: I never saw an

4 application for you.

5 MR. LYMAN: Because since they are

6 being dissolved, because he's telling me, he

7 was fighting with me down in the store and I

8 said, "I don't know anything about it."

9 And, number two, if that's true we

10 would fix our catch basin and trim the trees

11 if that's true and --

12 MS. GATELLI: Well' find out for you.

13 MR. LYMAN: And now I have some

14 other problems. Now, up by John Adams the

15 lines need to be painted. Now, you can tell

16 the school boards since they are moving

17 around, shuffling around and I couldn't find

18 out where they were and I see on 61 they

19 were at Robert Morris. I tried to call down

20 when they were at the administration I said

21 why can't they be at John Adams. The

22 secretary told me in an ignorant way, "Mind

23 your own business."

24 She used a little profanity at me

25 since I come down here at city council and

.

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1 she says city council is a joke and I

2 thought that was a little ignorant; and

3 number two, you know the light down by

4 Clinical Labs down here, this light? All

5 three lights, you know, the green, yellow,

6 and red is burned out, so, Kay, can you send

7 a letter?

8 MS. GATELLI: Kay, you are working

9 for Ray.

10 MR. LYMAN: No, the light, not the

11 sign. It's the light.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: There is a problem

13 up there.

14 MR. LYMAN: I got another problem.

15 MS. GATELLI: Well, your time is up.

16 You can wait and talk to us after.

17 MS. LYMAN: But, this is important,

18 Mrs. Gatelli.

19 MS. GATELLI: Will it take one

20 minute?

21 MR. LYMAN: Yeah, one minute.

22 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

23 MR. LYMAN: You know down by on

24 Capouse Avenue on Gibson Street and the

25 800-block of Capouse we need a light there.

.

75

1 Sherry, I told you --

2 MS. GATELLI: A stop sign is there.

3 MR. LYMAN: No, a blinker light

4 because when the cars on Gibson and on

5 Capouse the stop sign they come out of,

6 pardon my words, a bat out of hell and the

7 little kids that come from home from John

8 Adams, you know, they try to cross the

9 street and the cars almost hit them.

10 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thanks you.

11 MR. LYMAN: So can you a send a

12 letter?

13 MS. GATELLI: Absolutely.

14 MR. LYMAN: You mentioned last week

15 or two weeks ago -- -

16 MS. GATELLI: You are going over

17 your minute now.

18 MR. LYMAN: Okay.

19 MS. GATELLI: You said one thing.

20 MR. LYMAN: 1490 can, you guys send a

21 letter to our state representatives about

22 1490?

23 MS. GATELLI: Yes, we mentioned last

24 year.

25 MR. LYMAN: All five of you can send

.

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1 a letter.

2 MS. GATELLI: We did last week.

3 MR. LYMAN: To all of our state

4 representatives to stop Comcast.

5 MR. GATELLI: Yes, we did that last

6 week.

7 MR. LYMAN: And you have Verizon and

8 all of the other cable companies coming in

9 the city --

10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

11 Mr. Patilla is waiting anxiously.

12 MR. LYMAN: Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: By the way, you have a

14 great hat on, Ray.

15 MR. LYMAN: Thank you, Judy, a lot of

16 people say that.

17 MS. GATELLI: Are you for Cleveland

18 or --

19 MR. LYMAN: Boston.

20 MR. PATILLA: Scranton resident,

21 member of Scranton/Lackawanna County

22 Taxpayers' Association. Earlier today when

23 I was at the courthouse Channel 61 came up,

24 and, you know, it's kind of pitiful that an

25 elective body can make a promise and then

.

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1 renege on it, but when it comes to this

2 council, not everyone, but the council as a

3 whole it's not unexpected. Like I said,

4 that day when you voted on it I waited for

5 it to happen and it didn't happen. You

6 know, Channel 61 as everybody else has

7 stated is very important for the residents

8 in this area, and it would behoove city

9 council as an individual, as a council

10 person to show the way just like the student

11 did and make a donation for that station.  
12 I'm not going to ask Comcast for a donation,  
13 Comcast gives you guys enough money. Maybe  
14 if some of that money went to the businesses  
15 in this city or paid down that debt we  
16 wouldn't have that problem, you know, but it  
17 all boils down to malfeasance and  
18 mismanagement. Our money is going to places  
19 where it's not doing the city -- the  
20 taxpayers any good, you know, and back to my  
21 number one pet peeve, we are getting to a  
22 few weeks before it's election time so I'm  
23 asking every young person out there, every  
24 registered voter out there, like I said, I  
25 don't tell you who to vote for, not as long  
.  
78

1 as it ain't no body currently in office.  
2 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Patilla, you can't  
3 say that, please.  
4 MR. PATILLA: But it's time for the  
5 citizens of the city to be represented, not  
6 the businesses, not the corporations, not  
7 the lawyers, not the solicitors, but it's

8 the taxpayers, the residents, the Hispanics,  
9 the Afro-Americans, the Caucasians, the  
10 Irish, the Italian, all of us as a whole  
11 because one group doesn't make up this city,  
12 just like one group doesn't make up this  
13 country. You know, we are Scranton and we  
14 deserve to be represented to the fullest.  
15 We shouldn't have to beg, we shouldn't have  
16 to have certain situations of Channel 61 not  
17 having fund being because certain people  
18 have their own private agendas. You know, I  
19 like say every week, you will not be there  
20 come November because I don't see --

21 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Patilla, please.

22 MR. PATILLA: -- positive votes for  
23 you in this audience. I see people coming  
24 to readdress their council people with their  
25 problems and you have yet to show that you

79

1 are here for the people of this city not  
2 Doherty, not anybody else, but the citizens  
3 of this city. We are the ones that pay the  
4 bills. We are the ones stuck with the



5 bills. I'm done. Have a nice night, Mrs.

6 Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: You friend, Janet.

9 Crissy.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Bill?

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.

12 MS. GATELLI: Crissy has a sticker

13 on, too.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Billy. Hey,

15 Judy, two games left this week, Judge, what

16 are we going to do.

17 MS. GATELLI: What are we going to

18 do, are we going to them?

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: We are going to take

20 it you all the way, Judy, I hope we do. I

21 hope for you, too, Janet, and the bowl teams

22 take it.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. SLEDENZSKI: I really mean it.

25 Thank you.

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80

1 MS. GATELLI: Thanks, Crissy.

2 MR. CANNES: Good evening. My name  
3 is Jeff Cannes, I'm a businessman here in  
4 Scranton as well as a resident. I have come  
5 here, well, first of all, I have to  
6 acknowledge that I have heard some  
7 interesting logic and perhaps rhetoric, but  
8 I'm not envious of your jobs here, I  
9 appreciate what you did, obviously it's not  
10 easy. I'm coming here with a business  
11 matter, I don't know if this the right venue  
12 or not. In early 2005 we signed a contract  
13 with the city for work, construction work to  
14 be done at Crowley Park, the project was in  
15 the approximate value range of \$198,000.  
16 The work was pursued with diligence, there  
17 were no complaints about the quality of work  
18 or anything missing from it. We are still  
19 owed I believe \$37,400 without any  
20 discussions about possible interest for non  
21 payment. Basically, our firm has been  
22 funding this job for a couple of years. The  
23 city's response has been that a grant which  
24 had been anticipated did not come through  
25 and they were, therefore, unable to pay the

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1 bill. The logic of this escapes me. I  
2 don't know to whom I might address myself to  
3 seek payment. We have on a regular basis  
4 requested payment from the city. There have  
5 been multiple broken promises. At this  
6 point it has been assigned to an assistant  
7 solicitor who frankly does not comprehend  
8 what has happened, he has spoken with our  
9 bookkeeper and clearly demonstrates a lack  
10 of knowledge of what has transpired or the  
11 figures and it's just going nowhere.  
12 I would appreciate the opportunity  
13 to address and perhaps outside of this room  
14 since I know that my time is short here and  
15 demonstrate to whomever the responsibility  
16 parties might be the facts of this matter  
17 and see how we can get paid. Now, can you  
18 please tell me to whom and where I would go?  
19 MS. GATELLI: I would ask that you  
20 stay for a minute after and we'll have you  
21 talk to the solicitor.  
22 MR. CANNES: Thank you. I'm fully

23 aware the public monies don't grow on trees

24 either, but it just seems unconscionable.

25 MS. EVANS: What is the name of your

.

82

1 company?

2 MR. CANNES: Jerry Cannes,

3 Incorporated. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: You're welcome. Anyone

5 else?

6 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,

7 Council, Nelson Ancherani, resident and

8 taxpayer, city employee and financial

9 secretary of the FOP, First Amendment

10 Rights. A number of months ago Council was

11 informed that experienced and trained

12 officers would be leaving the Scranton

13 Police Department for improved opportunities

14 with other departments. The exodus had

15 begun with one officer leaving a couple of

16 months ago and now three more are scheduled

17 to leave in the very near future. I'm sorry

18 to say, but it is just the beginning. I

19 don't blame them because they are truly

20 bettering themselves. The departments that  
21 they are joining are well-equipped and the  
22 officers will be treated with respect. I  
23 wish them luck. The officers that are  
24 leaving weathered a six-year wage freeze,  
25 but enough is enough. That partly

83

1 illustrates what I mean about treatment.  
2 Six years ago the mayor wrote a recovery  
3 plan that stripped the police officers of  
4 everything they had gained over the years.  
5 He instituted a six-year wage freeze and  
6 wanted the active workers to pay for retired  
7 members health care. The unions resisted  
8 and are locked in fierce arbitrations and  
9 appeals in the courts. One very important  
10 thing the mayor wants to do is to break the  
11 unions. I know I sound a like a broken  
12 record, but what I'm about to say should be  
13 remembered. The mayor violated his recovery  
14 plan from the beginning when he gave raises  
15 through his favorite people and created new  
16 positions. It has costs the city over 11

17 1/2 million dollars cumulatively, that's  
18 cumulatively up to December 31, 2007. By  
19 the end of 2008, that figure would be close  
20 to 20 million cumulatively. This figure  
21 does not include consultants and attorneys.  
22 The new budget will be presented in three  
23 weeks to council by the mayor and I predict  
24 Miss Fanucci, Mr. McGoff and Ms. Gatelli  
25 will pass a record budget and raise our  
.  
84

1 taxes 25 percent regardless of what Ms.  
2 Gatelli says.  
3 MS. GATELLI: You just get that  
4 wallet ready, Nelson.  
5 MR. ANCHERANI: Point of interest,  
6 only 23 applicants showed up to take the  
7 entry level police exam, 23. That's  
8 pathetic. We never had such a low number  
9 taking the test since the testing with an  
10 opened up to everyone, not just city  
11 residents. We have to ask ourselves, why  
12 would anyone want to become a police in the  
13 City of Scranton and work for one of the

14 lows paid departments in the area? We have  
15 approximately 100 patrol officers who  
16 answered approximately 70,000 calls per  
17 years. This averages out to 700 calls per  
18 year for each officer. Needless to say,  
19 that is more calls than some municipalities  
20 get in a year. I see Lynn Krushefski, our  
21 business administrator is leaving probably  
22 for better opportunities. I guess \$80,000  
23 isn't enough even though most police  
24 officers in the city make half of that.  
25 Thank you.

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85

1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone  
2 else? Make a motion to adjourn?  
3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.  
4 MS. GATELLI: I'll see you next  
5 Tuesday.

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7 (Meeting adjourned.)

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3 C E R T I F I C A T E

4

5 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

6 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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



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

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

10 ability.

11

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI  
17 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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