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2 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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6 HELD:

7 Tuesday, December 4, 2007

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9 LOCATION:

10 Council Chambers

11 Scranton City Hall

12 340 North Washington Avenue

13 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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

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4 MS. JUDY GATELLI, PRESIDENT

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MS. JANET E. EVANS

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7 MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

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MR. ROBERT MCGOFF

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10 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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13 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

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3 MS. GATELLI: Roll call.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MRS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

13 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 ON DECEMBER 12, 2007.

18 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

19 If not, received and filed.

20 MS. GARVEY: That's all for third

21 order.

22 MS. GATELLI: Before we get to the

23 agenda items, I have a few announcements to

24 make. I would like to announce that West

25 Scranton High School did not win the game on

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4

1 Saturday, however, we are very, very proud

2 of those students. They have won the

3 Lackawanna County League Division I Title

4 and the District II AAA title. Coach Mike

5 D'Antona with assistant coaches Mick Veety,

6 Rick Rosser, Bill Phillips, Mario

7 Bevilacqua, Collin Phillips, Frank

8 Santamauro, Andy Butzko, and our two number

9 one fans, Tippy and Chrissy, and we are very

10 happy for the team and I did speak to the

11 athletic director, Tom Smith, we are going

12 to have them in for proclamations, but we

13 are going to wait until the new year before

14 we have them in. So, we would just like to  
15 say congratulations and say we are very  
16 proud of their win.  
17 Another check has come in lieu of  
18 taxes from the Covington Presbyterian Church  
19 in the amount of \$1,000 and we would like to  
20 publically thank them for sending in their  
21 donation year after year.

22 We got a phone call from Frank  
23 Shimkus saying that he was going to support  
24 House Bill 2018, the revenue sharing for the  
25 municipalities, a large number of tax exempt  
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1 properties, and we also received a letter  
2 from Ken Smith and he is going to be a  
3 cosponser of the legislation, so that's good  
4 that our representatives will be  
5 representing us well in Harrisburg.

6 One more thing, I would like to  
7 congratulate Mr. Matt Flynn, he has been  
8 appointed as the executive director at the  
9 Scranton Cultural Center so I would like to  
10 congratulate Matty. You will see his name

11 on the agenda tonight being appointed to the  
12 sewer authority board, so we would like to  
13 congratulate him on his appointment to the  
14 Scranton Cultural Center, and that's all I  
15 have. Does anyone else have announcements?  
16 If not, Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: It's that time of year  
18 again cold, damp, dark and gloomy, but, yes,  
19 we are the lucky ones. The Community  
20 Intervention Center will be holding it's  
21 second annual denim drop on Saturday,  
22 December 15, 2007. Anyone wishing to donate  
23 new or even slightly used men's clothing to  
24 benefit the homeless in Scranton is asked to  
25 bring all clean clothing to the Community  
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1 Intervention Center by Wyoming Avenue,  
2 Scranton, Pennsylvania, between the hours of  
3 9 a.m. and 12:00 noon, that's Saturday,  
4 December 15. All clothing collected will go  
5 directly to the homeless in the Scranton  
6 area. Items needed most include, but are  
7 not limited to pants, shirts, socks, and all

8 types of winter clothing. If you have any  
9 questions or need further information please  
10 contact Griffiths G-R-I-F-F-I-T-H-S at  
11 558-7133 or you can e-mail him at  
12 JGriffiths@communityinterventioncenter.org.  
13 Please help the homeless of our city during  
14 this holiday season.

15 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? On the  
16 agenda items the first speaker is Mr.  
17 Quinn Quinn.

18 MR. QUINN: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn,  
19 president of the Scranton Taxpayers' and  
20 Citizens' Association. I come here tonight  
21 with a glass half full. There is no doubt  
22 the city is in dire financial straights,  
23 however, tonight we are looking at the  
24 smaller picture, the microcosm and we should  
25 be looking at the big picture, the

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1 macrocosm. By this I mean that if we also  
2 look at the Scranton School District  
3 property taxes one will see that the  
4 Scranton School Districts are the highest of

5 the three taxing bodies in the city. My  
6 school bill tax is 58 percent of my total  
7 bill. Presently there are deliberations  
8 being held in the state house regarding the  
9 school property tax. The present tax is  
10 regressive because everyone is paying the  
11 same millage, the poor and the rich alike.  
12 Subsequently, it is not equitable. The Tax  
13 Bill presently in the house is House Bill  
14 1275, also known as School Property  
15 Elimination Tax Act of 2007. It completely  
16 eliminates the school property tax, not  
17 rebates or partial elimination, under House  
18 Bill 1275, the school district will be  
19 funded not by taxation, however, by the  
20 state and federal governments. Under House  
21 Bill of 1275 the revenue for school funding  
22 will come from an increase in sale's tax,  
23 currently 6 percent to 6.5 percent. This is  
24 a consumption tax and it is equitable. Some  
25 40 years ago, the sale's tax was enacted in

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1 Pennsylvania for the purpose of school



2 funding, albeit it, it lost it's purpose,  
3 believe it or not. This will eliminate all  
4 school property taxes in Scranton, although,  
5 there have been numerous property tax  
6 elimination proposed over the past 20 years,  
7 the School Property Tax Elimination Act of  
8 2007 for House Bill 1275 presents the most  
9 viable -- may I finish it?

10 MS. GATELLI: No, I'm going to stick  
11 to the rules tonight, Ozzie, because I have  
12 gotten a lot of complaints. You can finish  
13 it up in the next part.

14 MR. QUINN: I'm not going to be here.

15 MS. GATELLI: You can put it in  
16 writing and give it to council.

17 MR. QUINN: Thanks a lot.

18 Appreciate it.

19 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Sbaraglia.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
21 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. On  
22 5-F how much of this loan was forgiven?

23 MS. FANUCCI: Do you want me to  
24 answer this?

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, you got the

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9

1 information?

2 MS. FANUCCI: Well, usually people  
3 get mad if I answer it during their time.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: No. No.

5 MS. FANUCCI: None the loan is  
6 forgiven, they will be responsible for the  
7 loan regardless of what happens.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't see.

9 Perusing the audit the mortgage says, "Ah."

10 In other words, once you satisfy the  
11 mortgage they don't owe anything else.

12 MS. GATELLI: Would you like  
13 Mr. Minora to answer because we had him  
14 research this for us.

15 MR. MINORA: Yeah. They have  
16 personal guarantees, the personal guarantees  
17 survive the sale, so the people themselves  
18 guarantee with their personal assets, and  
19 the sale of this property is for less money  
20 than, quite a bit less than that is owed to  
21 the bank which is in front of us, in the  
22 city. So, if it was left to go to

23 foreclosure so we would lose our interest  
24 anyway at least allow some viability for the  
25 property afterwards and the individuals make  
. . .  
10

1 liable on that note.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: In other words, we  
3 are playing the system to get our money, is  
4 that what you are saying?

5 MR. MINORA: They are personally  
6 liable for it.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: That means we can sue  
8 them. I think that loan was what, a half a  
9 million?

10 MR. MINORA: I think that was the  
11 amount.

12 MS. GATELLI: Two-fifty.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, okay. Now, we  
14 are changing our \$52 tax, is there -- I  
15 assume there is a good reason why it's being  
16 changed, you changed the name of it anyway,  
17 is it the state has changed their laws or  
18 what?

19 MS. EVANS: They have changed the

20 name.

21 MS. GATELLI: It's just the name.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: The state didn't say

23 you have to pay it or they are not taking

24 the money out --

25 MS. GATELLI: No.

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11

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- until they hit the

2 12,000 or something like that, I heard that

3 rumor, but I don't know.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Attorney Minora, do you

5 have any information on this?

6 MR. MINORA: Yea. It's a new Act

7 which changes the name and clears up some of

8 the -- allows the tax collector to do things

9 differently than he has in the past, which

10 the past collection method has created some

11 problems and he will now be able to do his

12 collection in a different way to eliminate

13 some of the problems we have all heard about

14 here, so that's why the Act was changed and

15 the name is now changed to the local

16 services tax or act.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Thank you.

18 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Schumacher.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.

20 First, I'd like to know whether any -- in

21 6-A if any of the questions that were

22 submitted last week on the budget if we have

23 any answers back and if they will be

24 addressed tonight and, more specifically,

25 one that was not asked last week I noticed

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1 that the capital expenditures budget for

2 next year for passion and recreation is

3 \$164,000, which while not insignificant,

4 pales in comparison to the promised \$500,000

5 Veteran's Memorial and greenhouse

6 refurbishment that the mayor promised last

7 month, and all of the pool work throughout

8 the city that was in the mayor's wish list,

9 so I would like to know whether the Nay Aug

10 conservancy is really fundraising adequately

11 to complete those projects next year or not

12 or what's going on.

13 On 5-L, I would like to know

14 specifically what certifications are held by  
15 Mr. Seitzinger, and on 5-C I'd like to know  
16 what is the -- what is being designed that  
17 we need architectural services at that site  
18 and on 5-D I would like to know, I know that  
19 the city bought that for \$1, that property  
20 for \$1 from the Housing Authority and I  
21 would like to know if there is a -- if the  
22 city is paying anything to the Scranton  
23 Redevelopment Authority to procure that.

24 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Schumacher, I can  
25 respond to a few of your questions.

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1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Your questions were  
3 submitted to Stu Renda I believe on  
4 November 28th or 29th by the Office of City  
5 Council. To date, those answers have not  
6 been received. I had submitted a total of  
7 30 questions and the majority of them have  
8 been answered, but I'm awaiting answers to a  
9 final six questions.

10 Also, with regard to Mr. Seitzinger,

11 I really can't comment as to which  
12 certification he holds, however, I  
13 understand that he does hold at least one  
14 and so on your behalf I would ask Kay to  
15 send a letter requesting a copy of his  
16 certifications and then we would be very  
17 happy to share that with you.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

19 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else  
20 because no one else has signed in? Come up,  
21 please. And also in the meantime while  
22 Mr. Dobson is coming up, I would like to  
23 welcome the history class of West Scranton  
24 High School that's with us tonight. Mr. Tom  
25 Murray's class. Mr. Dobson.

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1 MR. DOBSON: Dave Dobson, citizen of  
2 Scranton, Taxpayers' Association associate.  
3 On 6-A I would just like to once again  
4 mention, and the right time to start this is  
5 January 1 of next year, there is always the  
6 2009 budget. I think the horse is out of  
7 the barn and you will probably get past

8 tonight and it's not right to have  
9 Mrs. Evans driving herself crazy trying to  
10 adopt some kind of budget over a week and  
11 not even give it any consideration. So,  
12 please, in the future the time to start  
13 paying back the deficit instead of January,  
14 no matter what we have to do. Borrowing  
15 this year is next year's tax increase.  
16 That's all there is to it. It's money that  
17 has to be paid back and the more you owe the  
18 worse it gets, so that's all I have to say.  
19 Thank you and have a good evening.

20 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone  
21 else?

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South  
23 Scranton resident. On 6-A, the budget. The  
24 first thing I would like to see someone  
25 today make a motion to amend the rules and

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1 let's go ahead and move this to seven  
2 because we know it's going to get passed.  
3 We know it's either going to be 3-2 or 2 to  
4 3, if it's 2 to 3 it's going to be vetoed by



5 the mayor, so why are we, you know, spending  
6 our wheels in the sand so to speak. So,  
7 that's just my recommendation, I hope  
8 someone does that.

9 As far as borrowing more money like  
10 Mrs. Fanucci or is it Miss Nealon suggests,  
11 I say go for it. Currently, the government  
12 of Scranton is in no position to pay back  
13 money they currently owe, so why not  
14 continue to borrow more money? I agree with  
15 that philosophy. I think there should be  
16 more borrowing in next year's budget. I  
17 think next year's budget should get up to  
18 about \$90 million and we should just  
19 continue to borrow because that's a good  
20 philosophy. If the mayor agrees in that  
21 philosophy, and our council agrees in that  
22 philosophy that borrowing will get the city  
23 out of debt then it must be a sound  
24 philosophy, so I agree with that. I think  
25 we should borrow more money, we should

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1 continue to dig a deeper hole for the

2 citizens of Scranton to get out of it and  
3 more citizens will leave the city, more  
4 businesses will move into the city, although  
5 they will get tax exempt, so they won't help  
6 the city because they will be KOZ's and they  
7 wouldn't be paying any city taxes and the  
8 article in today's business section with the  
9 developers, you notice none of those  
10 developers live in the City of Scranton, I  
11 wonder why? None of them reside or live in  
12 the City of Scranton. They are going to  
13 build buildings, apartments, restaurants, I  
14 hope one of the restaurants in downtown is a  
15 24-hour restaurant because we don't have a  
16 24-hour restaurant in the City of Scranton  
17 but yet we are a 24-hour town, so pass the  
18 budget tonight. Don't delay it.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

20 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, City  
21 Council, Dave Gervasi. I'd like to give  
22 some advice to Mr. Jackowitz, I know he was  
23 being factious with his remarks, but never  
24 give up. On the budget, I'm here tonight to  
25 reiterate a few things that I said last week

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1 about it and the real need the city has to  
2 slash the mayor's budget drastically, so  
3 maybe we won't have to borrow that 5.5  
4 million that some members of council said  
5 they are not going to borrow anymore, but as  
6 of this morning being accused by  
7 Mrs. Fanucci of being knowingly and  
8 deliberately being deceitful to the citizens  
9 of the City of Scranton when I speak up  
10 here, Mrs. Fanucci, I don't want you to  
11 believe me, but this is a reason why saying  
12 that the mayor was the vast lion's share of  
13 what's wrong with the city and why we are  
14 broke and why we raise taxes and why we  
15 continue to borrow, but I don't want you to  
16 blame, I don't want you to believe me, maybe  
17 you can believe Standard and Poors when  
18 Mayor Doherty took office, as a matter of  
19 fact just before he took office, they wrote:  
20 "The city's improved financial performance  
21 and position has evidenced by an ending  
22 unreserved general fund balance of 2.9

23 million, that's surplus by the way, at  
24 fiscal year end 2001 compared to negative  
25 6.8 in fiscal year 1998."

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1 And the second page of the 2002  
2 independent audit, maybe they are lying,  
3 too, but, they said, "According to the  
4 Financially Distressed Municipalities Act  
5 there are four factors that are considered  
6 in determining whether the conditions that  
7 lead to the distressed city status are no  
8 longer present. One factor is whether  
9 accrued deficits have been eliminated. The  
10 City of Scranton general fund deficit has  
11 been eliminated.  
12 Another factor is whether the city  
13 has operated for a period of at least one  
14 year in a positive current operating fund  
15 balance, and they go to say, "The City of  
16 Scranton has a positive fund balance for the  
17 past two years."  
18 The other two factors are the  
19 monthly reports submitted by the

20 Pennsylvania Economy League to the State  
21 Department of Community and Economic  
22 Development showing that termination of the  
23 status is appropriate and the debt issued to  
24 cover the deficit has been retired and there  
25 is no indication in the financial documents  
. .  
19

1 reviewed that these have not occurred.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

4 Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I ask that

6 you remember Mrs. Dorothy -- or, excuse me,

7 Miss Dorothy Jones in your prayers this

8 week. Dorothy was a beloved teacher in the

9 Scranton School District for many years, and

10 she was the first friend I made when I first

11 began to teach in the Scranton School

12 District in the 1980's. Dorothy had a

13 wonderful sense of humor and a real love of

14 life. She will never be forgotten by her

15 family, her friends, her students and her

16 many adoring colleagues.

17 I will submit my alternate budget to  
18 council on or before Friday, December 7. My  
19 colleagues will have 5 to 6 days in which to  
20 consider this alternative and I would like  
21 to schedule a budget session prior to the  
22 regular meeting of council next Tuesday.

23 Budget development is a lengthy painstaking  
24 process. I presented 30 questions to our  
25 new business administrator and he has  
.  
20

1 responded in a timely and thorough manner.

2 I thank him for his cooperation and his  
3 expertise. The last six of the 30 questions  
4 were submitted to Mr. Renda yesterday and I  
5 did not receive the responses as yet. I  
6 wish to offer the most precise budget  
7 possible even without benefit of the  
8 independent audit and professional advisors.

9 Once again, as in December 2006, there is a  
10 viable alternative. It is my hope that  
11 council will set aside all politics and  
12 prejudices and objectively deliberate over  
13 the two budgets.

14 A letter from Scranton City Council  
15 was sent to Mr. Dave Lewis from Daron  
16 Northeast concerning residents' complaints  
17 on November 29, 2007, and I also learned  
18 last week that the city suffered another  
19 arbitration loss I believe on Friday.  
20 Commonwealth Court remanded the case back to  
21 the arbitrator. The city had unilaterally  
22 reduced the number of apparatus on a first  
23 alarm against safety and past practice.  
24 Before I go on, I just want to inject  
25 this quickly, Kay, if we can also send a

21

1 letter to Mr. Renda concerning the Nay Aug  
2 conservancy asking for a financial report,  
3 how much is in the conservancy and then  
4 perhaps a letter to the mayor asking what  
5 active plans he has in order to raise the  
6 funds for his anticipated projects.  
7 Regarding the discussion of union costs  
8 and the recovery plan of late, I would like  
9 to share some information with the public of  
10 which they may not be aware. I just want to

11 briefly discuss the MMO for nonuniform  
12 pension. The city is responsible for those  
13 payments. In 2001, the annual payment was  
14 \$4,348. 2002, \$9,067. 2003, \$120,229.  
15 2204, \$297,532 and by 2008 the number has  
16 grown to \$787,378.  
17 Now, when the mayor forced  
18 retirements in 2002, he offered employees a  
19 double pension. For example, if the  
20 employee were entitled to \$700 per month for  
21 his lifetime, he would receive \$1,400 per  
22 month for his lifetime if he agreed to  
23 retire. Retirees were charged no extra  
24 contributions for this second pension. Only  
25 the city would pay extra contributions.  
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22

1 Further, the employees received full health  
2 care for life. The mayor made this offer to  
3 two groups of employees, first, those who  
4 qualified to retire; and, secondly, those  
5 having the years but not the age to retire  
6 tire were given a one-time offer of the same  
7 benefits and double pension.



8 Approximately 100 employees retired.  
9 Their positions, many of which, were not  
10 eliminated. This deal caused the nonuniform  
11 pension costs and overall health care costs  
12 to skyrocket. The taxpayer incurs the cost  
13 of approximately 100 double pensions, full  
14 health care as well as salaries, pension  
15 contributions and health care for the  
16 replacement employees selected by  
17 Mr. Doherty.

18 At the same time, however, uniform  
19 pension payments have declined due to the  
20 deaths of 18 firefighters and 18 police  
21 officers. The decline in the fire fighters  
22 pension is approximately \$1.1 million and  
23 for the police officers we have a decline of  
24 \$520,000.

25 You know, regarding the recovery

.

23

1 plan, PEL provided annual financial  
2 projections within the document. The  
3 mayor's spending appears to have  
4 significantly exceeded each year's financial

5 projections. The recovery plan also was to  
6 have prevented any tax increases according  
7 to the mayor, but the people received them  
8 nevertheless both in property tax increases  
9 and the EMS tax increase. The people who  
10 stop me while shopping, walking, attending  
11 dinners, etcetera, tell me they are  
12 disgusted by the antics of PEL, by the bogus  
13 recovery plan, as well as the borrow and  
14 spend policies of the mayor. Frankly,  
15 money, their wallet, is their number one  
16 priority, followed closely by the behaviors  
17 of some council members and a few speakers.  
18 That's it.

19 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Fanucci.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Yes, I'm going to stand  
21 behind the recovery plan. I will stand  
22 behind the citizens who voted for the  
23 recovery plan and I will not sit here week  
24 after week trying to tell them that they  
25 were wrong and that they don't matter,  
.  
24

1 76 percent of the people spoke and I

2 certainly will be here to listen.  
3 I am not going to sit here week  
4 after week and listen to select speakers who  
5 are here with personal agendas, which I will  
6 restate. What happens is we are here, we  
7 are put here to be the voice of the  
8 taxpayers and the squeaky wheel seems to  
9 always want to get the grease, well, in this  
10 case it's not going to happen. I don't  
11 believe that people should be bullied into  
12 other people's version and ways of going  
13 about what should be city business. I agree  
14 on one thing, the people who get the worse  
15 end of this deal is the taxpayer. You are  
16 the one caught in the middle. You are the  
17 one whose wallets we are dealing with on a  
18 daily basis. I can't put a price on life.  
19 I won't put a price on life whether it's  
20 with the union workers or the people in our  
21 city, but, unfortunately, we have to deal  
22 with what we can afford. That is where we  
23 come in to make the difficult decisions for  
24 you. We are not here to represent a special  
25 interest group only because they are a

1 special interest group, and as I said  
2 before, they have a right to fight for what  
3 they want. They have a right to stand up  
4 for what they need, but my right is to stand  
5 behind the taxpayers and I will stand behind  
6 what they voted for. It is very simple, we  
7 asked, they answered, bottom line, and I  
8 refuse to sit here and listen to how the  
9 taxpayers did not know what they were doing.  
10 It seems to me that in this forum they have  
11 never known what they were doing. Every  
12 elected official in this city, everyone who  
13 comes here, the taxpayers are always wrong  
14 when it comes to this forum, it's amazing to  
15 me, and, yes, that was sarcasm again.  
16 We are here to be the voice of the  
17 people, I will stand behind the people who  
18 put me here, I will stand behind the  
19 taxpayers who voted for this recovery plan  
20 and if you cannot sit down at a table and  
21 work with others, which has always been a  
22 problem with certain members, they cannot

23 work with others and they refuse to work  
24 with others, do you know why? You can't  
25 complain. You can't complain if you are  
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26

1 actually trying to do something.

2 Yes, PEL has come out with many  
3 reports, and we were there to try to figure  
4 out answers. The only person who attended  
5 the meetings were me. So, unfortunately, I  
6 am the one who has to voice my opinion on  
7 this and I won't be bullied into someone  
8 else's decisions and someone else's agenda  
9 and be taken along with trying to keep my  
10 mouth shut, which I believe was a quote, for  
11 the sake of the taxpayers. And I am sorry  
12 that I have to say what I need to say and I  
13 am sorry that it is not -- everyone in this  
14 group does not believe it or go with it,  
15 but, you know, that's okay. It's okay,  
16 because I don't believe half of what you  
17 say. I don't believe your agendas, and I  
18 certainly do not believe in your views on  
19 this city and I never will. I never want to

20 feel the way that you portray this city as

21 being and that is all I have to say.

22 MS. GATELLI: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Nothing. Thank you.

24 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Courtright?

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. I'm going to

27

1 ask, I'll try not to have you send too many

2 letters, but I ask you send a letter, it's

3 been over three months that I have been

4 asking the DPW to look at the depression on

5 Forest Glen, they did nothing, then they

6 went up and they put two barricades up

7 there, one which was hit by a car and broken

8 and now I believe the snow plow broke the

9 other one and now it's in the hole, so we

10 have two barricades in the hole. DPW

11 doesn't want to help the citizens in West

12 Scranton, so I'm going to ask if you could

13 it to the director of public safety, Ray

14 Hayes, because now it's a danger, somebody

15 is going to get hurt there, so I think

16 what's going to happen is if somebody gets

17 hurt this is city is going to be in for a  
18 big lawsuit because that's been over three  
19 months, I don't know what the problem is.  
20 So, if Ray Hayes maybe can do something I  
21 would certainly appreciate that.

22 I'd like to echo what Mrs. Gatelli  
23 said about the West Scranton football team,  
24 we are extremely proud of you, you should  
25 hold your head up high, you have gone  
.  
28

1 farther than any other team in their history  
2 a lot of those players on that team have  
3 been played together since midget football  
4 and I know it's going to be a difficult  
5 think now to go their separate ways and we  
6 wish you all the best, you did a great job  
7 and we are very proud of you.  
8 Last year my hope was that we could  
9 have taken the budget that Mrs. Evans  
10 prepared and the budget that the mayor  
11 prepared and maybe found some happy ground  
12 and that didn't happen because I don't think  
13 anybody's budget, Mrs. Evans' or the mayors'

14 is perfect because I think each could be  
15 tweaked one way or the other, and there were  
16 many questions Mrs. Evans and I had and we  
17 sent it to Mr. Renda and we got most of the  
18 answers back and one thing, one answer I got  
19 that really bothers me is I don't know, I  
20 hope -- it's possible some of these people  
21 are friends of mine, but I don't know who  
22 these people are in the flood control  
23 relocation jobs, but I asked a question, we  
24 have got one job for \$18,500 and that job is  
25 the flood control project coordinator and  
.  
29

1 that's a part-time position, and then right  
2 underneath it there is the assistant to the  
3 flood control project coordinator which is a  
4 full-time position so, I don't know, the  
5 coordinator is part-time and the assistant  
6 is full-time, I don't know where that came  
7 about, but, anyway, they are making \$35,000.  
8 So, even given the leeway saying we need  
9 those, which I personally don't know that we  
10 do, then we have an engineer which



11 Mr. Hubbard I believe brought up last year  
12 for \$15,000 and I can't find out exactly if  
13 we are mandated to have him or why we have  
14 him, that's another mystery, but here's the  
15 kicker, and if you are one of these three  
16 people I don't know you and I apologize, but  
17 we have got three, one, two, three at  
18 \$30,000 a piece, flood control relocation  
19 specialists. Now, I asked what they do, and  
20 this isn't a joke, they grease the flood  
21 gates, they maintain the levies such as  
22 cutting the grass and the trees, you can't  
23 tell me that we need three guys eight hours  
24 a day 365 days a year at 30,000 a piece to  
25 do those jobs. So how we can whole  
.  
30

1 heartedly not make issues, Ms. Fanucci, but  
2 vote for this budget with that in there is  
3 crazy in my opinion.  
4 One other thing, and these are just  
5 a couple of the things, why I think we need  
6 to sit down and go over this budget, I  
7 expressed my opinion against the \$13,000

8 raise for the two -- the police and fire  
9 chief and no one has even come close to  
10 giving me a good answer for that, not even  
11 close, but now one thing I agree with  
12 Mr. Doherty they asked, when I first got on  
13 council, \$65,000 for the job that Mr. Parker  
14 was doing and I think it was Mr. Domiano was  
15 before and made much less, and the reason  
16 was, and I said this on more than one  
17 occasion because he was doing the city  
18 engineer's job and he was doing the DPW  
19 director's job, and I didn't have a problem  
20 with that because I thought it did save the  
21 city money, but now we have got \$50,000  
22 additional costs in our budget for a city  
23 engineer, but the guy that's running the DPW  
24 is still making \$65,000, so we got another  
25 additional 50,000. Again, I don't know how  
.  
31

1 you can even consider voting for this  
2 without questioning some of these things.  
3 So, I will await Mrs. Evans' budget and  
4 hopefully we can meet and try to, you know,

5 give the citizens a break here instead of  
6 everyone's friend a break.

7 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, just to  
8 allude to the positions, for example, in --  
9 well, the flood positions, relocation  
10 specialists, etcetera, they were eliminated  
11 from my budget last year, they have been  
12 eliminated from the budget this year as  
13 well. In fact, many of the items you have  
14 enumerated I have taken care of. I also  
15 took your suggestion about the removal of  
16 the \$1.1 million and I have also covered the  
17 loss of the amusement tax in the budget as  
18 well as many, many other items, so, please,  
19 take a careful look through and see item by  
20 item what you would agree with, what you  
21 would disagree with and I would be very,  
22 very happy to entertain your decision after  
23 your deliberations.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I will. I looked at  
25 this closely, and than I have in the past

·  
32

1 because I just think as Mr. Jackowitz said,

2 I don't know, we have been borrowing and  
3 borrowing and borrowing and nobody has shown  
4 me a plan to pay off the borrowing, that  
5 scares me. I mean, I understand, also,  
6 Mrs. Fanucci said she would rather borrow  
7 than tax, I don't know, I might agree with  
8 her on that, I might rather possible borrow  
9 than tax, but how do we pay the borrowing  
10 off? I mean, I don't know. How do we pay  
11 it off? I wish somebody could show me that.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, there are ways not  
13 to borrow and the borrowing should have been  
14 stopped years ago, but the spending has  
15 never stopped and I would disagree with Mrs.  
16 Fanucci that the squeaky wheel gets the  
17 grease, in this city the squeaky wheel  
18 doesn't get the grease, rather it's the  
19 person who greases the palm who gets the  
20 deal and there's an awful lot of those and  
21 the budget, this bloated, out of control  
22 budget is proof positive of that.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's all I have.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Well, if anyone's palms

1 are getting greased I hope you go to the  
2 Attorney General and have them arrested  
3 because I'm sick of hearing those comments  
4 that people's palms are getting greased and  
5 the public shouldn't be subjected to that.

6 I'm also going to --

7 MS. EVANS: They already know.

8 MS. GATELLI: I'm also going to --

9 it's my turn, please. I'm also going to  
10 tell people because there is a lawsuit, I do  
11 have a lawsuit, a lawsuit was filed against  
12 me and I countersued against a website, and  
13 I think it's time for the public to know  
14 that we are intimidated on that website and  
15 bullied on that website into voting I  
16 believe the way the people want us to vote  
17 that are on that website frequently.

18 I have one thing that I got today  
19 that someone gave to me and it was written  
20 by the person that runs the website and the  
21 following things were said about myself:  
22 "Corrupt, thieving, lying, two-faced,

23 fat-assed," which that's true, "betraying,  
24 backstabbing, Nazi, whore, snake in the  
25 grass, incompetent, degenerate, crony, butch  
. . .  
34

1 looking, foul-mouthed," which I am at times,  
2 that's true, "bitch."  
3 And they also forgot drug user. So,  
4 these are the kind of things that we are  
5 subjected to.

6 Another one that was today says:

7 "Stacy Brown is a black N-I-G-G-E-R,  
8 Doherty, Gatelli, Fanucci, Bill and George  
9 Lynette and Gay Mellow are white  
10 N-I-G-G-E-R-S. There I said it. Couldn't  
11 keep it in any longer. Sue me."

12 So, I want the public to know the  
13 kinds of tactics and the kinds of  
14 intimidation and bullying that council  
15 members, reporters, etcetera, have to go  
16 through because we don't agree with certain  
17 people's stances. I also was elected to  
18 this council and I wasn't elected just by 20  
19 people that are on this website or 50 people

20 or the people that come here, I was elected  
21 by over 13,000 people, and I, too, hear  
22 things when I go to the grocery store, and I  
23 hear positive things that Scranton is on the  
24 move, and I do believe that the  
25 neighborhoods are getting better, the  
.  
35

1 downtown is getting better, and I will  
2 continue to vote that way even though some  
3 people want to call people names. It's  
4 really not nice and I have done a lot of  
5 things in my life that weren't nice, but I  
6 never stooped to that level and I just want  
7 the public to know what we have to deal with  
8 up here because you don't know if you don't  
9 have a computer and you don't go on there  
10 you don't see the things that are said about  
11 people and they are very, very hurtful, and  
12 that's all I have to say. Mrs. Garvey.

13 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B. FOR  
14 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING  
15 THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF FIVE MILLION  
16 (\$5,000,000.00) DOLLARS PRINCIPAL AMOUNT,

17 TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE OF THE  
18 CITY OF SCRANTON KNOWN AS TAN SERIES A,  
19 AWARDED TO COMMUNITY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY;  
20 DETERMINING THE FORM AND TERM OF SAID NOTE;  
21 AWARDING SAID NOTE; AUTHORIZING THE  
22 DIRECTING THE FILING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS;  
23 AND DIRECTING THE PROPERTY OFFICIALS OF THE  
24 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ANY AND ALL OTHER  
25 ACTIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED IN CONNECTION  
.  
36

1 WITH THE ISSUANCE OF SAID NOTE.

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

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

13 ayes have it and so moved. On the question?



14 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 AN ORDINANCE -AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND  
16 SALE OF A NINE AND ONE HALF MILLION  
17 (\$9,500,000.00) DOLLARS PRINCIPAL AMOUNT,  
18 TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE OF THE  
19 CITY OF SCRANTON KNOWN AS TAN SERIES B,  
20 AWARDED TO COMMUNITY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY;  
21 DETERMINING THE FORM AND TERM OF SAID NOTE;  
22 AWARDED SAID NOTE; AUTHORIZING THE  
23 DIRECTING THE FILING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS;  
24 AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICIAL SOF THE  
25 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ANY AND ALL OTHER  
.  
37

1 ACTIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED IN CONNECTION  
2 WITH THE ISSUANCE OF SAID NOTE.

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

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Moved.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

9 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed?

13 MS. EVANS: No.

14 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and

15 so moved.

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

17 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE

18 TRANSFER OF THE REAL ESTATE AND IMPROVEMENTS

19 LOCATED AT 515-537 ORCHARD STREET IN THE

20 CITY OF SCRANTON OWNED BY THE SCRANTON

21 REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO THE CITY OF

22 SCRANTON.

23 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

24 entertain a motion that 5-D be introduced.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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38

1 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

3 those in favor?

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

9 ayes have it and so moved.

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

11 AN ORDINANCE - RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND

12 MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX, AMONG OTHER CHANGES,

13 BY AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 78, 2007;

14 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL 10, 2006; AMENDING

15 FILE OF COUNCIL 95 OF 2005 WHICH IN TURN

16 AMENDED FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 9, 1976 TO

17 APPEAL AND REENACT, TO THE EXTENT

18 INCONSISTENT, A NEW ORDINANCE TO BE CALLED

19 THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX.

20 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

21 entertain a motion that 5-E be introduced.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

25 those in favor?

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39

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

6 ayes have it and so moved.

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

8 A RESOLUTION - APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A

9 MORTGAGE SATISFACTION, CONCERNING A CITY

10 OECD COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOAN WITH 501

11 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE ASSOCIATES, LLC.

12 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

13 entertain a motion that 5-F be introduced.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

17 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

.

40

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

2 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL  
3 SERVICES WITH THOMAS J. MCLANE AND  
4 ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES  
5 RELATING TO THE LAND UPON WHICH THE FORMER  
6 ORCHARD STREET POST OFFICE WAS SITUATED.

7 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
8 entertain a motion that 5-G be introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
12 those in favor?

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

19 MS. GARVEY: 5-H FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
20 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
21 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
22 APPLY FOR A GRANT FOR HOUSING AND  
23 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE  
24 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S DEPARTMENT OF  
25 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED);

41

1 ACCEPTING THE GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS  
2 SUCCESSFUL; AND COORDINATING THE USE OF THE  
3 GRANT FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED AS  
4 "HARRIET BEECHER STOWE" THROUGH THE UNITED  
5 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
6 (UNC).

7 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
8 entertain a motion that 5-H be introduced.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
12 those in favor?

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

19 MS. GARVEY: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
20 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
21 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
22 AND ENTER INTO AN ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT

23 AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF ALL RIGHTS AND

24 LIABILITIES UNDER THE PRIVATE POLICE CRUISER

25 LEASE OF OFFICER SCOTT MORAN TO OFFICER

.

42

1 MICHAEL MARINO.

2 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

3 entertain a motion that 5-I be introduced.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

6 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

7 those in favor?

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

13 ayes have it and so moved.

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

15 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A

16 POLICE VEHICLE, VIN NUMBER 1FMPU16L7YLC35415

17 FROM POLICE OFFICER SCOTT MORAN FOR USE IN

18 THE CITY'S FLEET PURSUANT TO A LEASE

19 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND OFFICER

20 MORAN.

21 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

22 entertain a motion that 5-J be introduced.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

43

1 those in favor?

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. GARVEY: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -

9 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

11 AND ENTER INTO A LEASE/POLICY AGREEMENT WITH

12 OFFICER SCOTT MORAN GOVERNING THE USE OF

13 OFFICER MORAN'S "PRIVATE CRUISER" AS DEFINED

14 HEREIN.

15 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

16 entertain a motion that 5-J be introduced.



17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

19 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

20 those in favor?

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

44

1 ayes have it and so moved.

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

3 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MARK

4 SEITZINGER, 1112 COLUMBIA STREET, SCRANTON

5 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, TO THE POSITION OF

6 DIRECTOR OF LICENSING, INSPECTIONS &

7 PERMITS, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 3, 2007. MR.

8 SEITZINGER WILL BE REPLACING STUART RENDA,

9 WHO TOOK ANOTHER POSITION WITH THE CITY.

10 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

11 entertain a motion that 5-L be introduced.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Second. On the

14 question?

15 MS. EVANS: Yes. Kay, with regard to

16 the letter I requested earlier, could we put

17 a date on that on or before December 10, so

18 that we would have that information for the

19 public next week?

20 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

21 question? All those in favor?

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

.

45

1 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

2 ayes have it and so moved.

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

4 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF JOHN GRANAHAN,

5 1504 PRICE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,

6 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON

7 LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE AUTHORITY. MR.

8 GRANAHAN WILL BE REPLACING VICTOR J.

9 GIAMBRONE, WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON DECEMBER

10 31, 2007. MR. GRANAHAN'S TERM WILL EXPIRE

11 ON DECEMBER 31, 2012.

12 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

13 entertain a motion that 5-M be introduced.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

17 those in favor?

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

23 ayes have it and so moved.

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

25 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF FATHER PATRICK

.

46

1 L. ALBERT, 416 ORCHARD STREET, SCRANTON,

2 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE

3 SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD. FATHER

4 ALBERT WILL BE REPLACING FATHER MICHAEL

5 HARRIS, WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31,

6 2007. FATHER ALBERT'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON

7 DECEMBER 31, 2012.

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

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

20 MS. GARVEY: 5-O. FOR INTRODUCTION -

21 A RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF JAMES J.

22 THOMAS, 34 FOREST GLEN DRIVE, SCRANTON,

23 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY

24 PLANNING COMMISSION. MR. THOMAS' CURRENT

25 TERM EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2007, AND HIS  
.

47

1 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2011.

2 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

3 entertain a motion that 5-0 be introduced.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

6 those in favor?

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MS. GARVEY: 5-P FOR INTRODUCTION - A

14 RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES SCANLON,

15 929 RICHMONT STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,

16 18509, AS A MEMBER OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION.

17 MR. SCANLON'S TERM EXPIRED ON JULY 12, 2007.

18 MR. SCANLON'S NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JULY

19 12, 2012.

20 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

21 entertain a motion that 5-P be introduced.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

25 in favor?

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48

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

6 ayes have it and so moved.

7 MS. GARVEY: 5-Q. FOR INTRODUCTION -

8 A RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF JACK DELEO,

9 125 WHITETAIL DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,

10 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON RECREATION

11 AUTHORITY. MR. DELEO'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRES

12 ON DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL

13 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2012.

14 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

15 entertain a motion that 5-Q be introduced.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

18 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

19 those in favor?

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. GARVEY: 5-R. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
2 A RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH  
3 GUIDO, 211 LARCH STREET, SCRANTON,  
4 PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON  
5 RECREATION AUTHORITY. MR. GUIDO'S CURRENT  
6 TERM EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND HIS  
7 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2012.

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

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

13 those in favor?

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

18 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The

19 ayes have it and so moved.

20 MS. GARVEY: 5-S. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
21 A RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW  
22 FLYNN, 1801 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,

23 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 TO THE BOARD  
24 OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY. MR.  
25 FLYNN'S CURRENT TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER  
. .  
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1 31, 2007 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON  
2 DECEMBER 31, 2012.

3 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
4 entertain a motion that 5-S 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

16 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 140,  
17 2007 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
18 FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR  
19 THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF



20 JANUARY 2008 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,  
21 2008 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY  
22 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2008.

23 MS. GATELLI: At this time you have

24 heard reading by title of 6-A, what is your

25 pleasure?

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

2 reading by title.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

4 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

5 those in favor?

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

9 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed?

10 MS. EVANS: No.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

12 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and so

13 moved.

14 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER - NO

15 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

16 MS. GATELLI: Before we start, I just

17 have one more thing, I have some brochures  
18 here. I attended a meeting last night at  
19 council for the Department of  
20 Transportation, they are widening Route 81  
21 at the River Street exit and they are going  
22 to put a signal at the base of East Mountain  
23 Road, so if anyone cares for any of these  
24 brochures, Mrs. Schumacher, I did see you  
25 there --

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1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I got one last  
2 night, thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: And if anybody needs  
4 these brochures I'll leave them in the city  
5 council office and you can request them and  
6 we can have them mailed out to you. First  
7 speaker is Doug Miller.

8 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,  
9 Doug Miller, president of the junior  
10 council. You know, Mrs. Gatelli, as  
11 upsetting as it is I'm glad you did raise  
12 that issue tonight because I did plan on  
13 addressing it. You know, Mrs. Gatelli and

14 Mrs. Fanucci I understand what you are going  
15 through, it's totally uncalled for. I have  
16 gone through it, definitely not as bad as  
17 you have, but I have gone through it and,  
18 you know, when I sit back and think of some  
19 of the names I have been called it is pretty  
20 sick. You know, we look at that I have been  
21 breast fed, I have weed-whacked hair, I'm a  
22 brat, I'm will little boy king, I'm a little  
23 Hitler and I have also been told I should be  
24 strangled, and that's just to name a few.

25 You know, I think, Mrs. Gatelli,

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1 Mrs. Fanucci and Mr. Brown you should know  
2 that you are dealing with a small people  
3 with small minds and, you know, I wouldn't  
4 even pay attention to it. They are bullies,  
5 I know what it's like, I have gone through  
6 it and I say this tonight because I am tired  
7 of sitting here each week and hearing lies  
8 and threats made to council members. I will  
9 defend Mrs. Gatelli, Mrs. Fanucci, and  
10 Mr. Brown. I know everyone here may think

11 I'm out of place, but, again, I'm tired of  
12 sitting here each week and listening to lies  
13 and I will defend the three of you.  
14 Moving on, I would like to welcome  
15 the students from West Scranton High School  
16 with Mr. Murray, it's great to see high  
17 school students in attendance, we appreciate  
18 your interest and we hope you will return  
19 again soon. I would also on behalf of  
20 Junior Council I would like to congratulate  
21 the West Scranton Invader football team on a  
22 great season. They set many school records  
23 and they represented our city with pride.  
24 We are very proud of the team and we believe  
25 that they have earned a proclamation from  
.  
54

1 the city.  
2 Anyone that purchased a Christmas  
3 wreath from junior council can pick up their  
4 orders this Saturday, December 8 from 10  
5 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Nay Aug Park  
6 concession stand. On behalf of junior  
7 council I would like to thank everyone who

8 has purchased a wreath. We greatly  
9 appreciate your support.  
10 On behalf of Mr. Bob Bolus, who  
11 could not attend tonight's meeting because  
12 he is out of town, I would like to invite  
13 everyone to attend the 13th annual Bob Bolus  
14 Christmas day dinner on Tuesday,  
15 December 25, beginning at 11 a.m. and  
16 concluding at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Lucy's  
17 Church auditorium on Ninth Street in West  
18 Scranton. Everyone is asked to bring their  
19 Christmas spirit and appetite. This is a  
20 dinner for everyone, not just a select  
21 group. Mr. Bolus has also extended this  
22 invitation to members of city council and  
23 junior council, and with that said at this  
24 time Nicole Bieri will address. And, Mrs.  
25 Gatelli, I would never want to take over for

55

1 you, you do a wonderful job. So, Nicole?

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Doug.

3 Nicole?

4 MS. BIERI: Junior council invites

5 you to our holiday celebration on Sunday,  
6 December 16, 10 a.m to 2 p.m. at the South  
7 Side Renaissance Center. The party will  
8 feature food, games and a special visit from  
9 santa. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2  
10 for children over the age of three. We hope  
11 to see you all there. Thank you.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

13 Mr. Sbaraglia.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

15 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.

16 Well, I brought up the recovery plan and I

17 wasn't going to speak on it, but I'll tell

18 you little inside on it, I don't think

19 90 percent of the city ever read the

20 recovery plan and that's probably a good

21 amount, okay? I doubt if 10 percent read

22 it, but what I was sold on was there would

23 be no tax increase. All of theme people

24 that voted for that recovery plan voted for

25 no tax increase, so if you really wanted to

.

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1 really go to the heart of that plan you

2 should have never raised taxes because  
3 that's what it was voted on, that's what  
4 sold that plan was no tax increase, but as  
5 you know for the four years of the mayor  
6 that was in office he did not raise taxes.  
7 Like I said before, he kept to the heart of  
8 that plan that he would not raise taxes and  
9 he didn't, the city borrowed the money, but,  
10 unfortunately, after the four years are over  
11 he found out he was in a predicament and now  
12 he had to raise taxes to pay off what he had  
13 borrowed and that's the way it went there,  
14 but for anybody to say that people voted for  
15 that recovery plan because they knew what  
16 was in it they did not. The only reason  
17 they voted for that is for no tax increase  
18 and if you can see now we have had quite a  
19 few tax increases and they are going to  
20 escalate somewhere along the line anyway.  
21 That's right, you have to go over every  
22 line item. The only way we are ever going  
23 avoid more tax increases is for you to cut  
24 back expenses, that's the only way. You  
25 cannot keep spending more than is coming in

1 and it's simple as that, it doesn't take a  
2 brain surgeon to figure that out. And how  
3 anybody can figure that you gave raises when  
4 they are going to be like 5 or 6 million in  
5 the hole next year, that doesn't make sense  
6 either.

7 People came up to me and asked me,  
8 how could they work on a budget without an  
9 audit? And I said, "You don't know  
10 Scranton. They don't care anything about  
11 figures, whatever comes into their minds  
12 they do."

13 This is a dream city anymore. We  
14 dream of things to do, but there is no money  
15 to do them, that's the sad part. I  
16 understand costs have went up, I understood,  
17 too, that when they did that deal with the  
18 workers and had the buy out that was the  
19 time to go before you and unions and strike  
20 a deal but he let is out past much I don't  
21 know if he wanted to hire his people back  
22 for all the ones that took the buy out or



23 not? But, that's the impression I got, he  
24 just wanted to hire his own people, he could  
25 care less about what it was going to do  
.  
58

1 until he found out later what it did do. I

2 thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

4 Mrs. Schumacher.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,

6 resident and member of the Scranton

7 Lackawanna County Taxpayers' Association. I

8 probably won't get to everything I planned

9 to talk about tonight because of the

10 comments during the earlier session.

11 First of all, I would like to wish

12 everybody a happy Hanukah which starts

13 tomorrow evening at sundown, and then I

14 would like to say, I was totally

15 flabbergasted by Mrs. Evans telling us that

16 people were enticed to retire by the mayor

17 by giving them double pensions. I knew they

18 were promised full health care, but to give

19 somebody a double pension and then replace

20 them with another worker is paying three  
21 times for the same service and it just makes  
22 no sense to me at all.

23 To Mrs. Fanucci, I would say, I  
24 don't know who you are including in your  
25 can't play well with others comments

.

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1 tonight, but I would like to say that I came  
2 here this summer to the first of  
3 Mrs. Gatelli's budget meetings that she was  
4 going to have, I came prepared to be  
5 constructive, I had done research and those  
6 were -- we were cut off at the knees those  
7 of us who were not in the in group and on  
8 the list of members of that group. So,  
9 please, some of us can play well with  
10 others.

11 I would like to know the status of  
12 the audit, and I hope that next year you  
13 will not be in this same predicament. I  
14 hope the audit will be on time in midApril.  
15 I'd like to know whether the new name  
16 of the former EMS tax affects the way those

17 monies collected may be spent.

18 I would also like to remind those of  
19 you on council who have said you would not  
20 vote for any further borrowing that the  
21 budget as presented last week and as  
22 advanced in tonight's agenda includes  
23 \$6 million worth of borrowing, well, it  
24 actually includes \$11 million worth of  
25 borrowing, less than half of which is to  
60

1 retire a former debt, but \$6 million of it  
2 is to cover operating expenses in 2008. So,  
3 there definitely is borrowing in the budget.

4 I would like to know if Mrs.

5 Evans' budget will be available in the  
6 clerk's office on Friday so that those of  
7 who us are interested in the particular  
8 items might be able to get a copy or if it  
9 won't be until Monday?

10 I would like to know is Mr. Fiorini  
11 consulting for the city in the license and  
12 inspections and permits?

13 MS. GATELLI; no.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: He is not.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Schumacher, one of  
17 the questions that I -- one of the remaining  
18 six questions that I posed to Mr. Renda  
19 involved the audit and he received the  
20 independent audit or at least the  
21 preliminary draft and had we received  
22 nothing when did he anticipate receiving it,  
23 because I do believe he is just as anxious  
24 if not more so than I to receive that audit.

25 Secondly, the budget will be available, I'll

.

61

1 make sure that extra copies are made and  
2 they are left in council's office for any  
3 interested citizens, and I just wanted to  
4 jump back to your first remarks regarding  
5 the double pensions, just to clarify that  
6 though, that among -- I mentioned the two  
7 groups, the one-time offer and those who  
8 qualified to retire, double pension,  
9 however, was given to nonuniform retirees,  
10 and that's -- as I began the explanation I

11 was talking about MMO's nonuniform pension,  
12 so among those 100 retirees we certainly  
13 would have had some police I would think, so  
14 some firefighters, they would not have  
15 received the double pension.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: How incredible.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else?

19 There is no one else on the sign-in sheets.

20 Mr. Dobson.

21 MR. DOBSON: Thank you, I didn't  
22 make it in time it get on the sheet. I'd  
23 like to talk about health benefits and so  
24 forth tonight. Health insurance and  
25 benefits should be available to everyone  
.

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1 irregardless of income, job status or social  
2 position. In the case of the fire and  
3 police, job stress and exposure to toxic  
4 fumes, dangerous work conditions can cause  
5 disabilities years after the exposure long  
6 after occupational comp would no longer  
7 apply.

8 A case I would cite in this is 9/11  
9 rescue workers, they are dying. They are  
10 dying from their exposures and if you follow  
11 the situation the federal government doesn't  
12 even recognize the fact that they are dying  
13 from this exposure, and many of them are  
14 just about destitute or homeless.  
15 Twenty years ago, maybe 25, OSHA was  
16 gutted of it's protection ability. If I  
17 wanted to rectify an occupational situation  
18 I would have to turn in my employer. In a  
19 small shop I've seen where it took a whole  
20 time of maybe 20 minutes for the employer to  
21 determine who was the plaintiff, so needless  
22 to say that that person didn't work there  
23 very much longer even though they were  
24 allegedly protected by the federal  
25 government for doing what they did, and it

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1 was a bonafide complaint by the way.  
2 Occupational diseases increase in women  
3 especially as they have joined the work  
4 force, and as far as the recovery plan to

5 tie this in, it's already to a point where I  
6 think it should be held for a revote, six  
7 years is just an ungodly amount of time,  
8 it's not a good policy and I don't really  
9 feel that the citizens of this town that  
10 approved that of people going for six years  
11 without a contract especially in public  
12 safety people, they had to realize the  
13 adverse implications, they probably would  
14 not have voted for that. I certainly hope  
15 judging by human nature they wouldn't have.  
16 And just to finalize it, all  
17 attempts should be made to pull these  
18 deficits in and attempt to satisfy some of  
19 these situations that have arisen, and as  
20 far as the recovery plan, well, like I said,  
21 we should put it back to a vote. It's  
22 already too long.

23 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz.

25 South Scranton resident. I do not believe

.

64

1 anything you say, Mrs. Fanucci, Miss Nealon,

2 going back to new tenants in Southern Union,  
3 going back to no vacant store fronts in  
4 downtown Scranton and, Mrs. Fanucci,  
5 76 percent of the taxpayers did not approve  
6 the recovery plan. Approximately 27 percent  
7 of the taxpayers voted on that day and I  
8 happen to be one of them and I happened to  
9 vote for the recovery plan, that was my bad,  
10 a big mistake on my part. I understand that  
11 now.

12 Okay, Mr. Courtright, my advice to  
13 you is follow Mrs. Fanucci's advice and the  
14 mayor's advice and borrow more money. Don't  
15 worry about the borrowing the money because  
16 you are not going to be able to pay it back,  
17 so just continue to borrow the money, give  
18 the pay raises to the people in your cabinet  
19 and the people who you like and don't worry  
20 about it. It will all work itself out.  
21 Don't worry about it. Just borrow more  
22 money, approve the budget, we know it's  
23 going to be get approved, approve it. Don't  
24 worry about anything. Just borrow the  
25 money.



1 And, President Gatelli, if you are  
2 intimidated by a website then that does not  
3 show good leadership qualities because a  
4 website is nothing but words and words are  
5 nothing but thoughts and thoughts are  
6 nothing until they become actions, so I --  
7 my name has appeared on the website. I  
8 don't go on the website because I'm too  
9 cheap to buy a computer, but my name as been  
10 on the website, my picture has been on the  
11 website, and I haven't been elected to  
12 anything. Does it bother me? No. It means  
13 absolutely nothing, so if you are being  
14 intimidated on your votes because of  
15 something that appears on a website --

16 MS. GATELLI: No, I'm not, Mr.  
17 Jackowitz.

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: That's what you said.  
19 That's what it sounded like to me.

20 MS. GATELLI: No, that is the  
21 furthest -- no, I am not intimidated.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, I'm glad to

23 hear you say that.

24 MS. GATELLI: Obviously I'm not

25 because I don't vote that way.

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1 MR. JACKOWITZ: I'm glad to hear you

2 say that, President Gatelli, you know, I

3 really am because if you were intimidated

4 that's bad leadership there. It's nothing

5 but words, that's all it is.

6 MS. GATELLI: You are right.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: It means absolutely

8 nothing. Nothing at all. And, like I said,

9 let's get this budget thing over with, we

10 are wasting time. Let's just vote it in, be

11 done with it and everybody is happy. Just

12 all get along.

13 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else?

14 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, City

15 Council, Dave Gervasi, firefighter and

16 resident. Just a few things on some

17 comments that were made last week and

18 tonight. Mrs. Fanucci, just so you know,

19 you seem to keep inferring that for some

20 reason the union heads will not or refuse to  
21 sit down with the mayor, that is the  
22 furthest thing from the truth. We were  
23 handed the same piece of paper from April of  
24 2002 until last week, there is really not  
25 much we can do about it, the mayor is being  
.

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1 stubborn.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Well, Dave, I am aware  
3 that the mayor has been sitting down  
4 negotiating six times with one of the  
5 unions, so I know that there are  
6 negotiations going on.

7 MR. GERVASI: Yes, us, too.

8 MS. FANUCCI: And I never said --

9 MR. GERVASI: -- but there has been  
10 no movement.

11 MS. FANUCCI: But what I'm saying is  
12 that I never said that there were no  
13 negotiations.

14 MR. GERVASI: The other thing was  
15 mentioned last week was that Mrs. Fanucci  
16 quoted, "The people wanted recovery and I

17 will go along and do what I can to help the  
18 city recover."

19 In fact, you did the opposite when  
20 you enable the mayor to continue spend  
21 millions and drive us deeper in debt thus  
22 increasing our budgets by over \$26 million  
23 and increasing or debt service payments. We  
24 will never recover until it stops and deep  
25 cuts are made on the administration side of  
.  
68

1 the budget.

2 One thing that I wish you didn't  
3 say, because it's not true, is you said my  
4 hate for the mayor keeps us from  
5 negotiating, quote/unquote. Please ask the  
6 mayor to come here and ask him if myself and  
7 him ever had a shouting match or a  
8 disrespectful meeting with each other, with  
9 me or anyone else from my union and,  
10 Mrs. Fanucci, I want to assure you I don't  
11 hate anyone, I may really dislike his  
12 behavior especially if it hurts others or  
13 endangers their safety that I was sworn to

14 protect.

15 And just one more comment because I  
16 was told I was basically deceiving the  
17 public today in the newspaper, I feel that  
18 was unfounded and I think it was unfair,  
19 because I have been coming here a lot longer  
20 than the cameras were here and before Mayor  
21 Doherty became the mayor and I have been  
22 speaking at council and I usually don't open  
23 my mouth unless I know what I'm talking  
24 about and I have documentation to back it up  
25 and, frankly, I'm sorry to say this, but

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1 your comments in the paper today were mere  
2 fabrications from the Chris Doherty public  
3 relations machine that is churned out week  
4 after week in the newspaper. The difference  
5 between me comments and your comments is I  
6 back them up and I came here and I presented  
7 them to you before I even opened my mouth,  
8 so I tend to back things up before I say  
9 something because, frankly, I represent 150  
10 families and if I come up here and lie or

11 deceive people I'm on live TV doing it and  
12 it's not exactly -- it's not the prudent  
13 thing for me to do.  
14 So, save the rhetoric for the  
15 newspaper and the people that don't know  
16 what's going on and trust me when I tell you  
17 something I'm not lying to you.

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: I think I died,  
19 Jude. Well, Jude, another loss, but, hey,  
20 what could you do? We went all the way,  
21 Bud, I tell you I'm proud of the kids, all  
22 of them. All of them.

23 MS. GATELLI: Yes, they were  
24 fabulous.

25 MR. SLEDENZSKI: All of them, but  
.

70

1 I'll tell you, hey, next year, Jude, we'll  
2 win it next year. Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thanks, Chrissy.

4 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council,  
5 Nancy Krake. I have a few comments first.  
6 Last week you can see Mrs. Fanucci  
7 apparently reading text messages and then

8 sharing them with Mrs. Gatelli.

9 I also was not contacted by the  
10 Scranton Times for comment even though the  
11 article in today's paper which has been  
12 comments from Mrs. Fanucci said I was  
13 unavailable for contact. I was never  
14 contacted.

15 As far as the retirees, Mrs. Evans,  
16 I'm sure the mayor would have loved to see  
17 100 people go in my union, but that takes me  
18 to one of the real reasons that we have a  
19 huge increase in the budget and that is the  
20 mayor's hires from the retirees he did not  
21 send that savings back to the taxpayers, the  
22 initial savings that is, because now we are  
23 spending all of it on the pension for which  
24 we get nothing in return, and I did not  
25 negotiate that, by the way. Some things

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1 should not be negotiated which is another  
2 thing the mayor tries to do when he sits  
3 down with everyone.

4 In fact, the health care in the 2002

5 budget was 60 percent of the budget, in the  
6 2008 it's 18 percent, but what he did do was  
7 create many, many new jobs and give many  
8 raises. For example, the entire IT  
9 Department \$245,00, 352,500 in salaries and  
10 215,000, adds up quick from 2002 to 2008.  
11 We are probably close to \$10 million now  
12 cumulatively between the raises and the  
13 salaries. The entire Public Safety  
14 Department \$206,00, \$451,000, \$142,00 and  
15 \$29,000. I can give you all copies of this  
16 and I don't want to waste any of more of my  
17 three minutes on it, but you can see that's  
18 a huge part of the increase in the budgets  
19 between 2002 and 2008. And that those are  
20 facts, they are not deceits, they are from  
21 budgets and payrolls. I don't and how much  
22 clearer that can be, but today in our office  
23 we got many calls because Ned Abrahamsen is  
24 sending out \$160 letters which you people  
25 voted for. You have allowed NCC to take

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1 over and MRS our tax sales, so now a person



2 that had a tax of \$264 to the City of  
3 Scranton is now paying \$285 in fines and  
4 fees and \$160 for the letter itself. This  
5 is a disgrace. I would hope that you would  
6 look into overturning this before it's too  
7 late. This had absolutely no cost at all  
8 when it was done from the Treasurer's  
9 Office. You have doubled a person's taxes  
10 and it does not go into the city. Thank  
11 you.

12 MR. ANCHERANI: Nelson Ancherani.  
13 I'm also going to speak about the deceitful  
14 and agenda. I have been coming here since  
15 2002, a lot longer than you have, and I've  
16 been getting the numbers from the budgets,  
17 so if there is anything deceitful on numbers  
18 they are coming from the budgets. Maybe if  
19 you looked at them you would know that they  
20 were correct.

21 Also, since 2002 the total of the  
22 budgets, including next year's,  
23 \$477,952,444. With all of the budgets and  
24 what we were saying a half a million dollars  
25 last year, we are up to \$622 million with

1 that budget including the 35 million  
2 Scranton Parking Authority loan, 622  
3 million, 958 revenue, loans whatever. The  
4 total increases since 2002 totals  
5 \$87,420,044, that's more than this year's  
6 budget, more than this year's budget the  
7 increases. We went from 574 employees in  
8 2001, and I'm going to correct 2008's to  
9 552. The police budgets since 2001 have  
10 decreased, decreased. We have gone from 164  
11 in 2001 to 145 and it's our fault that the  
12 health care has increased. That's wrong.  
13 We had 100 people leave and the increases  
14 have to go toward 100 that were hired.  
15 Also, I heard Mrs. Gatelli and she said  
16 there is names being called on that Doherty  
17 deceit site, I read that all of the time, I  
18 get my news from there. There was at least  
19 20 names that she mentioned that she got,  
20 but the speakers that come here were called  
21 at least 30, including terrorists. I don't  
22 condone name calling, but we get called it,

23 we even got called by professional people, a  
24 lawyer, we got called names, I'm not going  
25 to mention any lawyer's names, but people  
.

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1 should go to the site just to decide for  
2 themselves. As I said, I don't condone name  
3 calling and I'm sure if somebody called  
4 somebody names like were spelled they would  
5 be off the site.

6 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else?

7 A motion to adjourn.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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

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

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

8 ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI

14 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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