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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 HELD:

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7 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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

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MS. SHERRY FANUCCI
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9 MR. ROBERT MCGOFF

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MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT
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12 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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MS. SUE MAGNOTTA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
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15 MR. JOHN MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. GATELLI: Roll call.

4 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

10 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

13 MS. GATELLI: Here. Dispense with

14 the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Third order. 3-A.

16 Agenda for the zoning hearing board meeting

17 to be held on November 14, 2007.

18 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

19 If not, received and filed.

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

21 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE

22 AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20,

23 2007.

24 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

25 If not, received and filed.

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

2 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER

3 24, 2007.

4 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

5 If not, received and filed.

6 MS. GARVEY: That's all for third

7 order.

8 MS. GATELLI: Before we start with

9 the speakers we will have our weekly

10 announcements. First of all, I'd like to

11 welcome all of the University of Scranton

12 students that are here this evening. There

13 is quite a few of them that had to come for

14 class and a special hello to Rosetta Walsh.
15 Tomorrow evening at West Scranton High
16 School there will a dramafest, it's a like a
17 talent show with many of the students of
18 drama, and one of our junior council
19 members, Casey Bales, is in the show
20 tomorrow night. So, if anyone can make it
21 it's at 7:00 at West Scranton High School.
22 I got an e-mail this week and I thought
23 I should pass it on. It was for your
24 Christmas card list and it said, "When you
25 are doing your Christmas card list this year
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1 if you would please send a card and maybe,
2 Cara Bazzari here, maybe we can get this on
3 Channel 61, you would write a card to a
4 recovering American soldier care of Walter
5 Reed Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue
6 Northwest, Washington, D.C., 20307. I
7 thought that would be a nice gesture and it
8 would only cost you a stamp to send a card
9 to a soldier that is recovering at Walter
10 Reed. So, Cara, see if you can get that,

11 I'll give you the address again later and
12 see if you can get it on 61.
13 I talked to Jeff Brazil because I
14 got many calls about the leaf collection,
15 the leaves are a little late this year
16 because of a nice weather we have had, but
17 starting Monday, November 26, for the whole
18 week they will be collecting leaves both
19 curbside and bagged leaves, Monday through
20 Saturday, the week of November 26. And he
21 said to remind everyone that will be no
22 newspaper recycling that week, no recycling.
23 They will be doing all leaves from Monday to
24 Saturday.

25 The West Scranton football team has
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1 won the Lackawanna Football Conference
2 Division I Championship. Friday night,
3 November 16, at 7:00 at Valley View stadium
4 they will be playing Berwick for the
5 District II Triple A championship. We would
6 like to wish them luck. The coach is Mike
7 D'Antona and I would like to also mention

8 the equipment manager, Tippy D'Nunzio.
9 The next thing I have is I saw the
10 news before I left the house this evening
11 and many of you know there was a fire last
12 evening on Deacon Street and they did a
13 story on a couple, Dave and Jean Evans, and
14 they have started a group over there I guess
15 many years ago called the Deacon Street
16 promise and whenever a family has a crisis
17 they pitch in and help them out, so I just
18 wanted to tell them that I saw them on
19 television and they are to be commended for
20 doing such a service for their neighbors,
21 Dave and Jean Evans.

22 The next thing, I talked to Linda
23 Aebli, she is meeting with Mr. Neverosky on
24 the 28th of November concerning his Hill
25 Neighborhood building to see if she can help
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1 out and she has been meeting with Sloan, she
2 looked at their survey and some of them
3 didn't submit a survey, if they had two
4 children they only submitted one survey, and

5 according to OECD rules you are allowed if
6 you have two children you can submit two
7 surveys, three children, three surveys. So,
8 they redid the surveys and I received a
9 letter from her today that she sent to Pete
10 Roach that it has been determined that Sloan
11 Baseball Association will be awarded \$30,000
12 for field improvements. So, we are very
13 happy about that and I'd like to thank Linda
14 and Leo D'Angelo for being so diligent and
15 helping the Sloan Baseball field.
16 The last thing I have is some
17 congratulations are in order this evening,
18 our two councilmen were successful in their
19 bids and they will be with us for another
20 four years, Mr. Courtright and Mr. McGoff.
21 Congratulations.
22 And I have one more congratulatory
23 remark, I would be remiss if I didn't
24 congratulate my dear friend, Michael Washo.
25 Mike and I have been friends since we worked
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1 together for Jimmy Connors, and I'm very,

2 very proud of him and very happy that he is
3 the new majority county commissioner with
4 Mr. O'Brien, so I'd like to publically
5 congratulate him and I hope we can do some
6 projects together, and I already discussed
7 it with Mike and hopefully with Brian
8 Jeffers from the school district and the
9 three taxing bodies can maybe do some tax
10 saving measures or some projects that we can
11 all do together in an intergovernmental
12 fashion, so I'm very happy, and anyone else?
13 MS. EVANS: Yes. We received a
14 letter from a young man, Andrew Osborne, and
15 he is an Eagle Scout candidate for Boy Scout
16 Troop 11 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and as
17 we all know to obtain that rank they must
18 complete a service project, and his project
19 is to relandscape a memory garden at the
20 Scranton State School for the Deaf, and he
21 is in need of the following items:
22 Weed block, grass seed, a park
23 bench, mulch, a lawn edger, and if anyone
24 can donate anything from that list or cash
25 needed to purchase these items it would be

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1 greatly appreciated, and you can call this
2 young man at 346-3041, that again is Andrew
3 Osborne or you can e-mail him at
4 ALUCARDX72@Yahoo.com, and I'm not sure he
5 would be very, very grateful for any
6 assistance you could provide and no doubt
7 will be anxious to speak with you. That's
8 it.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone
10 else? The first speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.
11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
13 I'm reading a little on the amusement tax
14 and it is amusing. We have everything here
15 you can speak of vaudevilles, circus,
16 carnivals, side shows, all forms of
17 entertainment at fairgrounds, amusement
18 parks, including wrestling matches, boxing,
19 sparring and hockey, but the thing that
20 really gets me is bathing. Now, when you
21 take a bath you are a form of amusement, I
22 presume, because it says right in here:

23 Bathing has now become a form of amusement,

24 so if your husband catches you in the

25 bathtub you got to charge him and donate

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1 that money to the city coffers because it's

2 definitely worth amusement.

3 MS. GATELLI: In some cases it is

4 amusement, Andy.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, it's in here,

6 so I guess it is. I don't know, you got a

7 lot of stuff in here. I assume, are we

8 taxing the bingo as a form of amusement?

9 People -- church has a lot of bingos, is

10 that being taxed?

11 MS. EVANS: Church projects and

12 nonprofits are exempt from this as will be

13 all elementary, intermediate and secondary

14 schools, and I'm also hoping that the

15 swimming issue will be eliminated from the

16 language in that we are certainly not going

17 to be taxing for us use of city-owned pools.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, it's all quite

19 in there, I didn't read it all of the way

20 through it where the exceptions were, but

21 from what I can see --

22 MS. GATELLI: We are going to have

23 some amendments, Mr. Sbaraglia. Attorney

24 Minora is away, so we want to introduce it

25 and then we will do our amendments later.

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1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, because

2 actually you are right, you are not in --

3 this is a tax, we all know it's a tax, and

4 it's a tax on almost everything you do. If

5 you go to a movie they want to you pay

6 extra, other than already what you are

7 paying and you go to a dance everybody is

8 going to go outside of the city. Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Quinn?

10 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, president

11 of the Scranton Taxpayers' Association. Two

12 weeks ago I addressed the city council

13 regarding 7-A and 7-B tonight, a hold on

14 active accounts in the Office of Economic

15 and Community Development that were approved

16 by city council, however, were not activated

17 for many years and the community block grant
18 is a collecting dust, including the UDAG
19 surplus funds. It appears to be Mayor
20 Doherty's stash for his personal objectives
21 only. My reasoning is that perhaps the
22 money can be used to pay for the
23 infrastructure cost, paving streets, fixing
24 bridges, etcetera, or other eligible
25 activities in the city and capital budgets.

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1 This reduction has a potential to reduce
2 property taxes in 2008. This I hope we are
3 all striving for, I don't have to reiterate
4 the fact that we suffer socioeconomically
5 very badly in the City of Scranton with our
6 low income, our per capita income, our
7 median income, the number of elderly, high
8 rate of poverty, so we have to do something
9 to reduce these taxes.

10 I was told by you, Mrs. Gatelli,
11 that you would have that report for me last
12 week, but it was cancelled the meeting due
13 to election and I was wondering if you had

14 that information for me?

15 MS. GATELLI: Not yet, Mr. Quinn, but

16 I do have -- they are working on that.

17 MR. QUINN: Okay, I would appreciate

18 it.

19 MS. GATELLI: Well, you know, there

20 is a new director there, so --

21 MR. QUINN: Okay, I would appreciate

22 that.

23 MS. GATELLI: I do have, I'm trying

24 to find it for you, the --

25 MR. QUINN: I know that, but I don't

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1 want to get off of the two or three. I do

2 know that a lot questions we ask the council

3 we never get answers on them, okay, and I

4 would ask that in Fifth Order that you would

5 sort of put on the agenda Fifth Order a week

6 later with the answers to these questions

7 with the various committees and give the

8 replies as far as asking about a snow plow

9 or whatever, okay, you know, whatever here I

10 don't know and then it goes off into a

11 sunset someplace. I just want to say one
12 other thing, okay, quickly, and I would like
13 Mrs. Evans, the financial chairperson, to
14 make transparent under motion 5-B for
15 introduction of ordinance want this
16 resolution transferring from account from
17 one to another and the reason. Will a
18 renegotiation of a proposed bond increase
19 our debt further. I would like you to do
20 one set, okay, and I would like you,
21 Mrs. Fanucci, to answer, if you could, under
22 5-G which is commendable something for the
23 firemen, that Memorial, but I would like to
24 know first what is that eligible under CDBG,
25 the three criteria are economic development,
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1 blight removal and eminent threat, I don't
2 know what that would fall under, okay, I
3 think the mayor should forget about that
4 stuff and start to pay the firemen what they
5 owe them for the last five years. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Karen

8 Bazarri.

9 MS. BAZARRI: Good evening, Council,
10 I'm Karen Bazarri, president elect of
11 Scranton Today TV 61, and I'm here tonight
12 to ask you if on ordinance -- I'm sorry, on
13 item 6-A reading by title of the ordinance
14 for the appropriation of the \$13,000 to
15 Scranton Today I'd like to ask you if you
16 could move that also to Seventh Order this
17 evening and finalize it tonight. Last week
18 you were --

19 MS. GATELLI: We are doing that. We
20 will be doing that.

21 MS. BAZARRI: Thank you very much.

22 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? It's
23 only on agenda items.

24 MS. HUMPHREY: Oh, right now?

25 MS. GATELLI: Yes. Mrs. Garvey?

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1 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A. FOR
2 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE
3 OF COUNCIL NO. 66, 2006 AN ORDINANCE
4 "ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET

5 2007" BY TRANSFERRING \$5,000 TO ACCOUNT NO.
6 01.401.15311.4299 (SALE LEASEBACK -2204
7 SERIES) AND \$6,000 TO ACCOUNT NO.
8 01.401.15312.4299 (SALE LEASEBACK-2005
9 SERIES) TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO COVER THE
10 PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYMENTS ON SERIES OF
11 2004, \$4,000,000.00 SALES LEASEBACK OF DPW
12 AND SERIES 2005, \$5,500,000.00 SEWER
13 AUTHORITY GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE FOR A
14 TOTAL TRANSFER OF \$11,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT
15 NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY.)

16 MS. GATELLI: Well, we are glad that
17 you read that, but we need motions first.

18 MS. GARVEY: I'm very sorry. 5-A
19 MOTIONS.

20 MS. GATELLI: That's okay.

21 MS. EVANS: I'll begin?

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

23 MS. EVANS: In the last week two
24 wonderful people passed away, Mr. Carl
25 Burgette, and Mrs. Rose McAndrew. Please

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1 keep both in your prayers as well as their

2 dear families who may get behind.
3 Mr. Burgette was a stand out on the
4 basketball team at Scranton Tech many years
5 ago and he is also the uncle of the school
6 resource officer stationed at Scranton High
7 School, John Burgette. And Mrs. McAndrew is
8 the mother of a dear friend, Mary Rose
9 McAndrew Spano.
10 I was very pleased to learn that
11 Sloan Little League will finally receive
12 it's CDBG allocation and I do want to thank
13 particularly Miss Linda Aebli and Mr. Pete
14 Broke for the very hard that they have put
15 forth to make this a reality.
16 Last Friday, I met with
17 Representative Shimkus regarding the
18 development of a separate bill for city
19 property taxes. Mr. Shimkus stated that
20 research will be conducted and that he will
21 look into drafting and proposing an
22 amendment to provide for a separate tax
23 bill. This measure would be taken in an
24 effort to prevent the elderly, the sick, and
25 the poor in Scranton from losing their homes

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1 because of delinquent taxes.

2 Neighbors were elated to learn that

3 Daron Northeast chose to relocate it's plant

4 to Archbald. Although, it's always

5 troublesome to lose a city business, it is a

6 beneficial move for both the neighborhoods

7 which lie adjacent to the current plant and

8 far Daron Northeast. I do hope that only a

9 business or development appropriate to a

10 residential area will successfully locate

11 itself on Dickson Avenue in 2009.

12 In addition, I have a report from

13 Robert Rossi and Company with regard to the

14 of independent audit, we still are in need

15 of a few items, again, the FEMA flood

16 projection, Summer and November 2006

17 flooding. The auditors met with Mr. Luciani

18 on October 24 and they are awaiting response

19 to their questions that Mr. Luciani

20 indicated could only be answered my

21 Mr. George Parker, so he intended to have a

22 discussion with him and then further those

23 responses to Robert Rossi and Company.

24 They still do not have a copy of the

25 Scranton Parking Authority's 2006 audit

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1 report and they now await only one

2 confirmation letter from Attorney Richard

3 Goldberg. So, again, there has been

4 progress, but sadly, we still do not have

5 the independent audit of 2006 in our hands.

6 Also, I learned that sealed proposals

7 will be opened on Monday, November 26, in

8 city council chambers for 2008 TAN Series A

9 and Series B and the principal amount of the

10 tax and revenue anticipation notes Series

11 2008 A is \$5 million and for Series B

12 \$9.5 million. There is no change from last

13 year; and I would say there is very good

14 news for the taxpayers of Scranton, the

15 mayor has announced there will be no tax

16 increase and no borrowing for 2008 after

17 five years of historic monumental borrowing

18 and the 25.6 percent tax increase of 2007, I

19 am looking forward to examining the proposed

20 operating budget which I have not yet
21 received.
22 In addition, I think it's important
23 to note that future revenues in 2009 and
24 beyond may increase because of countywide
25 property reassessments and determination of

19

1 KOZ's such as development at Tripp Park.
2 And I also have some citizens'
3 requests for the week and, Mrs. Bazzari, I
4 have one particular request for you that I
5 would ask you would pick up before you leave
6 this evening, it regards the sound levels,
7 volume levels, of Channel 61 and I thought
8 you would be the best person to whom I could
9 pass this along.

10 Memo to Mr. Brazil, again, the
11 garbage was not collected on November 8 from
12 the homes in Greenridge Street and Capouse
13 Avenue. It was picked up, however, during
14 the previous week to the relief of
15 residents. Please address this issue
16 immediately for these taxpayers as their

17 pickup day is fast approaching this week.

18 A letter to Mr. Setizinger, please

19 send an inspector to 15 Snook Street,

20 neighbors report that car sales appear to

21 occur at this address.

22 A letter to Mr. Dougher, several

23 West Scranton residents request that either

24 swings be installed or the equipment would

25 be removed from Cloverfield. They report

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1 that two children were hurt this year while

2 playing on the bars.

3 A memo to Burkheimer, numerous city

4 residents have requested that letters from

5 your office should be sent to taxpayers in

6 order to remind them to pay delinquent taxes

7 for 2007 before April 1, 2008. In light of

8 the Draconian 2007 ordinance requiring

9 additional fees, costs and fines, the

10 ability of even one family or senior citizen

11 to save his home would justify such a

12 mailing.

13 A city inspector has visited the

14 property of in 86-year-old home owner in the
15 hill section. The property requires a good
16 clearing and a dumpster is needed to dispose
17 of this garbage. If any company could
18 donate a dumpster for week or two to help
19 the senior citizen please contact Mr. Jack
20 Lipti in the Office of Licenses and
21 Inspections in city hall or you can e-mail
22 me at JanetEvans4@Verizon.net, and that's
23 it.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

25 Mrs. Fanucci?

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Yes, we have all
2 received a letter from a gentleman called
3 Harold Cameron and his idea is a very
4 wonderful idea and I think it's something
5 that we should embrace in the city. What he
6 wants to do is have a "Be Positive Day."
7 This day will be -- you do something
8 wonderful in the city, you do something
9 positive for the city, but he also has gone
10 out and gotten the support of the governor

11 on this issue and also the county
12 commissioners, so he would like us to issue
13 a proclamation stating that this day,
14 March 1, in 2008, will be a be positive, do
15 something positive in or for, in our case,
16 the City of Scranton. This might be
17 something I think the junior council might
18 want also to hop on board with because this
19 is definitely going to be a wonderful event,
20 so I'd like to put that in the form of a
21 motion that as a city council that we will
22 say that March 1 of 2008 will be considered
23 be positive, do something positive day for
24 the City of Scranton.

25 MS. EVANS: Second.

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1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

2 in favor?

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

8 eyes have it and so moved.

9 MS. FANUCCI: And what we will do is
10 when they -- and, Kay, if we could get a
11 proclamation and setup a time and maybe we
12 can do a little press conference or do
13 something that we can get some initiative
14 out there and people can start trying to
15 figure out exactly what they want to do,
16 this is going to be something wonderful for
17 the schools to jump into and I we can really
18 go on board with this, so that's the first
19 thing.

20 And three new businesses have opened
21 up downtown and I'd like to welcome them:
22 Edible Arrangements is downtown which is
23 wonderful business and you can order these
24 really cool fruit bouquets and you they are
25 edible, they are really nice. And also we

23

1 have a new business on Spruce Street called
2 Pastry and Petals, and we would like to
3 welcome them and hope everybody goes and
4 checks them out and supports them and Now

5 Hair Salon which is next door to the
6 Medallion Garage, the Medallion Garage, and
7 we would also like to welcome them and this
8 is what we are in it for and I look forward
9 for us all working together and again and
10 happy to have the colleagues all on board
11 and hopefully do some wonderful things for
12 this city, that's all. Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First, I
15 would like to thank the voters of the City
16 of Scranton for their participation in the
17 recent election and their support of the
18 electoral process. Also, I'd like to make
19 mention of something that someone presented
20 to me as a possible resolution or something
21 to enact if it's part of what's called the
22 Senior Citizens' Tax Reduction Act. It
23 offers -- it offers certain senior citizens
24 below a designated income a reduction in
25 their property taxes. It's been enacted in

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1 a number of cities throughout the United

2 States, the state legislator of Pennsylvania
3 has okayed it for I believe Class A cities,
4 we are unsure as to whether it is -- as to
5 whether the City of Scranton can enact it.
6 Attorney Minora is a going to look into
7 whether it is fitting for the city of
8 Scranton. Mr. Evans suggested that even if
9 it's not within the guidelines now that a
10 simple resolution through the state
11 legislature that would allow the City of
12 Scranton to enact such legislation, what it
13 would basically do is offer senior citizens
14 who met the established guidelines a
15 reduction, a certain percentage of their
16 property taxes. It seems like a good idea.
17 Like I said, it's been enacted in a number
18 of places and seemingly works. So, we would
19 look into it and hopefully if all goes well
20 we could possibly even get it into enacted
21 prior to the new year. That's all.
22 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, if we learn
23 that we can't currently enact it because we
24 would be in violation of the state law,
25 perhaps we could schedule an immediate

1 meeting with Ken Smith and Frank Shimkus and
2 ask them if they would draft and introduce
3 an amendment to be attached to a bill that
4 is upcoming for a vote and see how quickly
5 they could be able to run it through for us.

6 MR. MCGOFF: I know that we maybe
7 getting ahead of ourselves, but one of the
8 things that I would also like to consider
9 doing if this, in fact, comes about is
10 encouraging the county and the school
11 district to enact similar legislation so
12 that it would be an across the board through
13 the three taxing bodies, the legislation
14 would be applicable to all three and,
15 therefore, senior citizens would benefit not
16 only from, you know, the city reduction but
17 also from the other two taxing bodies.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, as soon as we can
19 get this done I think we can make a visit to
20 them and ask them to jump on board.

21 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Courtright.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe as Mr.

23 Pocius when he was here he used to bring it
24 up each year and I'm going to bring it up
25 because it is a problem, we all put out
.
26

1 signs when we run for office and I have
2 always asked the people who put my signs out
3 if it's not going in your yard don't put it
4 in a public place or vacant lot, but somehow
5 they get there, so now we have got the city
6 littered with signs, so if you put a sign
7 out for one of your candidates please take
8 it back and then if they don't I think it's
9 up to us that we have to go down and take
10 them down ourselves because we can't leave
11 them littering the city and we've got a
12 quite a few this time.

13 Kay, I'm going to ask if you could
14 just send this, two items to Mr. Brazil. I
15 spoke -- I didn't speak to him, but I sent
16 him an e-mail on the one, the one is Forest
17 Glen Drive and the depression is only
18 getting worse, and I noticed they needed to
19 go up there with the equipment, so, they put

20 two barricades up there and I believe now a
21 car has hit one of the barricades and it's
22 dangerous. We need to get it done as soon
23 as possible, and I would ask that if you
24 just add to that the streetlight across the
25 street on the One South Main Avenue from
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1 Carl Servino all the leaves are off the
2 trees and maybe it would be easier for them
3 to just trim around because the light when
4 it's on just doesn't do any good because
5 it's being block off by the trees.
6 And one more thing, I believe it's
7 the same situation that Mrs. Evans brought
8 up on Greenridge and Capouse, I called about
9 that and I think it was due to the, whatever
10 that construction is going on down there,
11 they couldn't get a truck down there, so
12 they went down with a pickup truck and I
13 think until that project is finished that's
14 probably what they are going to have to do
15 to collect the garbage there.
16 MS. EVANS: Oh, I hope they do.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I spoke to
18 the foreman there about that and that's what
19 they did the last week. They tried to get
20 the truck down, or two weeks ago I should
21 say, and they couldn't get it down, so they
22 just went down with a pickup, and I'm
23 assuming that's what they are going to have
24 to do until this gets straightened out, and
25 that's all I have. Thank you.

28

1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

2 Mrs. Garvey.

3 MS. GARVEY: Okay, for the second

4 time. 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE

5 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 66, 2006 AN

6 ORDINANCE "ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING

7 BUDGET 2007" BY TRANSFERRING \$5,000 TO

8 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.15311.4299 (SALE

9 LEASEBACK -2204 SERIES) AND \$6,000 TO

10 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.15312.4299 (SALE

11 LEASEBACK-2005 SERIES) TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO

12 COVER THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYMENTS ON

13 SERIES OF 2004, \$4,000,000.00 SALES

14 LEASEBACK OF DPW AND SERIES 2005,
15 \$5,500,000.00 SEWER AUTHORITY GUARANTEED
16 LEASE REVENUE FOR A TOTAL TRANSFER OF
17 \$11,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
18 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY).

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

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All
24 in favor.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

.

29

1 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

5 ayes have it and so moved.

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

7 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF A

8 PORTION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY KNOWN AS THE 700

9 BLOCK OF FOREST COURT LOCATED BETWEEN THE

10 400 BLOCKS OF GIBSON STREET AND PINE STREET.

11 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

12 entertain motion that 5-C be introduced.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

14 MS. FANUCCI: 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. MCGOFF: Mrs. Gatelli, please, I

24 would like to make a motion to schedule a

25 public hearing on 5-C and ask the city clerk

.

30

1 to make the necessary arrangements and to

2 notify the planning commission and the

3 Lackawanna County Regional Planning

4 Commission of the date for the public

5 hearing.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

8 in favor?

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

14 ayes have it and so moved.

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

16 AN ORDINANCE - IMPOSING A TAX ON THE

17 ADMISSIONS TO VARIOUS AMUSEMENTS HELD WITHIN

18 THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

19 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

20 in favor?

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

.

31

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. GARVEY: 5-E.

3 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

4 entertain a motion that 5-E be introduced.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

8 those in favor?

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. GARVEY: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -

16 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF STUART RENDA,

17 1112 WOODLAWN STREET, SCRANTON,

18 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, TO THE POSITION OF

19 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR. MR. RENDA WILL BE

20 REPLACING LEONARD KRESEFSKI, WHO RESIGNED

21 EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 26, 2007.

22 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

23 entertain a motion that 5-E be introduced.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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32

1 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

2 those in favor?

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. GARVEY: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -

10 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF LINDA AEBLI,

11 906 SKYVIEW DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,

12 18505, TO THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE

13 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY

14 DEVELOPMENT. MS. AEBLI WILL BE REPLACING

15 SARA HAILSTONE, WHO RESIGNED EFFECTIVE,

16 NOVEMBER 2, 2007.

17 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

18 entertain a motion that 5-F be introduced.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

20 MS. GATELLI: Second. On the

21 question? I just have to make a comment

22 here because I would be remiss if I didn't

23 make some comments about Mrs. Aebli, it's

24 with great pleasure that I see her appointed

25 to this position. When Mike and I worked in

1 OECD she was a secretary and it really is
2 pleasing to see someone rewarded that worked
3 their way up from the bottom and finally she
4 is getting rewarded for her hard work. She
5 was an excellent employee, diligent and she
6 will be an excellent director and she has
7 been so far with the few things that this
8 council has presented to her and I'm just
9 very happy that she received the position.

10 Anyone else?

11 MS. EVANS: Ditto. I'm very
12 impressed in such a short period of time she
13 has been able to straighten out situations
14 that have been a mess for the last two to
15 four years.

16 MS. FANUCCI: She's wonderful.

17 MS. GATELLI: All 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-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -

25 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

.

34

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

2 AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

3 DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACT WITH PESAVENTO

4 MONUMENTS, INC. FOR THE DESIGN AND

5 INSTALLATION OF THE DOWNTOWN FIRE FIGHTERS

6 MEMORIAL FOR A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000

7 FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

8 FUNDS.

9 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

10 entertain a motion that 5-G be introduced.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

13 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes. I think this is

15 certainly well deserved and long overdue,

16 but it's almost ironic that we could

17 construct a memorial at the same time that

18 we have not awarded raises in six years. I

19 think that's the greatest way in which to

20 honor the firefighters, so I'm hoping that
21 that's going to be coming very shortly as
22 well and perhaps it is.

23 MS. GATELLI: The only thing I have

24 to say on that is that I agree with

25 Mr. Quinn. I am not sure that it's an

35

1 eligible activity, so I am going to vote to
2 introduce it, but I will contact Mrs. Aebli
3 before the final vote and see if it, indeed,
4 is eligible.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Did they do it for
6 the police last year?

7 MS. GATELLI: No, we didn't approve
8 it last year, no. It wasn't on our budget
9 last year. We eliminated it, so we will
10 check it before that is done. As much as we
11 would like to see that happen, I'm not sure
12 that block grant money is the way to go for
13 that.

14 MS. EVANS: Might it be better just
15 to table it until next week so that it's not
16 moved along if, indeed, it's inappropriate.

17 MS. GATELLI: We can do that, too.

18 MS. EVANS: Then I'll make a motion

19 to table.

20 MS. GATELLI: I'll second it. On the

21 question? All those in favor.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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36

1 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. GARVEY: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -

4 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

5 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

6 AND APPLY FOR A GRANT FOR HOUSING AND

7 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE

8 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF

9 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED);

10 ACCEPTING THE GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS

11 SUCCESSFUL, AND COORDINATING THE USE OF THE

12 GRANT FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED AS

13 "SKYVIEW PARK APARTMENTS" WITH THE NATIONAL

14 HOUSING TRUST (NHT) - ENTERPRISE

15 PRESERVATION CORPORATION.

16 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

17 entertain a motion that 5-H be introduced.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

20 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

21 those in favor?

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. GARVEY: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -

4 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

5 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

6 AND ENTER INTO A MASTER LEASE-PURCHASE

7 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND

8 JOHN DEERE CREDIT, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF

9 2007 JOHN DEERE LOADER/BACKHOE.

10 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

11 entertain a motion that 5-I be introduced.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

14 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

15 in favor.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MS. GARVEY: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -

23 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION

24 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD

25 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF

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38

1 APPROPRIATENESS FOR COURTSIDE DOCUMENT

2 SERVICES, INC., 410-412 SPRUCE STREET,

3 SCRANTON FOR STREET-LEVEL ALUMINUM SIGNAGE

4 AT 410-412 SPRUCE STREET.

5 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

6 entertain a motion that 5-J 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-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -

18 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION

19 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD

20 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF

21 APPROPRIATENESS FOR REEVES AWNINGS, 623

22 LINCOLN AVENUE, JERMYN, PA, FOR THE

23 INSTALLATION OF AN ALUMINUM FRAME AWNING AT

24 137 WYOMING AVENUE.

25 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

.

39

1 entertain a motion that 5-K be introduced.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

5 those in favor?

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

11 ayes have it and so moved.

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

13 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.

14 136,2007 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF

15 COUNCIL NO. 66, 2006, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED

16 "APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE

17 CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON

18 THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2007 TO AND

19 INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2007 BY ADOPTION OF

20 THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE

21 YEAR 2007" BY TRANSFERRING \$13,000.00 FROM

22 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (CITY COUNCIL

23 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES).

24 MS. GATELLI: You have heard reading

25 by title of 6-A, what is your pleasure?

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-A

2 pass reading by title.

3 MS. EVANS: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

5 those in favor?

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. EVANS: I'd like to make a motion

13 at this time to suspend the Rules of Council

14 to move Item 6-A into Seventh Order this

15 evening for final passage.

16 MS. GATELLI: Second. On the

17 question? All 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: Seventh order. 7-A. FOR

25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY

41

1 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL
2 NO. 134, 2007 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
3 68, 2004 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
4 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
5 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
6 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
7 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
8 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE
9 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
10 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER
11 GRANT (ESQ) PROGRAM", BY TRANSFERRING
12 \$86,000.00, FROM PROJECT NO. 05-154
13 FRIENDSHIP HOUSE TO PROJECT NO. 05-154.1
14 FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ENERGY FACILITIES
15 IMPROVEMENTS.

16 MS. GATELLI: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chair on Community
18 Development?

19 MS. FANUCCI: As chairperson for the
20 Committee on Community Development, I
21 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

24 call.

25 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

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1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

4 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

6 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

8 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

9 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

10 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

11 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -

13 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 135, 2007

14 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 155 OF 2005,

15 ENTITLED, "AND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE

16 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE

17 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY

18 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

19 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND

20 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE
21 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
22 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
23 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
24 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY
25 TRANSFERRING \$40,000.00, FROM PROJECT NO.

.

43

1 00-212 COMPUTERIZED MAPPING CAPACITY
2 BUILDING TO PROJECT NO. 06-229.5 UNITED
3 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.

4 MS. GATELLI: What is the

5 recommendation of the Chair on Community

6 Development?

7 MS. FANUCCI: As chairperson for the

8 Committee on Community Development, I

9 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

12 call.

13 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

17 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

21 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

23 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

24 MS. GARVEY: 7-C FOR CONSIDERATION BY

25 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -

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44

1 RESOLUTION NO. 182, 2007 - IN SUPPORT OF

2 FREE CHOICE ACT (S. 1041) WHICH WOULD

3 AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

4 TO CERTIFY A UNION AS THE BARGAINING

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHEN A MAJORITY OF EMPLOYEES

6 VOLUNTARILY SIGN AUTHORIZATIONS DESIGNATING

7 THAT UNION TO REPRESENT THEM; PROVIDE FOR

8 FIRST CONTRACT MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION;

9 AND ESTABLISH MEANINGFUL PENALTIES FOR

10 VIOLATIONS OF A WORKERS' FREEDOM TO CHOOSE A

11 UNION.

12 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the

13 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage

14 of 7-C.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

17 call.

18 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

19 MRS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

22 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

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1 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

2 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

3 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

4 MS. GARVEY: Before reading 7-D into

5 the record there may be some people in the

6 public who wish to comment one more time

7 before we move the item in.

8 MS. GATELLI: Would anyone care to

9 comment? Let the record reflect that no one

10 is commenting. You can read it again, Mrs.

11 Garvey.

12 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 7-D,
13 FORMERLY 6-A, CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE
14 ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL
15 NO. 136,2007 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE
16 OF COUNCIL NO. 66, 2006, AN ORDINANCE
17 ENTITLED "APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
18 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE
19 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF
20 JANUARY, 2007 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,
21 2007 BY ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY
22 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2007" BY
23 TRANSFERRING \$13,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
24 01.401.13090.4299 (CITY COUNCIL -
25 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES).

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46

1 MS. GATELLI: What is the
2 recommendation of the Chair on Finance?

3 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
4 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
5 passage of Item 7-D.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

8 call.

9 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

13 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

18 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

19 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. GARVEY: EIGHTH ORDER, CITIZENS

21 PARTICIPATION II.

22 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Miller.

23 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,

24 Doug Miller, president of Scranton Junior

25 City Council. On behalf of the junior city

.

47

1 council I would like to congratulate

2 Mr. Courtright and Mr. McGoff on their

3 victorious campaigns.

4 The Scranton Junior City Council is

5 selling Christmas wreaths for the holiday
6 season. Each wreath is 24 inches and is
7 made with fresh mixed pine and is finished
8 with a red bow. Wreaths are just \$15 each
9 and all proceeds benefit future junior
10 council projects. If anyone is interested
11 in purchasing a wreath you may see one of us
12 or you can call 570-237-0690 to place your
13 order. Also, tonight we do have an order
14 form out in the hallway so if anybody here
15 tonight is interested you can fill out the
16 order form in the hallway. We would
17 appreciate your support so that we can
18 continue our success.

19 This past weekend I and several
20 other students from the Scranton area were
21 given the honor to be able to stand at the
22 Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. and read
23 the names of the Americans that had fallen
24 in combat during the Vietnam War. To me, it
25 was the most humbling and rewarding

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48

1 experience, one which I will never forget.

2 I was proud to represent the Scranton Junior
3 City Council and the City of Scranton. We
4 are also privileged to visit the marine
5 memorial honoring the Americans who filmed
6 the American flag on the Island of Iwo Jima
7 on Mt. Suribachi. This was the first time
8 that American stood on Japanese soil. It
9 was a battle that I was never well-educated
10 on until recently when Scranton resident Bob
11 Bolus began his quest to recover the remains
12 of Sergeant Bill Genaust who filmed the
13 famous flag raising on Mt. Suribachi.
14 Sergeant Genaust was never given credit for
15 his part in the flag raising and on March 3,
16 1945, he was killed and left in a cave for
17 the last 62 years. I was able to see
18 pictures and maps from Mr. Bolus's visits to
19 Iwo Jima, therefore, to be able to stand
20 before the famous flag raising monument was
21 an honor and I know understand what this
22 Monument symbolizes.
23 Over the last few days Scranton had
24 the privilege of having the healing wall at
25 Nay Aug Park. Many events honoring our

1 veterans took place right here in Scranton.
2 Mr. Bolus who was conducting his mission in
3 Iwo Jima was here, is from here in Scranton.
4 Because of these events, Scranton is
5 receiving recognition worldwide and as a
6 Scrantonian I'm very proud to be a part of
7 it and I hope the entire city is just as
8 proud.
9 As you remember the heroes that gave
10 us the right to stand here tonight and have
11 freedom of speech, I would ask every one to
12 take a moment of silence and Honor those who
13 honored us by fighting for our freedom.
14 Thank you. (Moment of silence observed.)
15 And at this time Casey Bales from Junior
16 Council would like to address City Council.
17 Thank you.
18 MR. BALES: Casey Bales, Scranton
19 Junior City Council, and I would like to
20 again bring awareness to the council's
21 newest project, Light Up the Town. Join us
22 in lighting up the Renaissance Center in

23 south side. Please, we are in need of
24 donations and if you do feel like you would
25 like to give a donation please send them to
.
50

1 340 North Washington Avenue, Scranton
2 Pennsylvania, 18503. Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

4 Mr. Sbaraglia.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
6 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, a
7 little editorial that was put out by, I
8 don't know whether it's still called the
9 Scranton Times or I should it's the Luzerne
10 County newspaper, I don't know which is a
11 better way of describing it, they told me
12 the headquarters is now located in Luzerne
13 County, but it has a little thing on the
14 library, "Nobody is interested in the
15 demolition of a one-of-a-kind building. It
16 is entirely possible that, in terms of
17 function. The building would be better
18 served be better-served by another use as
19 another type of cultural institution or an

20 institutional headquarters, for example.
21 It is also possible that the
22 library, the important institution housed
23 within the greater historical building,
24 could be better served by new headquarters."

25 From the Times telling you that we

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1 should give the library over to the
2 Lackawanna College because they could do
3 better with it than we can. And that's an
4 editorial. Now, as you know, I promised to
5 do this for Scranton Tomorrow and we shall
6 do it. In fact, while I'm there I want to
7 be the first one to put a contribute into it
8 for Channel 61, and I'm glad just in case
9 the mayor vetoes it, which he hope you can
10 over tried if it happens, but, we are going
11 to do what we can for 61. Channel 61 has
12 many aspects to it other than council and
13 the county and a lot of cultural happenings
14 within the city. Of course, now which are
15 you planning to impose a fee on all of the
16 cultural institutions, I hope we don't have

17 to go to Dickson City or Dunmore or Taylor
18 to indulge in them, but anyway, 61 has been
19 a great asset to this whole locale Scranton,
20 Lackawanna County and even beyond a lot of
21 people even get this beyond where we are now
22 and it shows Scranton to be a place where
23 people believe in good, honest and open
24 government. And you know it's rarity in
25 today's day where people actually do care
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52

1 about open honest and official government
2 and Scranton is a hub. It also has been and
3 it always will be. When the unions were
4 formed up here they formed in Scranton and
5 some of the monuments you see at the court
6 square represent some of the union people
7 and the mine workers and so forth and so on.
8 Scranton has always been a hub of honest and
9 hardworking people and I hope it always will
10 be, and 61 has now shown a lot of them.
11 I was just watching west side a lot
12 of things that happened up the west side
13 that I normally never had seen because I

14 don't get up to west side that much. Okay.

15 I thank you. But, anyway it's there.

16 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sbaraglia, what was

17 the date of that editorial?

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't see a date on

19 it, it's only half on it, but I'm sure the

20 person who sent it to me could give you the

21 date of it. In fact, you can have it.

22 MS. EVANS: Oh, thank you. I'd

23 appreciate it.

24 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Quinn.

25 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, taxpayer.

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1 I just want to mention you were talking

2 about the possible rebate on property taxes

3 and you mentioned the school board, and the

4 school districts under the State of

5 Pennsylvania Department of Education has a

6 property tax rebate presently, and you can

7 get up to \$650 reduction from your taxes.

8 What you would do is you would go to your

9 representative and ask him for the forms to

10 fill out, they have to be in by December 31,

11 and you get a rebate according to the number
12 in your family, okay? It's a good program.
13 Also, I would like to just say in
14 regards to the memorial and the Sloan field,
15 I would think we would be better if we tried
16 to use UDAG money, that surplus UDAG money
17 if we are not going to use it for
18 infrastructure to downsize our taxes
19 somehow, okay? That's an eligible cost
20 under UDAG.

21 I watch Channel 61 because it has
22 many educational and cultural programs, not
23 only government, I believe the protest of
24 the CC meetings on Channel 61 is out
25 perspective to the entire program of the
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54

1 community access channel. Albeit it without
2 the CC meetings, the city council meetings,
3 being televised we would be left in the dark
4 and we would lose our freedom of speech
5 regardless of the speaker tone. I say this
6 because last weekend I watched on Channel 61
7 the lecture given by Father Byron, SJ,

8 former president of the University of
9 Scranton. Recently he had a book published
10 concerning entrepreneurial and governmental
11 ethics. Father Byron emphasizes in order to
12 be ethical within any private or public
13 entity a leader or owner must have
14 accountability, transparency and
15 availability amongst other principals to be
16 operating fairly with it's employees and the
17 community as a whole.

18 I don't want to leave the impression
19 that I am being sanctimonious or judging
20 another person's conduct. However, looking
21 at tonight's agenda, that one thing, 6-B,
22 the one that I talked about earlier there is
23 no transparency there, I don't know if you
24 could speak in Greek and I wouldn't
25 understand it.

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1 The other thing in past agendas,
2 too, in light of the past actions of the
3 Doherty administration I believe the city
4 administration is not meeting these common

5 criteria for being ethical. However, when
6 we see elected officials' lack of
7 accountability, not being transparent, and
8 unavailable to the public, one has to wonder
9 if these elected officials are under the
10 delusion that they are above the moral law
11 or if the moral law does not apply to
12 politics.

13 Lastly, why select committee
14 members, although, they are good persons for
15 ethics committee if you are going to submit
16 someone who supported you in the election,
17 it's just tantamount to giving someone a job
18 and you depend to have them answer to you.
19 Thank you very much.

20 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

22 Les Spindler, Scranton resident.

23 Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Evans, I just want to
24 speak about what you say about Mrs. Aebli.

25 I don't know the woman, but it's amazing

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1 from what you said how when you hire

2 somebody that's qualified for a job what I
3 good job they can do without consultants,
4 and I hope she keeps up the good work,
5 that's all I have to say on that.

6 I see where the mayor wants money to
7 fix the greenhouse up in Nay Aug and put a
8 war memorial up there, what is this man's
9 obsession with Nay Aug Park? People aren't
10 going to move into the city because Nay Aug
11 Park is nice. Let's put money in the
12 neighborhoods where people would want to
13 move into. The way the neighborhoods are
14 now, people are not moving out they are not
15 moving in. This man is just obsessed with
16 Nay Aug Park, a war memorial? This is
17 coming from a man that went to a basketball
18 game instead of welcoming our troops home
19 from Iraq.

20 Next thing, Mrs. Fanucci, the last
21 meeting you thanked Mr. Piccolino for a
22 wonderful outview of the city because he was
23 saying about all of the empty storefronts
24 downtown and you said you didn't mean all of
25 the empty stores, you meant the city-owned

1 buildings such as garages and this and that.
2 Well, you know, Mrs. Fanucci, you just
3 proved you don't know what you are talking
4 about because I have the notes -- the
5 minutes right here of the meeting and your
6 quote was, "For the first time in years our
7 downtown does not have one storefront
8 property available and myself along with
9 Mr. Jackowitz and Mr. Ancherani and
10 Mr. Piccolino came up with probably 50 or 60
11 empty storefronts, so I think you better do
12 more walking downtown and check those
13 storefronts out. Thank you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Talimini.

15 MR. TALIMINI: Before we take up my
16 time, my name is Joe Talimini, citizen of
17 Scranton, the first thing I'd like to do is
18 I'd like to congratulate Mr. Courtright and
19 Mr. McGoff on their election, the campaign
20 is over, now we can get down to business.
21 My proposal that I just handed you is for a
22 citizens' advisory committee, and I think

23 that citizens' advisory board should be

24 comprised of citizens who only attend

25 council meetings. It would be a

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1 nonpartisan, nonpolitical group, that you

2 could meet with probably twice a month and

3 you would have input from the citizens, I

4 think it would preclude a lot of, or I

5 should say prevent a lot of the unnecessary

6 bantering that goes on between council and

7 the citizens during the meeting. I'd also

8 like to commend you on a very fine meeting

9 tonight. I mean, I'm very impressed.

10 I would like to see it continue this

11 way, but with this proposal for this

12 advisory board it's done all over the

13 country, and I think you people don't have

14 enough time to study these things, you don't

15 possibly have the input from the citizens, I

16 know you have input from other groups, let's

17 say other groups, but you don't get it from

18 the citizens who come here. You don't get

19 it from the senior citizens who can't make

20 it here. You don't get it from the people
21 who don't now how to get here or have no way
22 of getting here and I think if you had a
23 representative of the group on an advisory
24 board you would have input from the citizens
25 of this town not from the elitists, not from
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1 the businesses, not from the Chamber of
2 Commerce do-gooders, I'm talking about the
3 citizens of this town who pay the taxes who
4 keep this town going. I would like to see
5 you enact this proposal and I really would
6 like to see it happen among the citizen
7 speakers who are here, and I thank you very
8 much for your cooperation.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Dobson?

10 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council.

11 That article appeared I believe on October 9
12 in the Scranton Times, that editorial. I
13 would like to congratulate the winners and
14 offer my condolences to the losers or people
15 not so fortunate in the last elections and
16 as in the past I would like to urger members

17 of all municipal, county state officials to
18 consolidate in petitioning the federal
19 government to provide better funding of
20 projects mandated by the federal government.

21 No child left behind is seriously
22 underfunded, sewer and water projects,
23 highway projects, and economic development
24 are prior examples that I have offered and,
25 for instance, on the sewer a federal mandate

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1 that we spend \$150 million to prevent storm
2 and sewer water overflow mix, and we have
3 4,600 miles of acid polluted, mine acid
4 polluted streams in Pennsylvania and a
5 dollar a ton tax on coal, for example,
6 cleaning up mine lands, prior mine lands and
7 currently most of it is being used to build
8 roads in Wyoming, they don't pay almost
9 anything as far as paving roads or building
10 roads in Wyoming because they just take the
11 money and put it in their pocket. Family
12 farms are turned into factory farms and the
13 pollution from them is ungodly and these

14 farms, these factory farms wouldn't even be
15 allowed to -- wouldn't even be able to
16 operate without pollution suspended, so in
17 the future what I have to offer is hopefully
18 we can have a suggestion we could start to
19 petitioning our other federal officer
20 holders and perhaps get ourselves some funds
21 for some of these projects because if we
22 don't we might be in trouble now, and maybe
23 not, but we will surely be in trouble some
24 day down the line. Thank you. Have a good
25 night.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

2 Mrs. Schumacher.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I have some
4 more questions. Starting off with the light
5 timing project within the city, several
6 years ago that project was instituted, it
7 was -- at the time it was supposed to be
8 implemented by 2008, now that gas is over \$3
9 a gallon it doesn't make a lot of sense to
10 sit idling at lights for long periods of

11 time and take ten minutes to go down

12 Jefferson Avenue alone, when will that

13 project be initiated, when will it be

14 completed?

15 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Garvey, could you

16 take these down and send them to the proper

17 department for Mrs. Schumacher.

18 MS. GARVEY: Yes.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Again,

20 when the police headquarters were built two

21 years ago money was transferred from some

22 accounts into the actual physical building,

23 leaving the large parking lot with only a

24 binder layer of asphalt, it's now two years

25 old, I don't know what the length of life is

.

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1 for that binder layer, but it can't last

2 forever, can you tell me when the finishing

3 layer will be applied to that parking lot?

4 MS. GATELLI: We'll add that your

5 list. Excuse me, let me just interrupt,

6 John, deduct this time, I keep hearing

7 people saying that, how do you know that

8 it's a binder layer?

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because I talked to
10 the project manager personally.

11 MS. GATELLI: No, because sometimes I
12 have seen driveways and alleys and I thought
13 they were a binder, but they weren't.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: If you go in it's
15 pretty obvious the finishing layer is only
16 where there is a some driveways and storm
17 drains.

18 MS. GATELLI: All right.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: So it's pretty
20 obvious and then I'm a little bit curious
21 because I hear you people saying there is no
22 borrowing, but on I believe if Saturday was
23 November 3 I saw a solicitation for bid for
24 two bonds, a TAN A and a TAN B for 2008, so
25 the city will once again be borrowing for

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1 2008. During your boarded only budget
2 meeting this summer, Mrs. Gatelli, it was
3 brought up that the south side fire station
4 was due for a new truck, and has that grant

5 been written to obtain that new truck?

6 MS. GATELLI: Not that I'm aware.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who writes the

8 grants for the city, does the city have a

9 grant writer at all?

10 MS. GATELLI: Um-hum.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: What department is

13 that person in, do you know?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's down in the

15 police department.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Was that the bell?

17 MR. MINORA: You've got a few

18 seconds left. Sorry.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Also,

20 will the fire hydrants be painted? If you

21 recall when the two homes on Stafford Avenue

22 were burned the firemen said it would have

23 been very helpful to the structures and to

24 them if the fire hydrants were painted to

25 reflect the flow levels of those fire

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1 hydrants?

2 MS. GATELLI: I believe that the
3 water company gave those levels to the fire
4 department.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know they did, I
6 talked with the person at the water company,
7 but nothing is being done, that's why I'm
8 asking. We have the information, it's our
9 property, is that going to be done?

10 MS. GATELLI: We'll have to ask the
11 firemen that.

12 MS. GARVEY: I believe they are going
13 to paint them. I think they responded that
14 they would not be painting the fire
15 hydrants.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who responded, I'm
17 sorry?

18 MS. GATELLI: The water company.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, the water
20 company won't do them, but they got the
21 information so that the city would do them
22 and that would protect the firemen and our
23 property both.

24 MS. GATELLI: Would anyone else care
25 to speak?

1 MS. HUMPHREY: Congratulations, Mr.
2 Courtright and Mr. McGoff. Last year at
3 voting I was (untranslatable), but the
4 machines at 7:00 papers were ruled out and
5 the people -- the maintenance man said,
6 "What in God's name are they doing?"
7 And I reported it because I didn't
8 know it was legal that they closed the
9 papers down at 7:00. My friend went to vote
10 and they know she is my friend and they took
11 her papers and she didn't get to vote, they
12 just ripped the receipt off and she didn't
13 get to vote. From Sturgis where I was born,
14 Church Street, 200 Church Street, Jefferson
15 Avenue, 1314 Neyhart Street 10 Cliff Street,
16 348 West Collin Street, 237 Market Street,
17 44 Townhall Street, 345 East 72nd Street,
18 back of 404 Townhouse, 7 Scott Road, 849
19 Stafford Avenue, 499 Mulberry Street,
20 Washington D.D. I have been what you would
21 call equal to water boy.
22 I have documents, one is a

23 psychologist here which I was so happy to
24 read in the paper, Mr. McGoff, and they said
25 something about psychology teaching or
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66

1 something, I don't know how true it is, and
2 you are a karate teacher, I have to be abuse
3 Detective Bright because all of the places I
4 went to my home has been pillaged, I have
5 been attacked, I have been raped which my
6 medical showed it, and I have been bounced
7 all the way around from magistrate's office
8 police departments, snickered at, so I have
9 some documents here that I'm going to hand
10 over, I went to legal aid, legal aid
11 wouldn't help me. Pro bono got over
12 \$5 million, they refused to help me. This
13 is for Denise Seringal Bonbar (sic) so she
14 knows it, I'm not sucking out the system.
15 She is a wonderful person, Alice Hailstone
16 Farrell, I went to her on a few occasions to
17 file the charges through the direction of
18 the police department which it's a major
19 crime and they put it to a minor crime and I

20 got a letter from Mrs. Hailstone, thank God
21 she is doing her job, she referred me back
22 to the Scranton Police Department that when
23 I went down there they kind of snickered and
24 said go to the lieutenant and the lieutenant
25 walked away, this isn't the proper way.

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1 People have taken their vows in the City of
2 Scranton to do jobs. I have asked on
3 numerous occasions for documents that was
4 given here and I still haven't got them.
5 Mrs. Evans, I really would like my MRI
6 x-rays, I know you have a lot on your plate,
7 but I would like to give you a chance
8 because I know the future lies within all of
9 your hands here at city council.

10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Phyllis.

11 MS. HUMPHREY: There is more things.

12 MS. GATELLI: Your time is up.

13 MS. Humphrey: I'm going to show
14 documents Denise Serinco, I know you are out
15 there listening and you love to hear what I
16 have to say, my grandchild is alive, it's

17 just the problem of the legal system not
18 helping me.

19 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Thank you,
20 Phyllis. Next. Mr. Morgan.

21 MS. HUMPHREY: I have the originals,
22 these are the copies and, Mr. Courtright, I
23 know you will do a good job and enough is
24 enough.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: What is this?

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1 MS. HUMPHREY: These are all the
2 documents that show what is actually
3 happening and the threats that I'm getting.

4 Okay, it's imperative.

5 MR. COURT: All right. I'll look at
6 those.

7 MS. GATELLI: He'll look at those.

8 MS. HUMPHREY: And I think you should
9 look at these because I have a grandchild
10 I'd like to have.

11 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr. Morgan,
12 please step up.

13 MR. MORGAN: Hello, City Council.

14 Andy came up here with his canister and I'd
15 just like to put a donation in there and
16 remind everybody how important Channel 61 is
17 to everyone and maybe some other people
18 watching tonight would send a donation in
19 care of the Scranton Public Library to
20 Channel 61. It's really a major asset to
21 the community and not just because of city
22 council, I think it has such a vital role to
23 fulfill and I think it's just begun, and I
24 think it has a long way to go before it
25 reaches the point it can reach in this
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1 community, and I just hope that this
2 council, all elected officials everywhere
3 help this station because it's work is vital
4 to the community and I just hope that
5 everybody can understand how important this
6 channel is to everyone.

7 The other thing I have is Mrs.
8 Schumacher, I believe stepped to the podium
9 and spoke about the fire hydrants. Well,
10 that issue has come before council for 10 or

11 20 years and it was decided a long time ago
12 that maybe they should paint the top of the
13 fire hydrants a certain color to signify the
14 flow capacity of the fire hydrant.

15 There is so many issues in this city
16 that have not been addressed that really
17 need to be addressed. We are talking about
18 TANS again. This city has borrowed money
19 every year on tax anticipation notes as long
20 as I can remember and maybe it's time to
21 move away from that. I mean, you know,
22 maybe nobody agrees with that, but we have
23 just borrowed too much money. I mean, maybe
24 it's time to go in a different direction.

25 And the other thing I have here is,

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1 you know, I really appreciate the election
2 and I do realize that Mr. Courtright and
3 Mr. McGoff won the election, but I think
4 it's time to give, I don't know maybe a
5 note, a mention, that Mr. Rogan and
6 Mr. Piccolino did a wonderful job. They ran
7 as Republicans and the amount of votes they

8 received to me was mind boggling, and maybe
9 Mr. Rogan should be elected the chairman of
10 the Republican party in the City of
11 Scranton, and maybe that may solve some our
12 problems in the light that almost all our
13 elected officials are Democrats, and to be
14 quite bluntly honest our government is in
15 gridlock, and the government has talked
16 about how we are not going to borrow money
17 again. This mayor doesn't know how to
18 function in the city where he isn't
19 borrowing money. I mean, we have too many
20 patronage jobs here and the city has to take
21 a change in direction and I really -- the
22 election only signifies more of the same.
23 Although the mayor did say that we weren't
24 going to raise taxes another 25 percent
25 because I think maybe he's realized that the

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1 poor people in this city have had enough of
2 him and maybe the next election will signify
3 that, although, I don't know exactly who all
4 of the candidates are going to be, but there

5 definitely is a need for change here. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

8 Mrs. Bazzari.

9 MS. BAZZARI: Council, I would just
10 like to say that on behalf Scranton Today's
11 board, station managers of ST TV, Channel
12 61, public access television we thank you
13 very much for your vote tonight and your
14 support for us. We sincerely hope that this
15 will end the rumors of our being replaced as
16 station managers as we take your actions
17 tonight to be an expression of our working
18 together to continue to bring open
19 government and diverse community programming
20 to the citizens of Scranton and the
21 surrounding community.

22 I'd also like to add at that there
23 are two items that junior council mentioned
24 tonight, projects that they have, and if
25 they will get that information to us we will

.

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1 be glad to put those kind of things on the

2 autogen and that is open for any other
3 situations like this. Thank you very much.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Bazzari, Sue has
5 that address for the soldiers.

6 MS. BAZZARI: She gave it to, e.

7 MS. GATELLI: Okay, thank you.

8 MS. BAZZARI: And we will be sure to
9 publish that on the autogen.

10 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add that
11 when I do receive the 2008 proposed
12 operating budget I will be going through it
13 carefully, but as we discussed previously, I
14 would like to see a line item added to that
15 budget to provide for the funding in 2008
16 for Channel 61 and it's my great hope that
17 Scranton Today will continue to operate that
18 station.

19 MS. BAZZARI: Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: You have worked very hard
21 you have done a wonderful job through the
22 years and, frankly, I can't imagine turning
23 it over, for example, to a college at this
24 point in time.

25 MS. BAZZARI: Well, we have been at

1 it for nine years and we hope to be at it

2 for 90 more. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

4 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? Mr. Beck?

5 MR. BECK: Good evening, Council.

6 Wayne Beck, city resident, taxpayer. My

7 congratulations go out as everyone else

8 mentioned to Mr. Courtright and Mr. McGoff,

9 best of look moving forward.

10 I wasn't going to speak tonight, but

11 something caught my ear that really has been

12 a problem for me for some time, and that was

13 the senior citizens' tax relief proposal. I

14 think it's really important that you

15 strongly pursue this. It seems like we

16 always have either grant money, low interest

17 rate loans for businesses, KOZ's for

18 businesses, but those people that have been

19 residents of this city all their lives and

20 have supported the city all of their life

21 whether they had children that went to

22 school and used the school system or long

23 graduated, and we seem to forget that we put
24 them out there to pasture and we concentrate
25 on new people coming in, and they are still
.
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1 valuable assets to this city and I realize
2 that the school district is the lion's
3 share, I was glad to hear that they have a
4 problem in place, but I would hope that you
5 would strongly proceed forward with
6 something that would help those people that
7 have supported this town all their lives,
8 and in order to do that the obvious question
9 is, "Well, if you are going to reduce taxes
10 for those individuals where is the money
11 going to come from?"
12 And it's important that you look at
13 this time now that you are going into budget
14 preparation times just because we don't
15 anticipate borrowing any money this year or
16 raising taxes doesn't mean that there
17 haven't been cuts in expenses over
18 additional revenue sources that have been
19 missed, and I think they have to be looked

20 at strongly now and as they were in the past
21 in order to avoid borrowing. Seven years
22 ago one of the top priorities on a platform
23 was to reduce the personal income tax I
24 believe 25 basis points each year of the
25 administration. We haven't seen any of that
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1 yet and the obvious reason is because we
2 haven't found any ways of making up for it,
3 but I think now if we are not going to
4 borrow and we are not going to raise taxes
5 we still need to look for those cuts and
6 additional revenue sources. And I'm the
7 last one to support borrowing, but I'd just
8 like I give my input. I hear a lot about
9 the TANS, people speaking against the TANS,
10 to me that's a necessary evil. That's just
11 getting your money now to pay your bills as
12 long as you pay back the TANS when it's due
13 in an ideal world the city would operate on
14 a zero efficient budget, they would get
15 their money from the taxpayers immediately
16 upon producing the tax bill, that doesn't

17 happen. The city has obligations to meet
18 from January through December. If they
19 don't get tax payments until September or
20 October they have got to have the money
21 somewhere, so I hope people understand that,
22 and I don't look at that, as long as the
23 TANS are paid back in the time frame they
24 are supposed to be that's just getting the
25 money to operate so that you get through the
.
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1 year and paying it back when you get it from
2 the taxpayers. Thank you.

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

4 Next? Oh, go ahead.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Beck, the idea of
6 lost revenue because of this reduction was,
7 you know, kind of quickly discussed, and the
8 thought was that things such as the
9 amusement tax now that we have a company in
10 place for tax delinquencies that the tax
11 revenues would, in fact, you know, offset
12 what was lost, so it was considered.

13 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to add,

14 Mr. Beck, those suggestions that you
15 enumerated are precisely what I'm going to
16 be doing as I examine the proposed budget.

17 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Porter.

18 MR. PORTER: Andrew Porter, concerned
19 citizen, Scranton. Good evening, Scranton
20 residents, I'm very impressed, I wasn't
21 going to speak tonight, but I was very
22 impressed to see these students from the
23 University of Scranton. You need to know
24 that you are part of this city, there is a
25 lot of people here that probably are not

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1 here because maybe of Mr. Courtright and
2 Mr. McGoff is in office and maybe they voted
3 against them, they should still come in
4 here. We have a city council that is
5 representative of the people of Scranton and
6 if you have issues should come in here and
7 try to work it out. There's a saying, an
8 old saying, you can't fight city hall. You
9 are not supposed to fight city hall you are
10 supposed to work with your city council and

11 the mayor to an end. It's very important
12 that the students come as well as other
13 citizens here to contribute to the necessary
14 things that need to be done to bring the
15 city to where it needs to be and that is the
16 great city that we say that the city is. We
17 need diversity, not just as far as race and
18 so on and so forth, we have college students
19 here that need to stay in the City of
20 Scranton. I applaud you when you come back,
21 not now, when you come back because it's
22 your duty also as students and citizens if
23 you are or if you are just coming in from
24 out of town we welcome you and we want you
25 to be a part of this city. The youth needs
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1 to stay in the city not leave the city, so
2 you get the opportunity to see how council
3 city council is run.
4 I'm a businessman as it is right now
5 and I'd like to bring a new addition to the
6 city in the form of a restaurant, a soul
7 food restaurant, that would not only feed

8 people but bring people together and, again,
9 I applaud a city council if you, in fact, do
10 the job that you are voted in to do and I'm
11 sure that you will with the assistance of
12 the citizens of Scranton. Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Lyman.

14 MR. LYMAN: . Ray Lyman. You look
15 lovely today, Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Lyman.

17 MR. LYMAN: Mrs. Fanucci, Mrs.
18 Evans, Mr. Courtright and Mr. McGoff, you
19 look nice today.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you very much.

21 MS. GATELLI: Have you had your
22 vision checked lately, Mr. Lyman?

23 MR. LYMAN: Congratulations, Mr.
24 Courtright and Mr. McGoff, on your election.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

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1 MR. LYMAN: Mrs. Gatelli?

2 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

3 MR. LYMAN: I want to know if the
4 city council could do for our neighborhood

5 ask Mr. Santoli come out and cut the trees

6 on Capouse Avenue and Phelps Streets?

7 MS. GATELLI: What block is that,

8 Ray?

9 MR. LYMAN: The 800 block and the 25

10 block --

11 MS. GATELLI: Of Phelps or Capouse?

12 MR. LYMAN: Phelps and Capouse

13 because, you know, the trees are up in the

14 power lines, I tried to call the electric

15 company and they say it's the city's

16 responsibility, you know, they are giving me

17 trouble and, Mrs. Evans, you said about

18 Capouse Avenue that they are working the

19 sewer company you said at the meeting, it's

20 Greenridge Street that they are working on

21 that sewer.

22 MS. EVANS: No, what I meant was the

23 homes in that area where the street has been

24 blocked off for this project are not having

25 their garbage picked up.

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80

1 MR. LYMAN: Oh, I thought you were

2 saying the sewer project?

3 MS. EVANS: No.

4 MR. LYMAN: Oh, I thought you were

5 saying that sewer project. I just wanted to

6 say, didn't they say that sewer project was

7 supposed to be from July to September, they

8 were working on that sewer project for ten

9 weeks or two months or -- and now it's still

10 going on to the end of November and they are

11 not done yet, can we find out when they are

12 going to finally finish that project because

13 we are getting complaints that you can't

14 even use that street to get in, and when are

15 they going to start working on where I live

16 in Pinebrook to dig it up to fix the sewer

17 pipes down there? Because, you know, a

18 friend of the Pinebrook market, the road is

19 sinking in and then I don't know if the

20 pipes are going to break or not on a real,

21 you know, a real cold frost or a snowstorm

22 and they're going to break because the

23 ground is caved in like this? Can you have

24 the DPW come out and check it or the city

25 engineer because you don't know if the pipe

81

1 is going to break or what? Can you do that?

2 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

3 MR. LYMAN: And one more thing, any

4 word on that stop light, you know, on

5 Capouse and Gibson Street?

6 MS. GATELLI: We didn't get anything

7 back on that yet.

8 MR. LYMAN: Any, what do they call

9 it, a traffic study or anything?

10 MS. GATELLI: I think they did that

11 already.

12 MS. FANUCCI: I don't think we got a

13 report on it.

14 MS. GATELLI: We'll keep you posted.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. LYMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Gatelli.

17 Thank you, Mrs. Fanucci, Mrs. Evans, Mr.

18 Courtright and Mr. McGoff. And I hope West

19 wins, I want that championship.

20 MS. GATELLI: I think that's what

21 Chrissy is going to say, you are stealing

22 his thunder.

23 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Bill, I can't hear

24 what you said, what did you say, Bill, Ray

25 Kelly? Judy, I worked Friday night, I tell

.

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1 you, I wasn't at that game, I was so

2 thrilled, I really was at that game. I was

3 so happy when they win that game win this

4 weekend. I was speechless. Billy,

5 congratulations, Buddy, I'm proud of you.

6 What's that, Bill, West is best?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Where is your West

8 hat?

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: At the house, I

10 forgot it.

11 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

12 MS. KRAKE: Nancy Krake. Good

13 evening, Council, my name is Nancy Krake. I

14 was very glad to hear that the mayor's

15 budget will not include a tax increase or

16 borrowing, apparently he doesn't feel we are

17 distressed any longer, glad to hear that.

18 However, it is quite a contrast from what

19 happened here last September. A friend of

20 mine printed out an e-mail that is an
21 article written by Stacy Brown and he pretty
22 much tells exactly what went on here with
23 the Pennsylvania Economy League and the
24 mayor demanding that council raise taxes and
25 borrow by 75 percent and borrow \$44 million
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1 which, of course, council did not do that,
2 they came up with their own plan, but I
3 would like to read some of the excerpts from
4 this:

5 "In lieu of the mayor's borrowing
6 plan, the city probably will have to
7 immediately raise taxes by 75 percent said
8 the PEL director, Gerald Cross. We stand
9 ready to help the city and council come up
10 with a borrowing plan that would avoid a
11 very much bad situation."

12 Well, they didn't have to do that,
13 council came up with their own plan, I
14 didn't totally agree with it, I agreed more
15 with Mrs. Evans's, but needless to say no
16 one needed the Pennsylvania Economy League.

17 "According to PEL the city deficit this
18 year is approximately eight million, a
19 figure that will increase each year. You
20 cannot makeup this deficit without a wage
21 and a real estate tax increase, Mr. Cross
22 said," that's the Pennsylvania Economy
23 League director.

24 Some more quotes are, "Pennsylvania
25 Economy League's best case scenario would be

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1 for council to approve the \$44 million loan,
2 raise taxes by 25 percent each of the next
3 three years and reduce spending by one
4 million. The state tax hike would ease the
5 financial change on property owners at least
6 a little, Mr. Cross said."

7 This is the most ludicrous thing if
8 you think about it. What possibly could
9 have changed since last year? Does anybody
10 have any clue to that? There is apparently
11 no accountability for the Pennsylvania
12 Economy League or the mayor. No one needs
13 to tell the truth, there is no transparency

14 and there are no he ethics. Here is the
15 best quote of all, "There is probably a
16 number that we could live with for now and
17 help the city move forward," guess who is
18 saying that, "Mr. Doherty said Wednesday,
19 but we didn't lie when we explained our
20 situation to council last week."

21 Well, if that's not a lie, what the
22 heck is it? Where does the truth lie? I
23 think we seriously need to get rid of the
24 Pennsylvania Economy League. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, I would agree

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1 with your questions in that I have to say
2 honestly I, too, wonder what the great
3 transformation or metamorphoses has been in
4 the last year to go from the need for three
5 consecutive tax increases and \$44 million in
6 borrowing to a plateau. Perhaps the nearly
7 26 percent tax increase last week was so
8 large that it is providing for this year,
9 but I would agree that it appears now more
10 than ever that the Pennsylvania Economy

11 League is no longer necessary and since it

12 was I believe a vote of council --

13 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

14 MS. EVANS: -- that brought them to

15 the city of council to owe oversee financial

16 matters, I cannot see why a vote of council

17 could not remove them.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Actually, that's not

19 the case. A vote of council cannot remove

20 the Pennsylvania Economy League. It has to

21 be ruled by the state, so that is not the

22 case. We are not in a power right now to

23 remove unless we comply --

24 MS. KRAKE: But, excuse me, you can

25 come up with your own recovery plan.

.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Unless you comply with

2 the rules of the recovery plan which was

3 voted on you will not be able to remove --

4 MS. KRAKE: The recovery plan is

5 gone. It's been over for three years. You

6 can make your own recovery plan, and I think

7 you are more than capable of doing it. You

8 already showed last year you didn't need to
9 do what you said and now this year again. I
10 think everyone sitting up there tonight can
11 make that decision. You don't need to hide
12 behind them.

13 MS. EVANS: Or perhaps maybe -- well,
14 they are with DECD, I don't know if would be
15 the governor himself, but someone in
16 Harrisburg should be made aware of the fact
17 that last year certain statements were made
18 and situations were projected which now
19 appear to be quite the reverse and there has
20 to be some sort of explanation or
21 justification for the failure to abide by
22 the city's failure to abide by a recovery
23 plan. The administration's ability to
24 exceed all projections by PEL while with
25 PEL's blessing and then for PEL in

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1 conjunction with the administration to make
2 one sets of statements in 2006 and utterly
3 reverse them in 2007, and I don't mean to
4 look at gifthorse in the mouth, but as I

5 said before, it doesn't pass the smell test.

6 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

7 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,

8 Council, and I'd like a no tax increase,

9 also. Nelson Ancherani, taxpayer, etcetera,

10 First Amendment rights. There is so much to

11 say, so little time to say it, thanks for

12 cutting the three minutes, Mr. McGoff, Ms.

13 Fanucci and Mrs. Gatelli. How about this,

14 "Mayor plans no '08 tax hike," it's in the

15 slime 11-12-07 by Stacy Brown. Stacy Brown

16 wrote, "Read Mayor Chris Doherty's lips,

17 there will be no new taxes in 2008."

18 I don't read this, you have to show

19 me. Mayor Doherty said, "We are not raising

20 taxes and there is no borrowing in the

21 budget. We have worked with the PA Economy

22 League and there was no need for raising

23 taxes."

24 If this is the case why were they

25 raised 25 percent this year? Do we have a

.

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1 similar budget proposed for 2008 as 2007 and

2 taxes don't have to be raised next year?
3 Officials promise it will be similar to this
4 years 77.4 million budget. As the mayor
5 said, it is really the same as last year,
6 Stu Renda said that. Remember, if the
7 budget is one penny more it's a record
8 budget. Whose lips do we believe here?
9 Remember the \$44 million proposed loan
10 last year? This was from the slimes by
11 Stacy Brown, "Pel, without borrowing
12 75 percent tax jump lieus. In lieu of the
13 mayor's borrowing plan the city probably
14 will have to immediately raise taxes by
15 75 percent, said PEL, director Gerald
16 Cross."
17 Again, from the slimes, 9-21-06, by
18 Stacy Brown, PEL, the city's money woes
19 could linger until 2012 and city property
20 owners can expect near doubling of property
21 taxes no matter what happens PEL and city
22 officials said. The doomsday scenario could
23 come about if city council doesn't approve a
24 \$44 million borrowing plan warned PEL
25 director Gerald Cross who is the distressed

1 cities' recovery plan coordinator."

2 Furthermore, he said, "The city

3 could remain in the same dismal financial

4 straights through the year 2012 if something

5 isn't done."

6 So, let's see what was done. What

7 has changed this year that don't need a tax

8 increase? Are we getting more revenue in

9 lieu of taxes? No. Is the mayor helping

10 his BS policy borrowing and spending? No.

11 Are all of the mayors pet projects

12 completed? No. Can the mayor's future

13 plans endure another 25 percent tax hike?

14 No. Nothing has changed so why do we need a

15 25 percent tax increase this year? Three of

16 you voted on the tax increase, can any one

17 of you three answer what was has changed

18 next year from this year that doesn't

19 warrant a 25 percent tax increase? Unions

20 said all along, borrowing and tax increases

21 were not needed. You didn't listen and

22 neither did the mayor. A budget was

23 presented by Ms. Evans that eliminated the
24 tax increase this year, a tax increase that
25 is the beginning of homes that will be lost
. .
90

1 to the taxpayer. Drive around the city, I
2 have never before seen the amount of homes
3 up for sale as now. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Ancherani, I don't
5 have all of the answers for you, but I do
6 have a few. We did raise the taxes so all
7 of that revenue was extra this year.

8 MR. ANCHERANI: It was what, I'm
9 sorry?

10 MS. GATELLI: This is extra revenue
11 because we raised the taxes, and the second
12 thing was we got almost \$1 million in lieu
13 of taxes, so there is some of the money.
14 I'm not claiming that that's the whole
15 answer to it, but there is several answers
16 that I have. And, by the way, you owe me
17 lunch.

18 MR. ANCHERANI: But what does PEL
19 say?

20 MS. GATELLI: I don't listen to PEL.

21 MR. ANCHERANI: They have talked --

22 MS. GATELLI: I have never listened

23 to PEL. Even when I worked there I didn't

24 listen to them.

25 MR. ANCHERANI: Right, but they said

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1 that until 2012 --

2 MS. GATELLI: And I have never gone

3 to their meetings either.

4 MR. ANCHERANI: I mean, I don't

5 believe them, that's what I said. We have

6 the money, we don't need the money, we

7 didn't need the borrowing, we didn't need

8 the tax increases. I have said it before,

9 I'll say it again. Thank you.

10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone

11 else? Before we adjourn I would just like

12 to comment that, yes, indeed I though we

13 really did have a wonderful meeting tonight.

14 I'd like to thank my colleagues for being so

15 gracious and I'd like to thank the speakers.

16 There still are a few that come up and our

17 nasty and I guess we will have to deal with
18 that, but in the world today I find that
19 nastiness doesn't get you anywhere and I
20 think it's time that we all bury the
21 hatchet, it's a new year coming up and I
22 think we can all work together to make
23 Scranton a better place. There is not one
24 of us up here that doesn't want this to be a
25 nice place, that's why we are here and we
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1 are willing to work with each and every one
2 of you in a civil manner and a decent manner
3 and let's all have a little kindness towards
4 each other, I think it will go a long way.
5 Thank you very much. I'll have a motion to
6 adjourn.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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11 (Meeting adjourned.)

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2 CERTIFICATE

3

4 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

5 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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

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

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

9 ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI
14 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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