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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI- COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MS. SUE MAGNOTTA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

8 MS. MAGNOTTA: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

10 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

12 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Dispense with the  
14 reading of the minutes. Any announcements  
15 that people may have?

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. The Special  
17 Olympics cocktail party is scheduled for  
18 April 11, 2008, at Holy Rosary Center on  
19 West Market Street from 7:00 until  
20 10:00 p.m. Again, that's the Special  
21 Olympics cocktail party which is sponsored  
22 by the Scranton School District. It's a  
23 very worthy cause, and I hope you will try  
24 to attend. Also, Saints Peter and Paul  
25 Parish at 1309 West Locust Street is

1 sponsoring a craft fair on April 12, 2008,  
2 from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church hall.  
3 Interested vendors may call 343-8872 to  
4 reserve tables. Refreshments will also be  
5 able. That's it.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else?

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

8 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD  
9 MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
11 If not, received and filed.

12 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
13 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL. PENSION BOARD  
14 MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
16 If not, received and filed.

17 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE  
18 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
19 TO BE HELD ON MARCH 26, 2008.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
21 If not, received and filed.

22 MS. GARVEY: That's it for third  
23 order.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Fourth order. Citizens  
25 participation. Doug Miller.

1                   MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
2                   Doug Miller, President of the Scranton  
3                   Junior City Council. The Scranton Junior  
4                   Council has organized a charity basketball  
5                   game between the Scranton Police Department  
6                   and the Scranton Fire Department scheduled  
7                   for Friday April 4, at Scranton High School  
8                   beginning at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 and  
9                   all proceeds will benefit a police and  
10                  firefighters' memorial. We encourage  
11                  residents all across the city to come out  
12                  and support our great public servicemen and  
13                  woman and the junior council is also  
14                  accepting donations towards this project.  
15                  Cash or check is acceptable and donations  
16                  can be sent to 340 North Washington Avenue,  
17                  Scranton, PA., 18503.

18                  Over the weekend I was pleased to  
19                  hear that the Southern Union building was  
20                  sold. This state of the art facility has  
21                  been empty for far too long and I would like  
22                  to commend Mr. Jerry Donahue for making this  
23                  investment. I understand that this is a KOZ  
24                  property, however, if we continue to  
25                  encourage businesses to move into our

1 downtown and we make our city attractive  
2 businesses will stay. Many criticize the  
3 downtown weekly. What the critics don't  
4 understand is that in order to have a strong  
5 city you must have a prosperous downtown. I  
6 believe we are doing just that. When you  
7 drive down the 500 block of Lackawanna  
8 Avenue you will soon see new sidewalks,  
9 street lighting and shops.

10 The Rosado Group is moving their  
11 corporate headquarters to our downtown and a  
12 new parking garage will soon appear in our  
13 downtown and this year the Lackawanna Bridge  
14 Project will begin. These are just a few  
15 examples of why we are making significant  
16 projects in our downtown. Development in  
17 our downtown will continue as long as we  
18 believe in ourselves and our city. We must  
19 invest in our city today so that our  
20 generation has a bright future. Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Miller.  
22 Jack Powell.

23 MR. POWELL: Hello, Jack Powell,  
24 Luzerne Street. I told you last week that  
25 made arrangements for the 27th of this

1 month, which is Thursday, for a meeting at

2 7:00 at the Keyser Valley Community Center  
3 in regards to Keyser Terrace. It just seems  
4 kind of funny, Tuesday we announced it and  
5 Friday we were notified by Mr. Skantos, he  
6 wants his meeting same time, same day which  
7 I don't understand at all. I think not only  
8 trying to make a fool out of us, he is  
9 making a fool out of you. I mean, we showed  
10 up for caucus, he wasn't coming, he shows  
11 up.

12 Now, we make the arrangements for  
13 ours and all of sudden he wants his meeting  
14 the same time, the same day. Mary Alice has  
15 notified him today that it can't happen. We  
16 invited him to our meeting. He said he  
17 wants to limit his only to ten. Ours is  
18 open to anybody. It's in regards to water  
19 runoff, if you have a problem with the  
20 roads, the development of the six units in  
21 the corner, the buffer zones, ours is open  
22 for everything. So, he is more than  
23 welcome, but why he did it the same time and  
24 it was done four days after we announced  
25 ours and stuff it's just kind of a joke I

1 thought, you know. I mean, everything

2 that's going on in this, Mr. King telling us  
3 that they weren't building the buildings, we  
4 don't show up for the planning meeting and  
5 they get it passed. It's just nonsense  
6 what's going on. I mean, people are telling  
7 us one thing, they are getting things passed  
8 and we have no input because we are being  
9 lied to. I mean, I see circumstances in the  
10 paper today where people lie to different  
11 commissions and stuff and they are getting  
12 indicted. I mean, they are telling me to go  
13 get a lawyer. Maybe I should, it should be  
14 prosecuted.

15 You know, when you take a job and  
16 you are telling people about different  
17 commissions and stuff, what's the proper way  
18 to do things, I mean, you have to be held  
19 accountable. I mean, you just can't tell  
20 people that this isn't right and it's not  
21 going to go through, people have to remember  
22 that was R-1, R-1 and he came to us to get  
23 it changed so that he could do different  
24 things. We agreed to those things. Those  
25 things.

9

1 Now, they changed a different part  
2 of the zoning from what I understand now and



3 he is saying he can do whatever he wants,  
4 but when they brought -- he told us he  
5 didn't make those statements I was thrilled  
6 when Mary Alice walked in with the minutes  
7 for those meetings. He did say those  
8 things. He said them. He didn't say a  
9 word. We are just here to tell the people  
10 of Keyser Valley come to the meeting,  
11 express your concerns and to tell the people  
12 that did the planning commission and did the  
13 other things that there is responsibility  
14 here. There is responsibility. You can't  
15 tell people that this isn't going to happen  
16 and show up at a meeting and pass it, and  
17 when you tell -- when we told them that he  
18 had told me that and he says, he didn't have  
19 the plans, well, when I corrected him he  
20 says, oh, those plans were from before and  
21 they were changed. He knew what was going  
22 on. He knew specifically what we were  
23 talking about and it just went through.  
24 Accountability. That's what's coming down  
25 here and, like said, the 27th, 7:00, which

10

1 is Thursday, everybody is welcome, maybe we  
2 can straighten this mess out. Thank you

3 very much.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Powell.  
5 Jim Stucker.

6 MR. STUCKER: Jim Stucker. I live on  
7 Market Street, 219, we have a lot of  
8 problems on that hill again on Market  
9 Street, the cops said they can't do nothing  
10 about it. The state owns it, the state owns  
11 the highway and Market Street. I talked to  
12 Jack, the big guy, he lives and plows and  
13 stuff and he plowed and he said that they  
14 own Market Street, the state does, so they  
15 told me to talk to Courtright about getting  
16 signs put up and signs that says "No  
17 Parking" on that hill, no parking back on  
18 that hill again. You got to do something  
19 about it.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jim, parking is  
21 tight up there, all right, and there is NO  
22 "No parking" signs there on that street.

23 MR. STUCKER: No.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: They are allowed to  
25 park there.

11

1 MR. STUCKER: No, on the top of the  
2 hill, no, where they come down from the  
3 laundry mat.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: You are saying there  
5 is "No Parking" signs there?

6 MR. STUCKER: No.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right, there isn't  
8 any because they are allowed to park there.

9 MR. STUCKER: Not on top of the  
10 hill. The cops were there the other night.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know how to  
12 explain this.

13 MR. STUCKER: I was there the other  
14 night. I was there again tonight.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.

16 MR. STUCKER: When I see the cops  
17 pull a guy away.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll ask them again.  
19 I have sent them there several times, Jim.  
20 I'll ask them again.

21 MR. STUCKER: And the drains again  
22 are getting filled up with dirt and ashes  
23 and leaves and I'm not going to do nothing  
24 about it, you know. And where the bar is,  
25 Murphy's Bar, well, down in there's a hole

12

1 there, down in the yard, it's all full of  
2 bottles and cans. Okay, I heard on TV about  
3 Mayor Doherty got that money from the -- I

4 don't know, from the taxes or something  
5 like, why couldn't he pay me half of that  
6 money he got, that's what I want to know.  
7 Why? Why can't he pay me half that money,  
8 give me like 50 out of it that money he has  
9 got.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know, Jim.  
11 You want \$50 bucks from him?

12 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think maybe we are  
14 going to take a collection and give you that  
15 \$50 bucks.

16 MR. STUCKER: I wouldn't care.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I know you wouldn't.

18 MR. STUCKER: And there is a guy out  
19 there sweeping the streets. He is -- I  
20 don't know his name, he has been sleeping in  
21 Providence Square a lot, putting ashes and  
22 putting the dirt from the snow up on making  
23 potholes. We got to get -- we got the big  
24 sweepers why they can't come out and do it  
25 where there is no cars around on Market

13

1 Street, all over the whole city.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: They will be out,  
3 Jim. The weather is breaking now, they will  
4 be out.

5 MR. STUCKER: And we have like guys  
6 afraid they're going to get hit by a car.  
7 He has just got handicapped -- well,  
8 disabled, what did you call it -- I can't  
9 think of the name of it, paralyzed, he was  
10 paralyzed on one side and is out there with  
11 a broom sweeping. I'm afraid he will get  
12 hit by a car.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Tell him to be  
14 careful.

15 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Okay. We got  
16 rid of that guy, I'm glad we did. I'm glad  
17 we did get rid of the guy next to Murphy's  
18 Bar, I'm happy we got him out of there. So,  
19 I feel good now. All right. You have any  
20 work, Courtright or McGoff? Do you have any  
21 work at all?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: For you -- you have  
23 any work for him?

24 MR. STUCKER: Anything.

25 MR. MCGOFF: I don't have a job

14

1 myself so --

2 MR. STUCKER: I don't care anything,  
3 I don't care what, McGoff, I don't care.  
4 Something.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.

6 MR. STUCKER: My buddy Pat and my  
7 buddy Tom is watching for me, okay?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you very much.  
10 Jim. Bill Jackowitz.

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening  
12 Mr. President, Scranton City Council, Bill  
13 Jackowitz, South Scranton resident, member  
14 of the Taxpayers' Association. I feel that  
15 President McGoff's scenario last week did  
16 not have any merit whatsoever. The  
17 firefighters' attorney has absolutely  
18 nothing to do with the public safety of the  
19 residents of Scranton. The fire chief has  
20 everything to do with the public safety of  
21 residents and firefighters. Ninety-three  
22 percent of the firefighters voted no  
23 confidence on the fire chief. This is a  
24 serious situation that should be resolved  
25 not turned into a political football.

15

1 All that Councilman Courtright was  
2 asking for was that a letter be sent to  
3 Mayor Doherty and Dave Schrieber, the  
4 president of the firefighters' union,  
5 requesting that a qualified outside agency

6 look into the alleged allegations of the  
7 firefighters. Certain council members  
8 expanded on this simple request turning the  
9 matter into a political football, when in  
10 reality it is a public safety issue. This  
11 actually proves to me that certain elected  
12 officials do not have the best interest of  
13 the citizens in mind. It took two weeks  
14 just to have a letter sent, a simple  
15 request. All five council members have a  
16 stake in this matter, not just Councilman  
17 Courtright.

18 Also, last week President McGoff  
19 accused Councilwoman Evans and Councilman  
20 Courtright of playing politics. If anyone  
21 is playing politics I would have to say it's  
22 President McGoff. All this because of a  
23 letter requesting an outside agency to look  
24 into the allegations. If only the  
25 stenographer was present at both meetings,

16

1 Chief Davis' and the firefighters, politics  
2 suck.

3 I would like to offer my own  
4 scenario, for one 24-hour period of time I  
5 would like to see the elected officials of

6 Scranton and appointees provide fire  
7 protection to the residents of Scranton,  
8 possibly then they would have a better  
9 understanding how important firefighters are  
10 to a city. Rescue 1, Chris Doherty, Robert  
11 McGoff, Jr., Eugene Hickey. Take a few  
12 seconds to imagine you are involved in an  
13 automobile crash, you are entrapped in your  
14 vehicle, Rescue 1 arrives on the scene.  
15 Chris Doherty and Robert McGoff, Jr., are  
16 going to extract you from your automobile  
17 using the jaws of life.

18 Engine two, Judy Gatelli, Mark  
19 Seitzinger. Engine four, Lisa Moran, Ray  
20 Hayes, Dick Goldberg. Engine seven, Jeff  
21 Brazil, Mark Dougher. Engine eight,  
22 Roseanne Novembrino, Ken McDowell. Engine  
23 nine, Stacy Brown, Austin Burke, Attorney  
24 Farrell. Engine ten, Sherry Nealon Fanucci,  
25 Stu Renda. Engine 15, Leonard Krushefski,

17

1 Sara Hailstone. Shift commander, Tom Davis.

2 I would strongly recommend that all  
3 citizens and residents of Scranton attend  
4 their chosen place of worship during this  
5 24-hour period of time. Take a few seconds  
6 and imagine this high-priced firefighters'



7 crew arriving at your emergency. Myself, I  
8 would prefer that the professional  
9 firefighters of Scranton arrive at my  
10 emergency. Pay them, listen to them and  
11 make the right decision, whatever that  
12 decision is. I do not know Chief Davis, I  
13 have never worked for the fire department or  
14 the City of Scranton. I have no close  
15 friends on the fire department. Until  
16 recently I only knew two firefighters, but  
17 what I do know is that the firefighters have  
18 voted 93 percent to 7 percent that they have  
19 no confidence in Chief Davis. This vote  
20 shows it must be taken seriously. Again, I  
21 say this is not a personnel matter it is a  
22 public safety matter.

23 If the allegations are false they  
24 will show that. If the allegations are true  
25 then it will also show that and corrective

18

1 measures will be taken. Continue denial and  
2 coverups will only worsen the situation and  
3 lead to more trouble. Just remember that  
4 the safety of the firefighters and the  
5 citizens could be in jeopardy.

6 It far exceeds friendship or

7 politics. Bring in a qualified outside  
8 agency to inquire into these alleged  
9 allegations. You would not call a plumber  
10 to repair your electrical problem, would  
11 you?

12 Last week Councilwoman Fanucci  
13 attempted to put Councilwoman Evans on the  
14 spot when she accused Councilwoman Evans of  
15 holding meetings with the firefighters. My  
16 belief is that all five council members  
17 should be holding meetings with the  
18 firefighters and Chief Davis, working  
19 together to resolve this issue as quickly as  
20 it can be resolved. This is not a political  
21 issue, it is a public safety issue.  
22 Remember, no fire apparatus has been  
23 purchased during Mayor Doherty's, Ray Hayes  
24 and Chief Davis' tenure in office. Some  
25 equipment has become worn, old and not

19

1 serviceable. Last week council president  
2 McGoff objected to the word investigate. If  
3 a child comes home with an "F" on their  
4 report card you investigate as to why, you  
5 make an inquiry. If your checking account  
6 comes up with \$12,262,392.39, you  
7 investigate, you make an inquiry as to why

8 you have an extra \$12 million.

9 We all have family, friends and  
10 acquaintances, but not all of us swear an  
11 oath of office to uphold the constitution of  
12 the United States and serve the people who  
13 elected you. This entails additional  
14 responsibility. You as Scranton City  
15 Council members represent all of us. When  
16 you raise taxes or pass legislation it  
17 affects every citizen in Scranton. Not just  
18 the voters who voted for you or call your  
19 name. Grow up and act not like an  
20 adolescent.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Andy Sbaraglia.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
23 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
24 I'm going to read some little notes that I  
25 have cut out of the Scranton Times. They

20

1 are good for something. Public notices are  
2 very good, I wish more people would read  
3 them. It's the a sad thing that the Sewer  
4 Authority has moved up to Dunmore. For  
5 what, I don't know. It is the Scranton  
6 Sewer Authority, I know Dunmore is a part of  
7 it, but now they have moved up to Dunmore

8 for their meetings and I don't know,  
9 "Scranton Sewer Authority has changed the  
10 start time for it's caucus and regularly  
11 scheduled board meeting for the remainder  
12 the year March 25, 2008. The board caucus  
13 will now begin at 4:30," naturally, so  
14 people can't get there, "and the monthly  
15 meeting will be begin at 6:00 p.m. at the  
16 Dunmore Borough building at Blakely Street  
17 in Dunmore."

18 Something is wrong with, of course,  
19 city hall here because they got cameras.  
20 Apparently, our Sewer Authority has become  
21 camera shy. What they are trying to hide, I  
22 don't know, if anything, but certainly the  
23 coverage would be much better if they held  
24 their meetings here and it's televised. I  
25 mean, how many people is going to go up to

21

1 Dunmore? I don't even know if that place is  
2 big enough to hold a lot of people, but I  
3 guess that's the way it goes, the less  
4 people know the better off it is.

5 They are having another little thing  
6 that I cut out, too. "The following  
7 hearing: Industrial treatment been issued by  
8 the Sewer Authority of Scranton seeking

9 noncompliance with 2007."

10 Otherwise they are dumping stuff  
11 into the sewer system they shouldn't be, and  
12 the poor ratepayers have to pay to get it  
13 out, which isn't quite right, Sequoia is  
14 that place where they got that patent on  
15 that silver into the material and they do  
16 have a patent. The other is a JMC  
17 Manufacturing Limited Incorporated.

18 Now, this is why they probably are  
19 moving away from the cameras. God knows how  
20 many people are dumping stuff into our sewer  
21 systems that is not supposed to be here and  
22 it's sad that the people realize we got a  
23 huge rate increase or we are going to get  
24 another huge right increase and probably a  
25 heck of a lot more rate increases because

22

1 they are not really running this thing as  
2 they should. I mean, there should be a  
3 penalty implied in these companies. When  
4 somebody dumps something in we are fined.

5 If we don't something into the river  
6 and we are not suppose to dump it in we get  
7 fined. Why they are not fined, I don't  
8 know, but I will probably look into and find

9 out what fines were imposed on them or what  
10 they have done to help clean up the problem,  
11 but it's-- you got to look at everything.  
12 You realize that when the mayor made this  
13 Sewer Authority autonomous you know how many  
14 millions of dollars we have on the books for  
15 actually the citizens of the Scranton?  
16 Everything before he passed this new bill  
17 went onto the citizens of the Scranton, not  
18 Dunmore, because they are up to max. They  
19 would have to go through a log of rigamarole  
20 to get judges and so forth so they could  
21 approve whatever they were borrowing, so  
22 they borrowed in good faith of the citizens  
23 of Scranton, not the ratepayers, but the  
24 citizens of Scranton which if you look at it  
25 in one way or the another they are the

23

1 ratepayers, so are the people of Dunmore,  
2 but if something should ever happen the  
3 citizens of Scranton would have to makeup  
4 the difference, not the people of Dunmore,  
5 they would get away hands free because  
6 everything was borrowed in our name and not  
7 theirs.

8 And it's hard to say, you know,  
9 there is so many things happening from that

10 \$12.2 million fiasco down there at the  
11 office for the taxes and, of course, there  
12 is only one person that should be held  
13 responsible and that's, of course,  
14 McDonald -- McDowell, I should say. He was  
15 the man in charge, the buck stops at the  
16 top, so in the investigation or something  
17 should be actually pointed toward him  
18 because he was there and I heard many, many  
19 people say, of course, I can't say for true,  
20 but that it was run pretty shoddy down there  
21 and I guess it was because no where in that  
22 we could have that one -- well, okay. Thank  
23 you.

24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sbaraglia, before you  
25 leave I just wanted you to know that the

24

1 Sewer Authority has conducted it's meetings  
2 in the Dunmore Borough building for many  
3 years. I remember attending them prior to  
4 taking my seat originally on council. I  
5 have been to meetings in the Borough  
6 building since then and probably most  
7 recently was the last time that the  
8 residents of the city experienced flooding  
9 and I went to their caucus meeting to

10 request that the sewer rates be adjusted for  
11 flood victims and, again, that meeting was  
12 being conducted at the Dunmore Borough  
13 building.

14 Now, I know that they from time to  
15 time also held meetings in city council  
16 chambers because I remember attending one of  
17 those meetings when a discussion was held as  
18 to whether American Water Services would be  
19 retained or operations would be returned to  
20 the Sewer Authority, but I just wanted you  
21 to know that this isn't something new, it's  
22 been ongoing.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: And I attended the  
24 meetings at Dunmore, too, and also here.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,

25

1 Mr. Sbaraglia. Tank you, Mr. Sbaraglia.  
2 Les Spindler.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Les Spindler, city  
4 resident. Mr. Jackowitz stole a lot of my  
5 thunder, but I'm going to read what I have  
6 anyway. Mr. McGoff, last week you said  
7 political opponents should recuse themselves  
8 voting about Chief Davis. Well, you of all  
9 people shouldn't accuse other people of  
10 being political when you sit up there week



11 after week and do whatever Chris Doherty  
12 wants you to do, that's being political.  
13 This is not a political issue, it's a public  
14 safety issue, and you don't seem to give a  
15 damn about what happens to our firefighters.  
16 If we loss another firefighter I don't think  
17 you'd care, you just want poor Chief Davis  
18 and not have anything happen to him, and I  
19 asked you last week to abstain from voting.  
20 At least when Mr. Pocius was on council and  
21 something came up with CECCO Associates, his  
22 employer, he would abstain from voting, he  
23 was man enough to do that. When are you  
24 going to get some backbone to do what's good  
25 for the city and not for Chris Doherty?

26

1 Moving on, Mrs. Fanucci, last week  
2 when Mr. Patilla came to the podium you were  
3 getting up and down up, up and down, looking  
4 at Mrs. Gatelli, I thought I was watching to  
5 tell the truth.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Actually, I just got  
7 up. I just got up and left.

8 MR. SPINDLER: And Mr. Patilla -- you  
9 accused Mr. Patilla of only speaking to  
10 Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans, you are

11 wrong. He comes to the podium and says  
12 hello to Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans --

13 MS. FANUCCI: That tells me --

14 MR. SPINDLER: -- he doesn't just  
15 speak to them.

16 MS. FANUCCI: He doesn't address my  
17 name.

18 MR. SPINDLER: You are an elected  
19 official -- let me talk me, please. You're  
20 an elected officials, it's your duty to sit  
21 there and listen to everybody no matter if  
22 like them or don't like them and,  
23 Mr. McGoff, I think it's your duty as  
24 council president to make sure nobody walks  
25 outside on speakers and just stands outside

27

1 the door.

2 The next thing, about the  
3 \$12 million, there is going to be an audit  
4 of the tax office, we don't need a audit, we  
5 need an investigation by the FBI because  
6 somebody broke the law and somebody has to  
7 pay for that. You just don't find 12  
8 million dollars in a bank.

9 Mrs. Evans, last week I mentioned  
10 about the Lackawanna Avenue bridge and you  
11 said you had some information, did you bring

12 that?

13 MS. EVANS: Yes. Yes, I did, Mr.  
14 Spindler. I don't know that it's going to  
15 be of any great help, I do remember in 2006,  
16 just to backtrack a little bit, there was an  
17 announcement, it might have come from the  
18 governor, but that federal, state and city  
19 funding would be used on the Lackawanna  
20 Avenue bridge and the states portion was 200  
21 and some thousand dollars and, of course,  
22 the city's portion will be smallest now.

23 Now, the latest information we  
24 received, and I would be very happy to give  
25 this to you, concerns permit applications

28

1 for the bridge to begin work, so if you  
2 would like to have it this I'm very happy to  
3 give it to you.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you.  
5 When it was announced the Rosado Group was  
6 moving in the city that made front page of  
7 the Doherty Newsletter. When it was  
8 announced that Scranton Fordgery was being  
9 charged with a crime it was hidden on the  
10 fifth page. Just shows more about the  
11 politics of this city. And, lastly, I see

12 the Southern Union was bought and the person  
13 that bought it says it's going to be filled  
14 by this summer. That's the same person that  
15 said the building that he owns on Lackawanna  
16 Avenue was supposed to be a restaurant, was  
17 supposed to be completed by 2003, so anybody  
18 that believes that that building will be  
19 filled by the end of the summer is -- watch  
20 closely, you will see pigs fly. Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Franus.

22 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus.

23 Mrs. Gatelli, I would like to ask you a  
24 couple of questions, please. When you were  
25 president of council do you feel -- or even

29

1 now, do you feel it's an obligation of the  
2 council president to know the Rules of the  
3 Home Rule Charter?

4 MS. GATELLI: I always keep the Home  
5 Rule Charter in a binder, but I don't know  
6 them by heart. I'm going to be honest with  
7 you, I don't know them by heart.

8 MS. FRANUS: Don't you think, I  
9 mean, don't you think it behooves you or  
10 something for the people so you would know  
11 and all council members, don't you feel that  
12 you should all know all of the rules of the

13 Home Rule Charter, even if you have to take  
14 time to study it.

15 MS. GATELLI: I think you should be  
16 familiar with it, yes.

17 MS. FRANUS: Not familiar, know  
18 every bit of it.

19 MS. GATELLI: Well, I don't know that  
20 you could know every section.

21 MS. FRANUS: Well, it's not that big.

22 MS. GATELLI: -- A, B, C and D by  
23 heart.

24 MS. FRANUS: The reason I say that  
25 is because there are certain things in the

30

1 Home Rule Charter that affect people in the  
2 City of Scranton. For example, it states in  
3 the Home Rule Charter that the Scranton  
4 Sewer Authority was supposed to have come  
5 before council before they had a raise and  
6 you, as president, didn't see to it that  
7 that was done. So, maybe it's because you  
8 didn't realize, but still because of that--

9 MS. GATELLI: I believe that the  
10 lease agreement was up with the Sewer  
11 Authority and that's why they didn't come  
12 here. I did consult with Attorney Minora at

13 the time about it.

14 MS. FRANUS: That means nothing.  
15 Nothing against you, but that means nothing.

16 MS. GATELLI: Well, I know it means,  
17 of course, it means nothing.

18 MS. FRANUS: No, it doesn't because  
19 Mr. Minora has said many things that weren't  
20 true so we can't believe what he says is the  
21 law even though he is an attorney that means  
22 nothing.

23 MS. GATELLI: I'll have him  
24 investigate if you think that they should  
25 have come here, but --

31

1 MS. FRANUS: Yes, and would you  
2 please find this out for me?

3 MS. GATELLI: I certainly will.

4 MS. FRANUS: Now, this is also a  
5 rumor, this is a rumor, but I would just  
6 like to know, Mrs. Gatelli, if this possibly  
7 true, because rumors sometimes are true when  
8 it comes to fruition -- is it true that you  
9 supposedly don't want Gene Barrett to be  
10 head of the Sewer Authority --

11 MS. GATELLI: And my son-in-law is  
12 going to get the job?

13 MS. FRANUS: No.

14 MS. GATELLI: Is that what you're  
15 referring to? No, it's not true.

16 MS. FANUCCI: That was the discussion  
17 at Scanlon's, wasn't it?

18 MS. GATELLI: Sherry and I talked  
19 about that at Scanlon's --

20 MR. MCGOFF: Let Mrs. Franus --

21 MS. FRANUS: I didn't say that.  
22 What did you say, Patsy McGoff? I did not  
23 say your son-in-law. She spoke before --

24 MS. GATELLI: That what was on your  
25 website that you all talk to.

32

1 MS. FRANUS: It's not my website.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Please, Mrs. Gatelli -

3 MS. GATELLI: No, it's not. I have  
4 no authority to fire anyone from the Sewer  
5 Authority, Mrs. Franus.

6 MS. FRANUS: I didn't say you had  
7 authority to fire anyone. I said you would  
8 like to --

9 MS. GATELLI: No, it's not true.

10 MS. FRANUS: I didn't finish my  
11 sentence, Mrs. Gatelli.

12 MS. GATELLI: No, because I resent  
13 you talking like that.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Please --

15 MS. FRANUS: I didn't -- the  
16 question--

17 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

18 MS. FRANUS: No, Mr. McGoff. I want  
19 to say something.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Please.

21 MS. GATELLI: We don't even have to  
22 answer your questions.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

24 MS. FRANUS: Let me finish my  
25 sentence. I was going to say, do you want

33

1 to replace Gene Barrett with Jeff Brazil,  
2 not your son-in-law.

3 MS. GATELLI: No, I don't want to  
4 replace Gene Barrett at all. I have no say  
5 in that.

6 MS. FRANUS: Oh, well, that's fine,  
7 that's the only question I asked.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

9 MS. FRANUS: And you make this big  
10 thing --

11 MS. GATELLI: And you make this big  
12 faux faux about that it's my son-in-law.

13 MS. FRANUS: Well, I never heard  
14 that. Sorry.



15 MS. GATELLI: I'm sorry then.  
16 MS. FANUCCI: I have a --  
17 MS. FRANUS: Sherry -  
18 MS. GATELLI: She mustn't have read  
19 it tonight.  
20 MS. FRANUS: The guilt.  
21 MS. GATELLI: When I'm the mayor  
22 I'll decide who gets what.  
23 MR. MCGOFF: Please, let Mrs. Franus  
24 finish.  
25 MS. FRANUS: Well, you may--

34

1 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Franus --  
2 MS. FRANUS: Mr. McGoff, Patsy  
3 McGoff, yes, what were you saying.  
4 MR. MCGOFF: I'd just ask if you'd  
5 continue.  
6 MS. FRANUS: Thank you.  
7 MS. GATELLI: Name calling is  
8 against the rules.  
9 MS. FRANUS: No, it isn't. I'm  
10 sorry.  
11 MS. GATELLI: Attorney Minora, would  
12 you get the rules, please?  
13 MS. FRANUS: Here we go with  
14 Attorney Minora again.

15 MS. GATELLI: Is name calling --

16 MR. MCGOFF: Now, let --

17 MS. GATELLI: They come here just to  
18 harass us.

19 MS. FRANUS: You are an elected --  
20 you are paid --

21 MS. GATELLI: They have nothing  
22 concrete and nothing --

23 MS. FRANUS: I have everything  
24 concrete. I would like to know what you  
25 people, the three you, Mrs. Gatelli, Mr.

35

1 McGoff, and Ms. Fanucci are doing for the  
2 people of this city other than trying to  
3 block things from the public working face.  
4 Looked at the transcript from March 25 of  
5 last year and I read where you were trying  
6 to block the subpoenas that Mrs. Evans  
7 wanted and everything was a coverup. You  
8 want to you read the transcript?

9 MS. GATELLI: I went along with the  
10 subpoenas.

11 MS. FRANUS: You kept on saying,  
12 "What do we want to find out? You think  
13 there is a coverup?"

14 Well, you know what, I do think  
15 there is a cover up and this \$12 million is

16 going to prove it and I hope the three of  
17 you, the three of you that I just named who  
18 just raised our taxes 25 percent and plan on  
19 doing it again, I hope the three of you --

20 MS. GATELLI: We voted the tax --

21 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

22 MS. FRANUS: Hey, that's my money and  
23 my taxes.

24 MS. GATELLI: I'm not raising the  
25 taxes.

36

1 MS. FRANUS: I got my taxes done,  
2 oh, you don't want to held accountable for  
3 the taxes that you raised? What, you think  
4 it's swept under the rug? People are trying  
5 to scrape money together to get that bill  
6 paid and the taxes in now. They are getting  
7 their tax bills now.

8 MS. GATELLI: The city tax is the  
9 lowest tax on your tax bill.

10 MS. FRANUS: Big deal. To some  
11 people that's a heck of a lot of money,  
12 sorry, Judy, we don't all have money like  
13 you and we have to go and pay check to --

14 MS. GATELLI: Get educated and get a  
15 job and you then you'll have money like me.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Please, that's out of  
17 order.

18 MS. GATELLI: Well, I think they're  
19 out of order every week, Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

21 MS. FRANUS: Judy, we are not out of  
22 order.

23 MS. GATELLI: This goes on every  
24 week. Every week, but that's all --

25 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

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1 MS. FRANUS: If the shoes fits wear  
2 it.

3 MS. GATELLI: It's only certain  
4 people that the names get called.

5 MS. FRANUS: Judy, when you start  
6 representing the people in the City of  
7 Scranton maybe, maybe then --

8 (Whereupon the proceedings became  
9 unreportable.)

10 MR. MCGOFF: Stop. We're done. It's  
11 finished.

12 MS. FRANUS: Mr. McGoff. Thank you  
13 for keeping the rules for a change.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Franus.

15 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening. My name  
16 is Brett McCloe, Scranton taxpayer, Scranton

17 resident. Mr. McGoff, I missed it last  
18 week, but you had said that I had demeaned  
19 the students who came up and spoke at this  
20 podium about the smoking ban. I disagree.  
21 All I did was give students across the  
22 viewing area both public and private schools  
23 solutions that could further strengthen  
24 convictions and for that I'm truly sorry,  
25 and I will apologize to Mr. Miller over here

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1 and to any other student, but this is an  
2 adult forum and I was speaking to adults  
3 about adult issues. These children will be  
4 adults four times longer than they will be  
5 teens and their view of this world will  
6 change drastically by the age of 25 and even  
7 more so by 35 and triple that by 50. Yes,  
8 the children are our future, but the future  
9 is not a period of time, it is a pause.

10 To Mr. Sbaraglia, Generation X, my  
11 generation, between the ages of 35 and 45  
12 are still considered to be children, we are  
13 still their future. It's all relative,  
14 let's not relegate generations worth of life  
15 experience and wisdom to the past. I  
16 applaud students who have the guts to see

17 past political correctness and are well  
18 aware that there are consequences and  
19 actions, consequences to actions and more  
20 importantly, consequences to inaction.

21 The students who spoke out against  
22 the smoking ban were courageous and in this  
23 my opinion will most likely be the adults  
24 who will stand up and protect our freedoms,  
25 civil rights and a free market from a

39

1 juggernaut of government intervention.

2 There was an interesting group of  
3 articles in Sunday's paper, it was called  
4 Outlook 2008 and Blueprint for Tomorrow. It  
5 was a very interesting serious of articles  
6 on business, it was filled with substantive  
7 hope for the future of Scranton and all of  
8 the Northeastern Pennsylvania. Hopefully  
9 these new businesses will care more for the  
10 well-being of their employees than this  
11 administration and the legislative body who  
12 cares for the people of Scranton and the  
13 region. I believe part of that blueprint  
14 for tomorrow starts with business owners  
15 both small and large to take a better look  
16 at how legislation is passed and how it  
17 effects future and present employees. Maybe

18 they need to take a lot at our political  
19 history and why we keep electing the same  
20 old people over and over again and expecting  
21 different results. Many would say that this  
22 is the definition of insanity, maybe we here  
23 in Scranton are far too cynical to accept  
24 any explanation why \$12 million magically  
25 disappears through political slight of hand

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1 and misdirection.

2 At the same time, those who make the  
3 laws pass harsh penalties on the  
4 unfortunate, the unconnected and the  
5 elderly. No wonder the children leave this  
6 area in droves. They see what you do to  
7 their parents and grandparents. These are  
8 the overtaxed, stressed out employees  
9 serving the coffee, changing your oil,  
10 putting out your fires, protecting your  
11 cul-de-sacs and carrying the bulk of the  
12 economy on their back while they get you a  
13 lottery ticket and a pack of gum. If the  
14 Chamber of Commerce wants to set higher  
15 standards and productivity they need to  
16 stand up for the citizens. This blueprint  
17 for tomorrow must first include protecting

18 and serving the people of today.

19 I just hope that at some point we  
20 can get to this wonderful, wonderful thing  
21 that they are always saying that we are  
22 going to get to, but we can't get there. If  
23 there is nepotism we can't get there. If  
24 there is going to be people who are going to  
25 hide \$12 million we can't get there if

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1 legislation is passed unlawfully, knowingly,  
2 and willingly. We can't do those things.  
3 We will never get to this point. I'm sorry  
4 for expounding, it's just how I feel. Thank  
5 you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher. Good.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening. Marie  
8 Schumacher, resident and member of the  
9 Taxpayers' Association. I'd like to start  
10 tonight with an item from the Community  
11 Development Block Grants for program year  
12 2007 and ask if anyone knows the status of  
13 the funds that you approved for the Benjamin  
14 Franklin Firefighters' Memorial which was to  
15 be a tribute to the men in blue. Two marble  
16 life-sized statues of a firefighter and  
17 policeman to be displayed at city hall. Is  
18 that money that's going to segway into my



19 next comments on OECD? Is that money that  
20 is going to sit there so that in ten years  
21 we can say, "Oh, nothing happened and before  
22 we lose it we better transfer it to planting  
23 trees or something?"

24 And now to OECD, the questions that  
25 Mrs. Evans -- the answers to the questions

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1 that I asked at the March 11 meeting that  
2 were supplied to me by Mrs. Evans last week,  
3 I'd like to read two of them, actually three  
4 of them, because I think it's pretty  
5 interesting: Number one, after the  
6 \$239,156.45 was transferred out of clearing  
7 the banks and streams account how much will  
8 remain?

9 Answer: This will clear this  
10 account out. The balance will be zero.

11 You ask what approved projects for  
12 which the money was approved in the  
13 beginning will not be accomplished because  
14 this transfer?

15 This money was approved for a  
16 specific project. The Linde-Keyser Creek  
17 Project. The amount that was originally  
18 allocated for this was \$330,000. They only

19 ended up using \$90,843.55 so that left a  
20 balance in the account of \$239,156.45. The  
21 project was completed so there were no other  
22 approved projects that were not accomplished  
23 with this money, it was only for that  
24 approved project.

25 Two: After the \$74,470.85 transfer

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1 from the fire hydrants account how much will  
2 remain and how many hydrants would that  
3 amount have bought? This account will also  
4 be cleared so that the balance will be zero.  
5 The fire hydrants were taken over by the  
6 water company, so we would not be purchasing  
7 anything.

8 Three: After the \$30,000 is  
9 transferred from the neighborhood precinct  
10 account how much will remain and what  
11 activities will not be accomplished?

12 This was money to be used for a new  
13 police precinct and they could not find one  
14 in the low or moderate area to build one and  
15 it could not be used for the new police  
16 headquarters that was built. No CDBG money  
17 was used for that project so they are  
18 closing out this account as well and this  
19 balance will be zero.

20                   Now, this brings up two primary  
21                   questions: Number one, that first project  
22                   was a 1995 project, so we have had 330,000--  
23                   or \$239,000 sitting for 12 years? The other  
24                   two were both projects that were approved  
25                   six years ago, so we know that those

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1                   balances, apparently we have known that  
2                   those -- the remainder in those accounts was  
3                   not it be used, has it been collecting  
4                   interest? Is there no policy that says when  
5                   the project is completed the monies get  
6                   transferred out then and there into an  
7                   account and maybe a priority list of  
8                   accounts that the projects that didn't get  
9                   funded get funded?

10                   I mean, I think you people really  
11                   need to take a good look. We have got a lot  
12                   of aging money sitting down there in EOCD  
13                   apparently and it's time for a quick look  
14                   and a change in policy I believe.

15                   Next, Growing Greener. I would like  
16                   to go back to what I said on the 26th of  
17                   February and that was last week Mrs. Fanucci  
18                   stated the Growing Greener money is not a  
19                   new issue of money, it is a transfer from

20 the Connell building project to the garage.  
21 A lot of times they have time frames on the  
22 money and this money was earmarked for the  
23 Connell building in the beginning, so it's  
24 not new money that's been issued. Now, the  
25 ordinance is to approve applying for a grant

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1 from the Growing Greener II fund which is in  
2 it's third year. The reports for the first  
3 two years are on-line and no grants to  
4 Scranton have been made per these reports.  
5 The ordinance makes no note of a transfer,  
6 only an application.

7 Now, I have two problems with the  
8 ordinance which I believe should be  
9 defeated: First, council has already  
10 approved the bond which included the  
11 demolition of the current structure and  
12 building the new garage.

13 Second, DCED Growing Greener II has  
14 \$50 million for the total state for main  
15 street and downtown redevelopment -- may I  
16 finish this one --

17 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Including  
19 improvements to water and waste water  
20 infrastructure. So if Scranton is to obtain

21 a grant from that money I would argue that  
22 it should be used to help out the Sewer  
23 Authority with improvements to the waste  
24 water infrastructure and I'll be back next  
25 week with my other items. Thank you.

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1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.  
2 Schumacher. Sam Patilla.

3 MR. PATILLA: Good evening,  
4 Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans.  
5 Mr. Courtright, I need you to bear with me  
6 because most of my discussion tonight will  
7 be directed towards you, nothing negative  
8 like or anything like that.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Good.

10 MR. PATILLA: But Article 7 of  
11 Section 701 of the Administrative Code of  
12 Scranton, part of the Ethic's Code states:  
13 "Public officials should not engage in or  
14 have financial or other personal interest in  
15 any business transaction directly contrived  
16 which is incompatible with the discharge of  
17 his or her duties."

18 Okay, basically, what that says is  
19 that, you know, in the eyes of the  
20 taxpayers, okay, if it's perceived as

21 hanky-panky in their eyes then it's a  
22 violation of the Ethics Code, you know,  
23 that's just like saying my brother or sister  
24 were the chief of police because of that  
25 relationship or my best friend because of

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1 that relationship I can get off of a  
2 speeding ticket or parking ticket or  
3 something like that for breaking the law.  
4 That's why we request elected officials to  
5 recuse themselves when they have an interest  
6 either financial or personal in any issue,  
7 any business transaction governing the city,  
8 the county or the state.

9 Now, I would like to think out of  
10 the box, okay, and I understand that you are  
11 between a rock and a hard place right now, I  
12 really understand that, but the bottom line  
13 is your job to serve the taxpayers, okay?  
14 The majority, unlike most, are more  
15 important than the minority. You know, I  
16 understand I never met the chief, he might  
17 be a good man, but when it's that one versus  
18 the many I'm going to choose the many at all  
19 times regardless of what anybody else might  
20 think or say, okay?

21 The reason, too, that you should go

22 ahead with your heart, because I know where  
23 your heart is going, okay, in the last month  
24 or so we've had a housing director federally  
25 indicted, 16 counts. We have got the issue

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1 with the fire, no confidence vote with the  
2 fire department, okay? We've got  
3 \$20 million, everybody is saying 12 million,  
4 there was 20 million plus in that account,  
5 okay? That shows that the current  
6 administration isn't capable of managing  
7 this city, let alone our money, this city  
8 because everywhere you turn around is  
9 falling apart, okay?

10 Then you go into the information  
11 provided by Mrs. Schumacher, Nelson and the  
12 rest of the citizens that come up here, they  
13 are right more often than not, you know, and  
14 when we come here all we get is excuses or  
15 misinformation, you know, and that's not  
16 what you were elected for, okay? I know  
17 it's kind of hard, okay, but, you know, you  
18 cannot sit back and say just like the  
19 solicitor and the new tax collector stated,  
20 it's a software problem or it's a problem of  
21 the staff not being trained correctly. You

22 take an envelope for each month for three  
23 years and throw it into a box, you can't put  
24 that in a drawer, it will fill up. It will  
25 fill up this podium. That in itself, that

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1 amount of paperwork in itself is going to  
2 dictate somebody take some form of action,  
3 okay?

4 So if that money was there, people  
5 knew it was there, you don't blame the help  
6 because they weren't responsible for  
7 training themselves on that system.  
8 Management was. You know, the people they  
9 always want to take the praise when  
10 something goes right, but when something  
11 goes wrong they want to blame the lonely  
12 worker. No, if I'm the supervisor and my  
13 people weren't trained to operate a system  
14 because I consider most people to use  
15 computers --you give them Microsoft they are  
16 fine and dandy. If you give them Lenox or  
17 you have them do Dulcete and they actually  
18 talk to their computer and they then they  
19 are lost. You don't blame them. The  
20 computer is only going to do what you tell  
21 it to do. It's only going to do the  
22 information that you put into it. Our



23 budget have been overstated for years,  
24 millions of dollars, you know, they are  
25 crying broke.

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1 If one penny of that money from that  
2 account, the interest income was included on  
3 any one of those budgets that's fraud, so we  
4 need outside agencies to come in here, not  
5 only the Attorney General of the  
6 Commonwealth, we need the IRS, we need the  
7 federal government to come in here because  
8 the city hasn't done it's job, the county  
9 hasn't done it's job, you know, why do we  
10 have to wait for the federal government to  
11 indict the housing director? Why do we have  
12 to wait for the federal government to deal  
13 with Daron Northeast. Why do we have to  
14 wait for another Scrantonian to buy that  
15 Southern Union building, all right? You and  
16 I both know that every time I hear this man  
17 he's talking about how much money he is  
18 putting into the loan and grants he is going  
19 to receive he is not going to spend a  
20 quarter, Scrantonians are. We are going to  
21 pay for that bill. We are going to pay for  
22 that bill, again, which we already own. You

23 know, vote with your heart, Mr. Courtright,  
24 enough is enough.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Patilla.

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1 David Dobson.

2 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council.

3 Dave Dobson, resident of Scranton, Taxpayer  
4 Association associate. I'm here tonight to  
5 talk about financial help for Channel 61.  
6 They are failing and they really need  
7 financial help. Hopefully it won't go dark.  
8 The new agreements the way I understand will  
9 take several months to implement and over  
10 the years they've provided much needed  
11 coverage to many events in different  
12 political events and so forth, so what I'm  
13 asking is please consider any measures to  
14 help them at least until other arrangements  
15 could be made. If they do go dark and other  
16 arrangements aren't made it's going to be  
17 months and months before they attain  
18 coverage on any local events. This is a  
19 valuable service and it should not be loss.  
20 Thank you. Have a good night.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you very much,  
22 Mr. Dobson. Candace McColligan

23 MS. MCCOLLIGAN: Candace McColligan,

24 Scranton resident. I'd like to begin by  
25 thanking Mrs. Fanucci for the information

52

1 that you volunteered and supplied with  
2 regard to the Recovery Plan. I would also  
3 like to make it very clear that my reasons  
4 for questioning the Recovery Plan involve  
5 the fact that I watch jobs and salary  
6 increases dolled out by this administration  
7 and approved by this council, and as I have  
8 said before, it seems very clear to me that  
9 these actions directly violated the language  
10 of the plan implemented under the mayor.

11 Obviously, the mayor has noted many  
12 times that the police and fire contract  
13 remain unresolved because he feels the  
14 demands of the unions violate the Recovery  
15 Plan. If the mayor himself has submitted  
16 and passed budgets that also violate the  
17 Recovery Plan it becomes time to go back to  
18 the drawing board and implement a plan that  
19 the administration will actually follow.

20 I was provided one page of language  
21 from the plan, part of which stated, and I  
22 am quoting directly, "For 2003, 2004, and  
23 2005, the base hourly wages and salaries of

24 all city employees shall not exceed existing  
25 2002 rates," and goes onto note that the

53

1 only exception to that rule would be  
2 increases due to arbitration awards,  
3 collective bargaining agreements, etcetera.

4 Based on the language provided, if  
5 even one raise was given to it's city  
6 employee between 2002 and 2005 that was not  
7 ordered by arbitration or decided through  
8 collective bargaining the plan was violated.  
9 We are certainly all aware of the raises in  
10 the last budget that were not ordered by any  
11 legal process or bargaining. Can any of you  
12 honestly say that this administration has  
13 abided by it's own plan? If we are looking  
14 to recover from our distressed status a plan  
15 is certainly necessary, but what good is a  
16 plan if the people who write it refuse to  
17 abide by it's words? How are people  
18 supposed to trust a mayor who only lives up  
19 to promises that are convenient to him?

20 This administration has touted the  
21 Recovery Plan and used it over and over to  
22 defend their actions, but the Recovery Plan  
23 is either applicable in all situations or  
24 it's null and void. Do you really believe

25

that not one raise was given between 2002

54

1

and 2005? You have to believe that the

2

Recovery Plan has any validity.

3

Two weeks ago a Scrantonian was

4

defined at a council meeting as someone who

5

doesn't complain. If that is a true

6

definition, it's a mold I refuse to conform

7

to. A true citizen of any city is someone

8

who lives in that city, pays taxes to that

9

government and takes pride in wanting to see

10

the city be the best it can be. That

11

includes wanting to see balanced budgets and

12

decreasing debt because those things lead to

13

lower taxes and higher investment and wages.

14

I think it's okay that citizens

15

disagree and on the right way to make the

16

city it's best. Having those disagreements

17

is what is causes progress and keeps people

18

thinking about creative ways to move

19

forward. The moments citizens sit back and

20

let things happen to them rather than taking

21

charge of their own situation,

22

administrations like the one currently in

23

charge will have no accountability and I,

24

for one, will never be satisfied with that

1 short time to be able to see this city not  
2 through rose-colored glasses, but with  
3 realism. I have never been critical of  
4 Scranton as a city nor have I ever stated  
5 that parks are not important or do not  
6 deserve attention. What I have said is that  
7 this administration is running this city as  
8 if they owe nothing to the citizens who take  
9 issue with their actions, that parks are  
10 important, but if we are to distressed and  
11 increasingly in debt perhaps parks should  
12 not have been put at the top of the priority  
13 list.

14 It is important to keep parks clean  
15 and safe, but do you really believe that it  
16 takes \$8 million to do that? It's as  
17 believable as a necessity of a \$300,000 dog  
18 park, and again, I'm not against a dog park  
19 but there is no reason why we can't have one  
20 without spending \$300,000. A little more  
21 logic and a little less elbow rubbing is  
22 what this city needs and for those who  
23 disagree I can only wonder what your reasons  
24 are for ignoring the truth that is presented  
25 to you clearly here on a regular basis.

1                   Finally, Mr. McGoff, it appears that  
2                   you may be too close to the situation with  
3                   the fire chief to even be able to see that  
4                   you are too close, and I realize that I will  
5                   never convince you that are biased on that  
6                   subject, but I have to say to you, that if  
7                   you do not want to be told that your  
8                   personal relationship is negatively  
9                   affecting your ability to make an unbiased  
10                  decision, then you shouldn't go on record  
11                  and more than one occasion specifically  
12                  defending an individual based solely on your  
13                  personal friendship with them and not in any  
14                  way based on your knowledge of their job  
15                  performance.

16                  Perhaps it's time that each of you  
17                  on this council ask yourself why you got  
18                  into politics. If your answer has anything  
19                  to do with who you know or benefits you  
20                  receive for yourself rather than the changes  
21                  you wanted to see in this city it may be  
22                  time for you to consider changing your  
23                  course. Thank you.

24                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms.  
25                  McColligan. Lee Morgan.

1 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
2 Mr. McGoff, I would just like to ask if you  
3 have any information on the questions that I  
4 asked last week?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I apologize, last week  
6 became a very short and busy week for me for  
7 some other things and I will hopefully have  
8 them for you next week on Channel 61.

9 MR. MORGAN: You know what the  
10 questions are; right?

11 MR. MCGOFF: You asked how you would  
12 go about gaining access to a public -- or  
13 one of the public access channels.

14 MR. MORGAN: And I also asked about  
15 the subpoenas that were in my opinion, in my  
16 opinion issued by this council to  
17 investigate the authorities.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, we spoke about them  
19 beforehand in caucus, I'm not sure exactly  
20 where the discussion went because I was at  
21 the time listening to Mr. King who was also  
22 in caucus talking about something else.  
23 Hopefully I can get that information for you  
24 before -- that we may be able to do before  
25 the night is over.



1                   MR. MORGAN: Okay. The other  
2                   question, well, I just have very few  
3                   questions, but I'd like to make a statement  
4                   here and I hope that council would look at  
5                   the cable TV agreement, all right, and I  
6                   just hope that they would see that in  
7                   Section 12, there is an authorization to  
8                   have more than just two public access  
9                   channels. It says here that are you going  
10                  start with one and when you get the 67  
11                  channels you are going to have three  
12                  altogether and when you go over 100 you are  
13                  going to going to get another channel and  
14                  then it continues to grow and I think the  
15                  question we have to ask is how many channels  
16                  actually does the cable TV network have? I  
17                  think it may be one hundreds, so -- and I  
18                  also think that it's very important than 61  
19                  doesn't go dark because there is an awful  
20                  lot of darkness in this community.

21                  And I'm not slamming this council,  
22                  but we really don't know what's -- I'd like  
23                  to say most people don't really know what's  
24                  going on in this community and this is the  
25                  only thing they get to see here and I just

1           hope, you know, I'm going to be very brief,  
2           but I just hope that everybody here would  
3           come together and figure a way the city is  
4           going to go in because if you walk around  
5           here you will see that it's getting really  
6           pretty dire in the the city, the city is a  
7           mess, and I know the elections are coming  
8           again soon and it's always nice to campaign,  
9           but I think it's important to really do  
10          something for the benefit of the people and  
11          Mr. McCloe got up here and he was under the  
12          impression that the Chamber of Commerce  
13          functions for the people and it doesn't, it  
14          functions for business. Council functions  
15          for the people, the mayor is supposed to  
16          function for the people and it's really not  
17          happening and I just hope that all five of  
18          the councilmen here would give it some  
19          serious consideration to really some of the  
20          important issues confronting this city and  
21          it's just not youth programs it's  
22          overtaxation and others, just a slew of  
23          problems including the Sewer Authority and I  
24          just hope that the council would go revisit  
25          the rate increase and ask themselves how the

1 sewer skirted coming before council to ask  
2 for a rate increase and that's all I have.  
3 I'll wait for your answer next week  
4 Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.  
6 Any other speakers? Mr. Ellman.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Ron Ellman, property  
8 owner and member of the Taxpayers'  
9 Association. I was coming tonight with my  
10 usual adverse remarks about the mayor,  
11 somebody stopped me outside with one of  
12 those, If you're so smart why aren't you  
13 rich talks, you know, you're always  
14 complaining, why don't you run for mayor and  
15 do a better job. To run for mayor in the  
16 first place you have to be well-financed or  
17 have a rich daddy like some people I guess  
18 or you have to -- and you have to be well  
19 organized. There is only going to one  
20 person that can run against the mayor, you  
21 know, that's just a fact. So far I hear  
22 that Mrs. Evans is interested and Gary  
23 DiBileo, I'm just talking about talk, Todd  
24 O'Malley. Well, Todd O'Malley isn't as well  
25 financed but the school board ruined his

1 name with the people, so he won't get --  
2 he'll just takes vote away from someone and  
3 I don't know what it is about Mr. DiBileo  
4 but he has lost his popularity, and I don't  
5 know the man, I don't know nothing about him  
6 and I don't know what happened in that  
7 circle of people, so if you want to run you  
8 better have a rich daddy I guess, you know.

9 MS. GATELLI: She has Dave, that's  
10 better than a rich daddy.

11 MR. HILLMAN: I don't know about  
12 that. You know, if I ran for mayor -- if I  
13 wasn't 72 years old those couple of factors  
14 wouldn't bother me from running, you know, I  
15 figure I'm capable or raising money and I  
16 know what I'd do, I'd knock on doors all  
17 over the city and talk to people and not go  
18 in bars and buy everybody a drink, but  
19 90 percent of it would be wasted money  
20 there, but you could get one or two people  
21 that are in there got some brains. Right  
22 now everybody thinks that brains are up  
23 there in the Greenridge area, they are all  
24 over town, the people don't vote, half the  
25 people don't vote, I just don't understand

1           it, you know, people get -- die for the  
2           privilege of voting, but I'd put an end to  
3           the borrowing, borrowing is an addiction and  
4           this mayor is addicted terrible, you know.  
5           Borrowing is an addiction. He can't stop,  
6           you know, it's as bad as some people have  
7           with drugs and alcohol or whatever. It's  
8           just -- it's just never ending here, it's  
9           going to keep on and on and on unless  
10          somebody puts their foot down and you can't  
11          lower taxes. It's silly to run on a  
12          platform of lowering the taxes, it can't be  
13          done.

14                    The next thing to do is get rid of  
15          all of the dead, unnecessary, useless dead  
16          weight in this building. There is almost 50  
17          people been hired. I think it's \$11 million  
18          added to the payroll and try to get them --  
19          all you get is these answering machines.  
20          I've never seen nothing like it. I have  
21          heard it over and over and over again you  
22          get an answering machine. I'd get rid of  
23          all of the answering machines and tell  
24          someone they need to stay there and answer  
25          the phone or leave. This is terrible.

1                    Last week somebody mentioned that

2 the potholes, I guess this is the pothole  
3 capital of the world. I hit a pothole right  
4 in front of the bridge on Lackawanna and  
5 I've got over \$1,000 damage to my car and if  
6 you don't believe me you can phone the  
7 Cadillac dealer in Wilkes-Barre because I  
8 wouldn't let Burne Cadillac touch my car.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, Mr. Ellman, you can  
10 actually submit your repair bills to the  
11 city.

12 MR. ELLMAN: Well, then these people  
13 would be mad at me. Now, you talk about  
14 parts for a Cadillac, the struts are  
15 electronic, well, you got a luxury car, you  
16 know, nothing comes cheap and I bought two  
17 of everything, I bought two axles and two  
18 struts, I have bent the well or lost my  
19 wheels, it was way over \$1,000. If we  
20 hadn't been taken the money, the block grant  
21 money to tear down buildings for wealthy  
22 friends we could have streets and sidewalks  
23 fixed. Thank you.

24 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening,  
25 Council, Tom Ungvarsy, and I'm also a member

2 Association and I would like to bring up  
3 Channel 61 again. As you know, they are in  
4 financial straights and may not be able to  
5 broadcast much longer. Has the city council  
6 done anything to help them to stay on the  
7 air until the Electric City takes over? You  
8 haven't discussed it at all? No?

9 MR. MCGOFF: No.

10 MR. UNGVARSKY: I understand that  
11 Electric City TV will be taking over  
12 shortly. I understand that they are also  
13 going to give \$300,000 plus some extra funds  
14 for equipment and to remodel a studio. It  
15 seems like if they can get \$300,000 you  
16 should be able to appropriate some funds to  
17 keep them on the air until channel -- or  
18 Electric City takes over. Has anyone seen  
19 the disc, the promotional disc that Electric  
20 City TV put out? No one saw it? Has anyone  
21 seen the proposal that they made?

22 MS. FANUCCI: I did receive the  
23 proposal, but I did not get to look at it  
24 or-- I just the other day actually.

25 MR. UNGVARSKY: Has anyone talked to

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1 Mr. Bolton about Electric City?

2 MS. FANUCCI: No.

3 MR. UNGVARSKY: No one has done  
4 anything? How about the three panel members  
5 that voted for Electric City TV, has anyone  
6 talked to them, especially Mr. Welby, since  
7 he was the one who was more or less the head  
8 of it?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I spoke with Mr. Monahan  
10 after the decision was made.

11 MR. UNGVARSKY: Yeah. And would you  
12 elaborate on that for me, please?

13 MR. MCGOFF: There is not much to  
14 elaborate on, Mr. Ungvarsky, he simply told  
15 me that he thought that they had made the  
16 best proposal. I didn't ask him for  
17 specifics, but I did speak to him.

18 MR. UNGVARSKY: Well, I have seen  
19 another proposal that I thought was quite  
20 good and it seems like there hasn't been an  
21 open discussion over it. Did I mention that  
22 Mr. Bolton is taking over a project up on  
23 Prescott Avenue that's owned by Mr. Monsure?  
24 Okay. Apparently city council hasn't done  
25 anything on this. We are going to hear

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1 pretty soon that we have nothing to say  
2 about it. I think it's time that city



3 council got involved. It seems as though  
4 you just let the mayor usurp all of your  
5 power and you do nothing in regards to it,  
6 you just let him get away with it. Thank  
7 you.

8 MS. EVANS: Mr. Ungvarsky, if I could  
9 interrupt for one second, council did not  
10 select the committee members that would have  
11 been performed by the mayor, he selected the  
12 membership, the committee was even convened  
13 at his request because he wanted the  
14 committee to make the selection rather than  
15 himself, and council really had no input  
16 into in situation, however, since the  
17 selection apparently was made and since  
18 Electric City TV has requested close to  
19 \$1 million from the cable franchise fee over  
20 three separate phases --

21 MR. UNGVARSKY: Three years. Yes.

22 MS. EVANS: -- I suggested that  
23 council formed an oversight committee and  
24 council did unanimously agree to do that and  
25 there will be appointments made by council

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1 to the oversight committee, and it will be  
2 their -- I would say their mission, their  
3 role, to monitor Electric City TV and to

4 report I would hope monthly to city council.  
5 Now, they are an advisory committee, they  
6 are not going to wield in power either, but  
7 they will report to us then we can make  
8 certain decisions, but with regard to the  
9 \$300,000 that you mentioned --

10 MR. UNGVARSKY: Yes, that's the first  
11 year alone.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes --

13 MR. MCGOFF: Please, Mr.  
14 Ungvarsky, let Mrs. Evans speak, your time  
15 had been up.

16 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, but I did want  
17 to him understand that \$300,000 is not part  
18 of the current 2008 operating budget and so  
19 if, for example, a contract is awarded to  
20 Electric City TV it would be my belief that  
21 that contract would have to come before city  
22 council for approval in the form of  
23 legislation.

24 In addition to that, if \$300,000  
25 were to be awarded to Electric City TV in

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1 fiscal year 2008, then certainly that  
2 legislation I believe would have to come  
3 before city council because there would be

4           some type of amendment to the budget unless,  
5           of course, there were a budget transfer  
6           within one single department, but I don't  
7           see how that could be the case, but I had  
8           suggested to council and they are  
9           considering it that Electric City TV not  
10          receive funding until 2009, at such time as  
11          a new or maybe the present cable operator is  
12          selected or perhaps a new one and the cable  
13          franchise fee has been altered to include  
14          funding of Electric City TV, so I know  
15          that's a rather lengthy explanation, but I  
16          did want you to understand that council has  
17          had involvement as much as we, you know,  
18          possibly can and we are going to continue to  
19          be involved.

20                       MR. UNGVARKSY: Well, thank you, but  
21                       it's still --

22                       MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
23                       Ungvarsky --

24                       MR. UNGVARSKY: -- that Channel 61 is  
25                       having a problem.

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1                       MS. EVANS: Yes.

2                       MR. MCGOFF: And we're deducting  
3                       that time from your motion. Anyone else?  
4                       Nelson? I'm sorry.

5 MR. ANCHERANI: For what?

6 MS. EVANS: My explanation.

7 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, Nelson  
8 Ancherani, resident and taxpayer, city  
9 employee, financial secretary of the FOP  
10 exercising my First Amendment Rights. Miss  
11 Fanucci, a couple of weeks ago I asked you  
12 to give me the page number in the Recovery  
13 Plan where there are provisions for union  
14 raises and I believe that they were the  
15 basis for you saying the mayor did not  
16 violate the Recovery Plan.

17 Last week you gave me the page  
18 number, the page number was 64, that page 64  
19 is -- I read off about personnel costs,  
20 there were three more violations there, I  
21 just want to remind people, and the  
22 violations are over the 4 million mark. You  
23 also referred to "they". Now, you told me  
24 that you read a Recovery Plan, but they told  
25 you the page numbers, who are "they"?

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Ask me the question  
2 again? Who are "they"?

3 MR. ANCHERANI: That told you the  
4 page numbers because you said you read the

5 Recovery Plan.

6 MS. FANUCCI: I'd been working -- I  
7 called PEL on this to find out exactly what  
8 they felt, if he was in violation of the  
9 Recovery Plan, if they felt that what he did  
10 was in violation of the Recovery Plan, they  
11 said, no, and they recited where that was  
12 and that was if negotiations were settled,  
13 which were not, that was to be what would be  
14 the structure. Because nothing was signed  
15 and settled, that obviously was not, you  
16 know, didn't make a set schedule on what the  
17 numbers were. That's from what I was told,  
18 and so that was PEL.

19 In other words, PEL doesn't know  
20 that the Recovery Plan was violated three  
21 different times because for 2004, 200 and  
22 some thousand was allocated in the Recovery  
23 Plan, and city spent over a million dollars  
24 in raises, same with 2005, 2006, that's  
25 where the \$4 million extra comes up besides

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1 what they put in as the cap.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Right, it was the cap  
3 for the union negotiations.

4 MR. ANCHERANI: Okay, that TV  
5 station that's going to going to come here

6 and going to replace Channel 61, they have  
7 90 days from the time the station signed the  
8 deal, I believe it's 90 days, they are not  
9 going to up and running, so what I'm going  
10 to say is we are not going to have a TV  
11 station for awhile, so the only thing that  
12 people really have is DohertyDeciet.com,  
13 that's all I'm going to be able to get it --  
14 get the transcripts and get them first.

15 The soldiers, they haven't been paid  
16 for over five years now. I mean, we have a  
17 treehouse, we have a black fish pond, we  
18 have a lot of stuff, those soldiers, it  
19 doesn't total \$20,000, it's less than  
20 \$20,000 to make them whole. I don't know  
21 why they can't do that.

22 Okay, the 12 million, that 12  
23 million plus, my feeling if there is 12  
24 million there why can't there be 12 million  
25 other places or more in other places? My

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1 feeling is also that the 12 million when  
2 those auditors come in they are going to  
3 find out that most of it, if not all of it,  
4 is going be going to the City of Scranton.  
5 These municipalities operate on smaller

6 budgets, if they don't get the money that  
7 they approximate coming in they are going to  
8 be jumping up and down, so I believe that  
9 that 12 million plus is going to be the City  
10 of Scranton. If it isn't when those  
11 auditors check it out, I will be really  
12 surprised.

13 I'm a conspiracy theorist, I believe  
14 that the mayor has been saying for the last  
15 seven years -- yeah, seven now, that the  
16 city is distressed, the Recovery Plan had to  
17 be implemented to get us out of the  
18 financial straights we are in, when they  
19 find out that that money does belong to the  
20 city, or most of it for the city, that  
21 should get us out of the distress. I  
22 believe the money is there to keep us  
23 distressed. And, also, our taxes were  
24 raised when they didn't have to be. Maybe I  
25 can afford my taxes, but there is people out

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1 there that can't. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Ancherani.

4 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city  
5 council. My name is Dave Gervasi and I'm a  
6 firefighter and a resident of the City of

7 Scranton. Mrs. Fanucci, just a clarify  
8 something when you were just talking to  
9 Mr. Ancherani, that section of the Recovery  
10 Plan that was money that was allocated and I  
11 believe you just said for the unionized  
12 negotiations?

13 MS. FANUCCI: It was for -- or any  
14 type of arbitration awards or anything that  
15 would come out of, you know, it was actually  
16 money for negotiations for any type of  
17 money, any type of raises, DPW got their  
18 raise, it would have been what that was  
19 already before.

20 MR. GERVASI: Are aware of the first  
21 line of that page where it says --

22 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah.

23 MR. GERVASI: -- that that money was  
24 allocated for wage adjustments --

25 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

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1 MR. GERVASI: -- for all city  
2 employees.

3 MS. FANUCCI: All city employees, but  
4 they said because negotiations did not come  
5 to fruition with the unions that money and  
6 that was not held because of that. If you



7 signed in 2004, 2005 or 2006 that would have  
8 been the basis. Because that did not occur,  
9 that made that process null and void.

10 MR. GERVASI: So, in other words,  
11 those were the parameters that they allowed  
12 in the Recovery Plan for, wage adjustments?

13 MS. FANUCCI: For wage adjustments,  
14 although, they said like DPW they did --  
15 they received more than the wage adjustments  
16 as well because they sat down and they  
17 negotiated out, they sat down with PEL and  
18 PEL --

19 MR. GERVASI: The point I'm trying to  
20 make is those were the financial parameters  
21 of the Recovery Plan, did you know the first  
22 year that that was busted by \$46,000. Yes.  
23 The next year that number in the Recovery  
24 Plan, the parameters, were busted by  
25 hundreds of thousands of dollars.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

2 MR. GERVASI: Because of new hires  
3 and everyone getting those big giant raises  
4 and stuff.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Right. Right. I asked  
6 if they felt he was in violation, I mean, I  
7 can only ask the questions, Dave that I'm --

8 you know, willing to ask.

9 MR. GERVASI: You are only in  
10 violation of the Recovery Plan if DCED says  
11 you are. The mayor can take the Recovery  
12 Plan as he has done, took probably at least  
13 half of it and throw it in the garbage and  
14 do whatever he wants. As long as DCED says  
15 nothing you are not in violation. That's  
16 the sad part of the system.

17 MS. FANUCCI: It's really not DCED  
18 it's more would be PEL that would make the  
19 recommendations on the violations to DCED.

20 MR. GERVASI: No, PEL is only the  
21 plan coordinator, DCED makes all decisions.  
22 Secretary Yablonski would be make all  
23 decisions, usually through Fred Reading of  
24 DCED.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

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1 MR. GERVASI: They make all the  
2 decisions.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Okay.

4 MR. GERVASI: I just wanted to  
5 clarify that. Just one thing I wanted to  
6 say on behalf of all of the firefighters in  
7 the City of Scranton, I want to thank four

8 members of this council forwarding that  
9 request to the mayor to look into the  
10 seriousness of -- they are not allegations  
11 to me, I can say they are facts because I  
12 know they are, and I want to thank all four  
13 of you for taking that serious, and taking  
14 the time to look at the allegations and as  
15 Mrs. Evans said, the stark differences  
16 between the investigation that  
17 Mr. Courtright and Mr. McGoff did, the  
18 differences in the both sides. It is a  
19 serious thing. We expect the mayor to do  
20 nothing and then, unfortunately, we are  
21 going to take all of those things to  
22 arbitration and it will probably be four  
23 years before we get any satisfaction -- I'm  
24 sorry, two years before we get out any  
25 satisfaction, it will be tens of thousands

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1 of dollars of legal fees incurred by both  
2 sides and we probably won't get any  
3 satisfaction and we will continue to have  
4 incompetent leadership in our department,  
5 but we will continue to push it because that  
6 is the mandate our members gave us.

7 I want to make one quick comment on  
8 the one person who did not vote for that,

9 Mr. McGoff, although, I humbly will say that  
10 it is honorable your loyalty to your friend,  
11 but I think you more than anyone who was  
12 there and witnessed everything that happened  
13 I believe truly in any heart that you  
14 understand that our allegations are in fact  
15 facts were a problem and they are a very  
16 serious problem and I find it unconscionable  
17 that you would not at least forward this to  
18 the mayor and help these four members, your  
19 colleagues, to push that for the mayor to  
20 have something done, and what that, that's  
21 all I have to say. Thank you.

22 Oh, I have 30 seconds left, I just  
23 want to also mention the incredibly  
24 nonsensical analogy made last week about  
25 having the city work -- I'm sorry, the city

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1 administration asking the union to do a no  
2 confidence vote on Attorney Tom Jennings,  
3 and in case you don't know, and I'm sure you  
4 do know, that Tom Jennings does not take  
5 firefighters and put them in harm's way, Tom  
6 Jennings does not make mistakes on the  
7 firefighters, Tom Jennings, in fact, is our  
8 lawyer who helps us correct those safety

9 deficiencies, so that analogy didn't quite  
10 cut it, and that's all I have to say. Thank  
11 you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Gervasi.

13 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Bill. I'm  
14 last tonight, Bob, last but not least. On  
15 Friday night Scranton Fire Department versus  
16 the Scranton cops, Scranton high school,  
17 Doug, good job on that, Doug, I'm proud of  
18 you buddy. Keep it up, will you? Thanks,  
19 Dougie.

20 MR. MILLER: You're welcome.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Chris.

22 Anyone else? Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening. Last week  
24 each council person received a copy of the  
25 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease

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1 Registry, or ATSDR, Record of Activity, Data  
2 Review and Response regarding Daron  
3 Northeast Architectural Masonary Products  
4 located on Dickson Avenue in Scranton.

5 I wish to read from this reports  
6 discussion section and recommendations:  
7 "Based on the information reviewed for this  
8 report, ATSDR finds a plausible basis for  
9 respiratory concerns in residents living

10 immediately adjacent to the site  
11 particularly with respect to particulate  
12 dust and diesel ignition exposures."

13 Then recommendations: "For the  
14 remainder of this facilities' operations at  
15 this site local ordinances regarding truck  
16 idling should be enforced and the facility  
17 should continue it's engineering controls.  
18 It is crucial to operate the dust  
19 suppression activities effectively to  
20 control the particulate ignitions from the  
21 property. If new information becomes  
22 available to support this activity, for  
23 example, the facility does not, in fact,  
24 relocate to another location as is currently  
25 planned, violations are noted by

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1 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental  
2 Protection and/or if significant new  
3 community concerns arise, ATSDR recommends  
4 that environmental agencies conduct air  
5 monitoring and/or air modeling at this  
6 location to quantify the levels of the air  
7 emission effecting this community.

8 For any future businesses that may  
9 operate at this location ATSDR recommends

10 that local authorities strictly follow their  
11 ordinances and associated best practices  
12 regarding the facilities offset distances  
13 and appropriate site perimeter construction.  
14 Local authorities may also want to consider  
15 changing the zoning of this location from  
16 light industrial to commercial given the  
17 proximity of the surrounding residences and  
18 the lack of any other industrial sites in  
19 the immediate vicinity."

20 So, in fact, what the neighbors have  
21 been reporting for at least my tenure on  
22 council has been very accurate and very  
23 detrimental to their health. Now, why would  
24 such a business be permitted to embed a  
25 15-acre masonry facility within a

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1 residential neighborhood and a mere 20 feet  
2 from a residential home? If the prior  
3 planning commission and zoning board enabled  
4 this purchase and subsequent operation  
5 either directly or indirectly, then those  
6 individuals together with this  
7 administration had the responsibility to  
8 monitor operations and address neighbors  
9 health concerns and complaints over the last  
10 five years.

11                   Daron Northeast will vacate their  
12                   facility by the conclusion of 2008 at which  
13                   time the planning commission should  
14                   recommend a zoning change for the area of  
15                   Daron Northeast and city council should  
16                   approve it before any similar business is  
17                   allowed to purchase this property.

18                   Now, returning to the recent  
19                   discovery by the tax office of approximately  
20                   is 12.2 million dollars, the reaction of  
21                   many elected officials and city and school  
22                   district administrators is to conduct a  
23                   forensic audit in order to determine dollar  
24                   amounts owed to appropriate entities and to  
25                   disperse monies as soon as possible,

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1                   however, there are issues of internal  
2                   control that demand equal attention, more  
3                   specifically, investigation and resolution.  
4                   Why would the mayor fail to provide funds to  
5                   conduct annual audits of the Single Tax  
6                   Office? Why would the Pennsylvania Economy  
7                   League tell the city controller not to  
8                   proceed with these annual audits? Why  
9                   wouldn't council's independent auditor  
10                   discover the account in Fidelity Bank until



11 Mr. McDowell supplied them only with basic  
12 information, for example, only a copy of the  
13 tax revenue check minus supporting  
14 documentation.

15 Again, why didn't the bank take note  
16 of this unusual activity in a sizable  
17 account? It doesn't pass the smell test.  
18 Ladies and gentlemen, it is insufficient to  
19 disburse these monies. It is not enough to  
20 audit the Single Tax Office each year going  
21 forward and to establish internal controls  
22 and oversight. Before we can move forward  
23 or try to disbarred this debacle we must  
24 have the answers. We must open the window  
25 and let the sunshine in on the last three

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1 years of business activity in the Single Tax  
2 Office. The bottom line is we need an  
3 investigation as well as a forensic audit.  
4 It's unacceptable for the state or federal  
5 government to pass the buck to either the  
6 victims or the perpetrators of this outrage.  
7 The stench of this will remain until the  
8 Attorney General or federal representatives  
9 answer all questions and track every morsel  
10 of data and communication by means of a  
11 comprehensive investigation. Those who are

12 responsible should be held accountable.

13 And so, I move that Scranton City  
14 Council sends to District Attorney Jarbola a  
15 letter requesting an investigation of the  
16 Single Tax Office regarding the discovery of  
17 the approximately 12.2 million dollars in a  
18 Fidelity bank account and the collection of  
19 Act 511 taxes.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that.

21 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

22 MS. EVANS: Yes. I just wanted to  
23 explain one item, I believe that it would be  
24 proper procedure to request an investigation  
25 of the District Attorney's Office before we

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1 would proceed to the Attorney General's  
2 Office and so I'm trying to follow the  
3 proper protocol.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: And on the question,  
5 I think that there is no choice but to do it  
6 that way. I'll tell you why I'm in full  
7 favor of this, this is going on five years I  
8 have been here now, I have heard over the  
9 last five years a lot of comments made about  
10 that office, a lot of allegations, and I  
11 think most of us heard them and either

12 didn't believe them or felt there was  
13 nothing we can do about it, there was  
14 nothing for us to prove that there was  
15 wrongs doings going on over there, and so  
16 they happened, but now with this \$12 million  
17 coming forward maybe there is some  
18 credibility to some of the rumors that we  
19 have heard. I'm not saying whether there is  
20 or isn't, but this might be the way to  
21 finally put them to rest. I don't know if  
22 any of you I have heard them, but I have  
23 heard them and this might be the way to put  
24 it to rest.

25 MS. EVANS: And the only other thing

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1 I would like to add is that I did read  
2 perhaps in today's paper or maybe it was  
3 yesterday's, that the county commissioners  
4 are in favor of an investigation.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, yeah.

6 MR. MCGOFF: The only thing that I  
7 consider is that I'm sure the District  
8 Attorney is probably going to want to wait  
9 until the audit is conducted. I have  
10 nothing against, you know, requesting an  
11 investigation, but I do think that they will  
12 probably wait until the forensic audit is

13 done before they begin the investigation.

14 MS. EVANS: And that's certainly a  
15 consideration that had occurred even to  
16 myself earlier today and that may well be  
17 the case, but on the other hand, it seems  
18 that the audit and the investigation could  
19 work well hand-in-hand and this is in  
20 addition very poor analogy for me to make  
21 because in no way am I implying that a crime  
22 has been committed, but once you tamper with  
23 the crime scene then it's very difficult to  
24 go back and trace exactly what's happened,  
25 you know, or let's say once the body has

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1 been embalmed it's very difficult if not  
2 impossible to conduct a proper autopsy, so I  
3 do think both should go hand-in-hand.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Would you  
5 restate the motion just for the record?

6 MS. EVANS: I shall try.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: I move that Scranton City  
9 Council sends to District Attorney Jarbola a  
10 letter requesting an investigation of the  
11 discovery of approximately 12.2 million  
12 dollars in a Fidelity Bank account and the

13 collection of City Act 511 taxes.

14 MR. MCGOFF: The motion has been made  
15 and seconded. All in favor signify by  
16 saying aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. All Opposed? The  
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Next, I have  
24 two quick updates on citizen's requests.  
25 This concerns the corner of Luzerne Street

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1 and 14th Avenue. The letter is from  
2 Mr. Seitzinger and he agreed there were  
3 garbage cans and recycling bins remaining on  
4 the sidewalk at all times and it was  
5 littered with broken concrete, old water  
6 heaters, etcetera, and on February 22,  
7 housing inspector Don McKean was sent to  
8 the property and photographed and sent a  
9 report to the owner of the property  
10 reflecting what he had seen. Mr. McKean is  
11 monitoring the situation and we will  
12 continue to address this issue. Moreover,  
13 if the property owner does not comply with

14 the request of the City of Scranton  
15 regarding this issue, citations will be  
16 issued.

17 Also, there has been progress  
18 according to city inspector Jeff Liptai  
19 concerning the blight problems in the 100  
20 block of Masters Street.

21 And, finally, I have some citizens  
22 requests for this past week. A letter to  
23 Mr. Brazil, please provide city council with  
24 the 2008 paint paving list as soon as  
25 possible and if council is in agreement that

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1 letter could be sent on behalf of the entire  
2 council?

3 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

4 MS. EVANS: Also, residents report  
5 that the 21 and 2200 blocks of Shawnee  
6 Avenue and the four on 500 blocks of Depot  
7 Street in this desperate need of paving.  
8 Residents of the Plot were told that street  
9 paving would occur following completion of  
10 the flood project in their neighborhood.  
11 They request patching of potholes until the  
12 paving occurs.

13 Also, the 1600 block of Muncy Avenue

14 is a washboard which reveals exposed bricks  
15 and requires paving or patching. The 15 and  
16 1600 blocks of North Washington Avenue  
17 require patching. A letter to Mr. Renda,  
18 and again, if council is in agreement we  
19 could send this on behalf of all of us, for  
20 one account and line item in the 2008  
21 operating budget was the SIT award for the  
22 police department taken? Please provide a  
23 written response on or before April 4, 2008.  
24 Is that agreeable?

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: We sent that last

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1 week.

2 MS. EVANS: Oh, I didn't realize you  
3 did.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: We didn't get an  
5 answer yet.

6 MS. EVANS: Okay. Well, then we'll  
7 wait and see if you get your answer and if  
8 you don't this will be the follow-up.  
9 Contact Mr. McMullen about placing a new  
10 one-way sign at the top of the 300-block of  
11 16th Avenue. Drivers ignore the old sign  
12 and turn right according to the residents of  
13 the area.

14 A letter to Mr. Seitzinger regarding

15 problems at a residents on East Mountain  
16 Road and a letter is attached explaining  
17 that, Kay.

18 Finally, a letter to Robert Rossi  
19 and Company and, again, if you are in  
20 agreement this could be sent on behalf of  
21 the entire council, what information was  
22 provided to you by the Single Tax Office for  
23 the years 2005 and 2006 regarding Act 511  
24 taxes for the City of Scranton? In light of  
25 the recent discovery of over \$12 million by

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1 the Single Tax Office what procedures will  
2 you employ to ensure proper Act 511 tax  
3 reports in future independent audits and to  
4 address problems of internal control on the  
5 city's part? Is this agreeable?

6 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

7 MS. EVANS: Oh, thank you then Kay  
8 that could go from the entire council as  
9 well, and that's it.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Gatelli?

11 MS. GATELLI: I received an answer  
12 last week when I spoke of Comcast and that  
13 we are not getting all of the channels and  
14 the TV guide is gone and they said that they



15 did notify the customers and you can request  
16 a converter box to be put on your television  
17 and it digitizes the television and in  
18 addition to what you already receive as part  
19 of your basic cable you will also get the TV  
20 guide, 47 music channels as well as the On  
21 Demand channels which will be available to  
22 you at no extra cost. The boxes will be  
23 free for one year from when you receive them  
24 and then \$2.00 per month after the first  
25 year. Comcast ran into problems because

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1 they didn't have enough boxes, so there is a  
2 waiting list and you can call 1-800-COMCAST  
3 and request this box to put on your  
4 television.

5 The next thing is there is a  
6 three-point shootout this Saturday,  
7 March 29, at the Holy Rosary Hall on Market  
8 Street. It's a benefit for the Martin  
9 Knottenberg Tragedy Fund Organization. The  
10 signups are for ten year olds and under,  
11 begins at eight in the morning, the event  
12 starts at nine with the youngest children  
13 competing first. The age groups are ten and  
14 under, 12 and under, 14 and under and 15 and  
15 over. They will have basket raffles and a

16 football signed by Mike Munchank. Last year  
17 they raised over \$7,000 and helped 14  
18 families cope with tragedies on the  
19 Christmas holidays. You can call 347-0808  
20 to participate and make a denotation.

21 I'd like to thank everyone that  
22 helped at the Easter egg hunt. We had over  
23 100 children at Connell Park. Helpers were  
24 Doug Hein, Jeff White, Doug Miller, the  
25 South Side Jets organization and the South

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1 Side Residents Association so it was very  
2 nice and the kids really had a good time.  
3 It was a little muddy, but they managed to  
4 pull through it.

5 This week at the Broadway Theatre is  
6 the Rat Pack, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra,  
7 and I don't know the rest, Joey Biship, and  
8 it's Friday at 8, Saturday at 2 and 8 and  
9 Sunday at 2 and 7. And also on Saturday  
10 morning which is great owe program for the  
11 kids, I take my grandsons and they really  
12 enjoy it, this week they are having the "Ant  
13 and the Grasshopper" and that's at 11:00  
14 upstairs on the third floor in the Cultural  
15 Center.

16 I'd like to congratulate one of our  
17 students at West Scranton High School,  
18 Lennie Venchuquera, he was student of the  
19 week in the Scranton Times this past week.

20 I'd like to ask you to please pray for  
21 my friend that we prayed for last week that  
22 was very ill, he had passed away, John  
23 D'Angelo. He was a great teacher in the  
24 Scranton School District and he will be  
25 sorely missed and he did hear us pray for

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1 him and his funeral -- and he was very happy  
2 that we had mentioned him name, so we buried  
3 him this morning and please continue to pray  
4 for everyone that's suffering in our  
5 community and everyone that has died.

6 I'd like to send a letter to Neil  
7 Alteiri, for those of who don't know him he  
8 is a barber over on Spruce Street. I had  
9 the boys there for their hair cuts and he  
10 told me that on February 6 he had been in  
11 business for 40 years on Spruce Street  
12 cutting hair for people, so if you would  
13 oblige me I'd like to send a letter of  
14 congratulations for being, you know, a  
15 business owner in Scranton for 40 years.  
16 It's quite an accomplishment, and he is not

17 a bad barber either.

18 They are doing a project over in  
19 South Side for those of you that travel from  
20 South Side to West Side in the morning or  
21 any other time right by Mr. Z's, the bridge  
22 is closed. They are replacing pipes,  
23 utility pipes, and they probably will be  
24 there for the rest of the week, so try to  
25 avoid the bridge going over to the Eynon

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1 Street viaduct. It is a very, very big  
2 inconvenience and it took me 35 minutes to  
3 get home today which usually takes me about  
4 six minutes, so try to leave ahead of time  
5 because it's really backed up.

6 Chris Bavelin, I got some calls on  
7 Chris Bavelin, and the bridge is in the  
8 design phase. It is going to be replaced.  
9 It is being paid for by FEMA and it is in  
10 the design phase so it will take a little  
11 more time.

12 I asked Kay to please call the  
13 Single Tax Office from questions I had last  
14 week and she did call and we asked what name  
15 was on the account. The answer was,  
16 "The Single Tax Office." And we asked who

17 made the deposits and I was told the  
18 employees, and that's all they would tell  
19 Kay, so we did follow-up with a letter from  
20 myself as the finance chair.

21 I also, in addition to what  
22 Mrs. Evans made a motion for tonight,  
23 someone told me that the solicitor from the  
24 tax office was present at the school board  
25 meeting and gave some remarks and some

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1 comments about what was going on and I'd  
2 like to make a motion to invite him here  
3 since we will be the recipient I think of  
4 the bulk of that money that if he went to  
5 the school board I'm sure that he would have  
6 no problem coming here and discussing that  
7 with city council, so if everyone would  
8 agree we would send a letter and have the  
9 solicitor meet with council to discuss the  
10 problems of the tax office. Thank you very  
11 much.

12 And the last thing is we will be  
13 having our drama, our musical, at West  
14 Scranton High School this year it's "Charlie  
15 and the Chocolate Factory" and it will be  
16 April 18, 19 and 20, \$3.00 prepaid and \$5.00  
17 at the door, and that's all I have. Thank

18                   you very much.

19                   MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Fanucci?

20                   MS. FANUCCI: I actually only have  
21                   one issue, I think everyone will be happy to  
22                   know that finally Southern Union, as we have  
23                   read, has been sold and I think in this  
24                   forum we can finally say thank you, God,  
25                   because it seems to have been something that

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1                   was brought up every single week. I just  
2                   want to thank Mr. Donovan for believing in  
3                   the city and putting his money in the city.  
4                   A lot of times it's easy to say and  
5                   criticize, but for someone who is actually  
6                   believing in us and I just want to thank  
7                   him. And also want to put a little bit of a  
8                   misrumor on why his other building has not  
9                   been underway, he has been waiting for the  
10                  Lackawanna bridge to be finished before he  
11                  puts that other -- that other project into  
12                  spin, so I just want to thank him and  
13                  hopefully the businesses that come here will  
14                  bring some jobs which we desperately need  
15                  and maybe some better jobs I should say, and  
16                  I think it's a wonderful thing finally the  
17                  white elephant as it's been termed here week

18 after week is finally gone, although, it was  
19 a private building, it was not ours, but I'm  
20 just happy to see that progress is still  
21 taking place, and that is all I have. Thank  
22 you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Courtright.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just to stay with  
25 Sherry there for a minute, I'm glad that it

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1 was somebody local --

2 MS. FANUCCI: Me, too.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: -- that bought the  
4 building, it just makes she feel a little  
5 bit better about it and Mrs. Fanucci is 100  
6 percent correct, I had talked to Mr. Donovan  
7 on many occasions I just -- I really like  
8 that building that he has near the bridge  
9 down there and that was the reason for him  
10 not going forward is he has had several  
11 chain restaurants or larger restaurants  
12 offer to go into that building, but they  
13 didn't want to start renovating it and then  
14 all of sudden they start repairing the  
15 bridge and being a new business thing, so  
16 that's definitely why he hasn't gone forward  
17 with that, I've talked with him on many  
18 occasions.





19 translate that good enough to make you  
20 understand it, some of it are really  
21 complicated, but maybe she would be able to  
22 come here and set a date and time and she  
23 could announce and she could sit up here and  
24 explain, I don't if she would want to go  
25 through a question and answer, probably not,

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1 but if she didn't just explain from when a  
2 project starts and take it through it's  
3 entire time and what happens if they  
4 default, and just the whole nine yards  
5 because a bulk of the questions that we get  
6 are about OECD and OECD money. It seems  
7 sometimes like OECD money is the only thing  
8 keeping this city afloat, that and  
9 borrowing.

10 And I always try to get back on  
11 saying good about the employees in this  
12 city, one guy that I neglected over the  
13 years and I think there has been more than  
14 one that has sat in that office is the  
15 animal control officer, Shawn Lavoe. He  
16 responds quicker than just about I ever had  
17 to asked to do something for me in this  
18 city, so he responded to a cat problem that  
19 Kay called him for me and within minutes,

20 back in the Keyser Valley section, so,  
21 Shawn, I would just like to thank you for  
22 all you do. I think there should be more  
23 than one of you and I think it's probably  
24 the most undesirable job in this city, and  
25 that's all I have. Thank you.

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1 MR. MCGOFF: Just to catch up on a  
2 couple of things, Mrs. Schumacher asked  
3 about the money for the firefighters'  
4 memorial and I will look into that. I  
5 believe that the money is still there and  
6 that the actual plans for the memorial have  
7 been expanded which is why the Junior  
8 Council has taken on a fundraiser to  
9 supplement the money that was put aside, but  
10 I believe that the plans are still there for  
11 the firefighters' memorial. I think that  
12 they have been altered somewhat in terms of  
13 where it was going to be placed, thus  
14 prolonging the process a little bit, but  
15 just I will look for an update for you, but  
16 I'm pretty sure that this is the case.

17 MS. GATELLI: That's the reason.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Garvey, do we have  
19 anyone, and I'm going to put you on the spot

20 here for a second, do we have anyone coming  
21 for a caucus next week --

22 MS. GARVEY: No.

23 MR. MCGOFF: -- that you know? It  
24 was brought up tonight about ECTV and  
25 Channel 61, I'm going to ask if council

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1 members would perhaps arrive a little bit  
2 early so that we can talk about ECTV and the  
3 oversight committee and any other provisions  
4 so that we can keep public access channel  
5 open and also look into the committee that  
6 we can do that next week during caucus; and  
7 also, Mr. Courtright did and I did ask last  
8 week, and I forgot about it myself, for  
9 members to the oversight committee that  
10 perhaps next week we can finalize that a  
11 little bit and perhaps talk about provisions  
12 of what the motion would be to create the  
13 committee.

14 And, again, during the process  
15 perhaps if any of us can get information  
16 concerning the status of Channel 61 and how  
17 it's going to be -- how the transition will  
18 take place and when it will take place. And  
19 somebody did mention the Voter Registration,  
20 I just happened to or voting in the primary,

21 I just happened catch on the news that in  
22 Luzerne County they had somewhere over 3,000  
23 new registrations during, you know, prior to  
24 today or yesterday I guess was the last day,  
25 prior to yesterday for new registrations. I

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1 don't know what the numbers were in  
2 Lackawanna County, but certainly this  
3 primary election has generated a great deal  
4 of interest and hopefully that interest will  
5 carry over to the future elections and those  
6 people that registered for this election as  
7 new registrants will continue to vote and  
8 continue to stay on the voting roles.

9 I did want to just mention that  
10 there was some I guess some criticism of the  
11 controller's office, the city controller's  
12 office not conducting the audits and I  
13 mentioned it last week, I really believe  
14 that the Home Rule Charter was probably very  
15 well-intended, I don't know the reasons why  
16 the audits have not been conducted since  
17 2004 I believe was the last one, but I do  
18 think that it is a task beyond the city  
19 controller to do alone and certainly I think  
20 it, again, needs to be a collective venture

21 between the or among the three taxing bodies  
22 and, as I said last week, I think that we  
23 should look into that for the future.

24 And another mention was made about  
25 the \$12 million that was -- or some mention

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1 was made of money from the Single Tax Office  
2 that was being kept. The account is being  
3 held in Fidelity Bank and I was called and  
4 just wanted to clarify what was said about  
5 the interest on that money. Over the course  
6 since 2005, it has averaged --  
7 money deposited at Fidelity Bank by the  
8 Single Tax Office has averaged around  
9 3.68 percent while it is in that account,  
10 and in 2007 somewhere around \$790,000 in  
11 interest was accrued on accounts through the  
12 Single Tax Office. They just wanted people  
13 to be aware of that, that it was not added  
14 at an extremely low interest rate, but that  
15 it was at market rates that had been  
16 established through, and I forget the  
17 procedure, but it was based on market  
18 interest rates.

19 And the last thing, I'm sorry that  
20 my analogy was not adequate, I'll try better  
21 or I'll try and do better in the future with

22 my analogies.

23 And the meeting with OECD, perhaps  
24 what we -- for lack of a better term perhaps  
25 we could conduct something of a town meeting

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1 with the staff at OECD, that perhaps I could  
2 look into when they might be willing to do  
3 this and advertise so that, you know, people  
4 can be more aware of what they do and how  
5 their business is conducted and let's see  
6 what it is that they would be willing to do  
7 in terms of question and answer or  
8 presentation and I think that's a good idea.  
9 And that is all I have. Thank you.

10 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. NO  
11 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

12 SIXTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS AT THIS  
13 TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
14 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
15 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 16, 2008  
16 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY  
17 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229588 ENTITLED, "CITY OF  
18 SCRANTON ARSON TASK FORCE ACCOUNT" FOR THE  
19 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS FROM  
20 THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
21 DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

22 ARSON TASK FORCE.

23 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
24 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
25 Committee on Finance?

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1 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Finance I recommend -- I'm  
3 reading the DCED one. Go ahead.

4 MS. GATELLI: As chair for the  
5 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
6 passage of Item 7-A.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
9 call, please.

10 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

13 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

14 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

16 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

18 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
20 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

21 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -

23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 17, 2008 - AUTHORIZING  
24 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
25 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT

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1 AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT  
2 OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)  
3 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON ARSON TASK FORCE.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Gatelli, as the  
5 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance,  
6 what is your recommendation?

7 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the  
8 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
9 passage of 7-B.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question. Roll  
12 call, please.

13 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

17 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

19 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

21 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare



23 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

24 MS. GARVEY: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -

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1 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 18, 2008 - AUTHORIZING  
2 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
3 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT  
4 AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM U.S.  
5 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEMA GRANT.

6 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
7 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
8 Committee on Finance?

9 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the  
10 Committee on Finance I recommend final  
11 passage of 7-C.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question. Roll  
14 call, please.

15 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

18 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

19 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

21 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

23 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
25 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

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1 MS. GARVEY: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION -  
3 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 19, 2008 - AUTHORIZING  
4 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF  
5 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO LEASE  
6 AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS LITTLE LEAGUE,  
7 TEENER LEAGUE, MISS-E LEAGUES, AND JUNIOR  
8 AND/OR MIDGET FOOTBALL LEAGUE ASSOCIATIONS  
9 FOR USE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY IN CONNECTION  
10 WITH APPROVED LITTLE LEAGUE, TEENER LEAGUE,  
11 MISS-E LEAGUE, AND JUNIOR AND/OR MIDGET  
12 FOOTBALL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES FOR A THREE-YEAR  
13 PERIOD COMMENCING APRIL 15, 2008 AND ENDING  
14 APRIL 14, 2011.

15 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the  
16 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
17 passage of Item 7-D.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
20 call, please.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

22 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

25 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

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1 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

3 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

5 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MS. GARVEY: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
10 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 20. 2008  
11 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2006,  
12 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE  
13 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE  
14 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY  
15 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED  
16 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
17 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (AS AMENDED) TO BE  
18 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
19 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
20 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
21 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY  
22 TRANSFERRING \$239,156.45 FROM PROJECT NO.  
23 95-003.2 AND \$74,470.75 FROM PROJECT NO.  
24 01-026 AND \$30,000.00 FROM PROJECT NO.

25

01-96,1 and \$85.82 FROM PROJECT NO. 05-215

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AND \$56,286.98 FROM PROJECT NO. 05-15 TO

2

PROJECT NO. 07-19 PURCHASE OF A FIRE TRUCK.

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MR. MCGOFF: What the recommendation

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of the Chairperson for the Committee on

5

Community Development.

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MS. FANUCCI: As Chair for the

7

Committee on Community Development, I

8

recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

9

MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

10

MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll

11

call, please.

12

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

13

MS. EVANS: Yes.

14

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

15

MS. GATELLI: Yes.

16

MS. MAGNOTTA: Ms. Fanucci.

17

MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

18

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

19

MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

20

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

21

MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

22

Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted. I

23

take a motion for adjournment?

24

MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

25

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and

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evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

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notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the

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above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true

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and correct transcript of the same to the best of my

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ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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