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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, June 3, 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 (Not Present)

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. GATELLI: Roll call.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

11 (Mr. McGoff not present.)

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

13 MS. GATELLI: Here. Mrs. Garvey.

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

15 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD

16 MEETING HELD ON APRIL 23, 2008.

17 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

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

20 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING

21 HELD ON APRIL 23, 2008.

22 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

23 If not, received and filed.

24 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third

25 Order.

1 MS. GATELLI: We'll do some  
2 announcements before we start with the  
3 public speakers. I just have a few. The  
4 Greek Festival is starting this evening at  
5 the 500 block of North Washington Avenue.  
6 It's from tonight until Saturday. The 500  
7 block of Adams Avenue for the no parking we  
8 are still awaiting word. Mrs. Garvey has  
9 not found any ordinances so she has been in  
10 touch with Mr. Hayes and notified him that  
11 we wish to pursue an ordinance and that's  
12 where that stands.

13 The beat patrols, I spoke to the  
14 mayor and he said within two weeks we should  
15 have the beat patrols working so we are  
16 happy about that for the summer.

17 The Community Justice Office, just  
18 for the people in South Scranton, we have  
19 not had a Community Justice Office since  
20 last fall, so we are going to start that up  
21 again. We have a new district attorney  
22 that's assigned to us and they will be  
23 meeting again every other Thursday at the  
24 Renaissance Center from 10 to 2 starting on  
25 June 12. If there are any other

1 neighborhoods that have Community Justice  
2 Offices please notify Kay Garvey and we will  
3 announce when your meetings are so the  
4 neighbors can go there with complaints.

5 We talked about McDowell coming here  
6 with Attorney Rinaldi and we talked about  
7 doing an investigation and issuing  
8 subpoenas. Attorney Minora has been in  
9 touch with Attorney Rinaldi, he and  
10 Mr. McDowell have agreed to come here to  
11 meet with council.

12 MR. MINORA: He asked to clear it,  
13 there is a couple of things they are in  
14 favor of doing it, Attorney Rinaldi has some  
15 attorney/client privilege questions that may  
16 need waiver and he needs to have that  
17 cleared with other -- because of his  
18 position with probably the city solicitor's  
19 office and some others because of the bodies  
20 that they represent, so he needs a waiver of  
21 privilege in order to speak on some of the  
22 things, and Mr. McDowell, on the phone, I  
23 didn't speak with him, needs to consult with  
24 one other lawyer on his own behalf for other  
25 matters and that's how it was described, so

1 they are in favor of it, but there are  
2 questions and I have asked them to please  
3 get back to me by next meeting and they both  
4 -- Mr. Rinaldi said he would try to have  
5 both of them give us a result by next week.

6 MS. GATELLI: Kay. Thank you. And  
7 that's all I have. Bill?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I have just one  
9 thing they asked and I emphasize that this  
10 is going to be just one day only, I  
11 mentioned this little girl's name last week,  
12 Riley Jones. They are going to have a pasta  
13 sale, it's going to be from LaTrottozia.  
14 The tickets will be on sale again one day  
15 only at John Marshall School on Oram Street  
16 in the back of the school under a tent, and  
17 they are going to hold the ticket sales and  
18 it's going to be June 4.

19 MS. GATELLI: That's tomorrow.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: From 9:00 until  
21 11:00 and then they will have sales from  
22 1:00 until 2:30 and then you will be able to  
23 pick up your dinner at LaTrottozia on  
24 Wednesday, June 11, so I'm assuming it's  
25 just the ticket sales, Wednesday, June 11

7

1 from 3 to 6 p.m. So once again that ask

2 that I emphasize it will be just June 4 so  
3 if you would like to help out Riley Jones it  
4 would certainly be appreciated 9 to 11 and  
5 then 1:00 to 2:30, John Marshall School.  
6 That's all I have. Thank you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans?

8 MS. EVANS: Please remember in your  
9 prayers this week Mr. John Myers who  
10 recently passed away and his dear family and  
11 friends who deeply miss him. His daughter,  
12 Lisa McConalog, is a highly respected and  
13 dedicated music teacher at Scranton High  
14 School where I teach.

15 Also, I attended the interfaith  
16 service for safety and protection of  
17 Scranton firefighters last Wednesday at  
18 Bethel AME Church and I was deeply moved by  
19 the words and prayers of the Reverend  
20 Kathryn Simmons, the Reverend Richard  
21 Jackson, Reverend Ray Johnson, Rabbi Joseph  
22 Mendelson, and the Reverend Daniel Waters.  
23 I was extremely impressed as well by the  
24 fifth generational choir, someone whose  
25 talented members attend Scranton High

1 School. They are a credit to their family,

2 church and community.

3 And just one last announcement, I  
4 will not be present at next week's meeting,  
5 I will be attending the graduation ceremony  
6 of Scranton High School. I am a teacher of  
7 senior students and so those graduates, many  
8 of those graduates, are my students. That's  
9 all.

10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

11 Mr. Sbaraglia.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
13 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
14 we got a little paper -- notice in the paper  
15 I guess we can believe what the Times put in  
16 their big headline, "Taxes won't stop loan."

17 I know it's in the budget,  
18 \$11 million, no matter what we get through  
19 the tax office that's going to go through.  
20 The only good thing about it is we are  
21 borrowing to pay off debt. We are not doing  
22 anything really, but putting ourself deeper  
23 and deeper into the hole, but I guess that's  
24 the way the city is going to operate for the  
25 next two years or until we get a new mayor.

9

1 The deeper we can go into a hole the better  
2 I guess the people like it.



3                   Now, I got the city -- the paper  
4                   quoted something in the paper, I quoted it  
5                   last week, but it's in the paper and it's  
6                   printed today, the city operating budget  
7                   includes an anticipated 13.6 million from  
8                   property taxes for 2008. You are spending  
9                   28 million, the city has approximately 25  
10                  square miles, 25 square miles and you are  
11                  spending \$28 million of public money in one  
12                  little section. It's pork. When  
13                  Mr. DiBileo brought it up a long time ago  
14                  you are right, Judy, you weren't the only  
15                  ones that got in on this. Mr. DiBileo  
16                  brought it up and I said was pork then, it's  
17                  pork now, it's just longer pork. It's more  
18                  pork and it just keeps climbing. Like I  
19                  said when he brought it up, he didn't even  
20                  pay for the engineering, we did. The  
21                  sidewalks were paved. Two of the people and  
22                  the ends of that project opt out. You try  
23                  to get them, Judy, you tried to get them to  
24                  come before you, Mr. Rinaldi refused to  
25                  come. You asked questions of how much money

10

1                  he got invested in this project as a  
2                  developer, he refuses to answer, but yet we

3 are pouring more and more money into it.  
4 There has got to be a good reason for it.  
5 It's not very -- you can see it, but they  
6 got hidden. There is a hidden agenda to  
7 this deal and pork stinks all the time, but  
8 this pork has been going on for a long, long  
9 time and it stinks more and more and more  
10 and here we stand, a troubled nation, a real  
11 troubled nation and the troubled Scranton,  
12 but yet you want to put all of this pork in  
13 and you watch the bridge project go from 1.5  
14 up to 7.5 million. What are we getting for  
15 all of that expense? Who knows.

16 I watched the Governor gave 1.5  
17 million to I think Humble Industrial Park,  
18 okay? They got 1,100 jobs for that 1.5  
19 million. We got 100 jobs and they are not  
20 necessarily Scrantonians because it doesn't  
21 matter. If you get a federal job it doesn't  
22 matter where you live and anybody that makes  
23 a buck don't want to live in Scranton and  
24 that's true. People don't want to live here  
25 because of the high wage tax and the

11

1 property tax I won't say much about because  
2 it's not ungodly, the wage tax is ungodly.  
3 The school taxes are high, too, so people

4 don't want to live here, but yet you are  
5 pouring millions and millions into what?  
6 Six or seven broken down buildings that  
7 anybody should -- if they want to build they  
8 should pay to tax them up themselves. I  
9 mean, if you buy a house do we ask the  
10 government to fix up your house? I mean, he  
11 got a couple of old broken down buildings  
12 down there and they want us to fix it up, he  
13 wants to pay for all of the interior work  
14 and wants to put a park behind it, the only  
15 person that's making anything out of this  
16 money is the developer. He is going to come  
17 out smelling like a rose because he is going  
18 to have a property that's worth more than --  
19 a lot more than he invested in it if you  
20 ever find out what he invested in it. I  
21 just hope he bought the buildings outright  
22 not through tax laws because a lot of times  
23 they go up for back taxes and you get a deal  
24 on that and you get a building that's real  
25 reasonable. I don't how he acquired the

12

1 buildings, but as far as I can see that's  
2 the only money he got invested in it was the  
3 acquisition of them buildings.

4 MS. FANUCCI: He purchased them. He  
5 did purchase them. He did purchase the  
6 buildings.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Oh, I said that.

8 MS. FANUCCI: It wasn't a tax --

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's the only way  
10 he got in is acquisition of the building and  
11 then he wants you to fix it. If I buy a  
12 house I'm going to ask come before you,  
13 maybe you can give me a grant. Thank you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Ozzie Quinn.

15 MR. MINORA: I did get a call from  
16 Attorney Bill Rinaldi who asked that he and  
17 I meet, he has certain information that he  
18 can give, certain information he can't give  
19 and he wanted to discuss it with me what we  
20 wanted, what he was able to give, so I'm  
21 going to try and meet with him later this  
22 week to answer some of the questions that we  
23 have and hopefully I'm not trying to put the  
24 kabash to the things, but still get our  
25 questions answered, so I'll report back next

13

1 week.

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Attorney  
3 Minora. Ozzie is not here?

4 MS. FRANUS: He is not here.

5 MS. GATELLI: Fay.

6 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus. I'm pleased  
7 to hear that you say about Kenny McDowell  
8 coming in, I just hope to see him in the  
9 next couple of weeks and I hope you put some  
10 pressure on him as far as answering as many  
11 questions you want answered.

12 Judy, let me ask you something, I  
13 read in the paper today about the  
14 \$11 million going to be borrowed, you swore  
15 that you -- or I shouldn't say swear, you  
16 promised that you couldn't vote for anymore  
17 borrowing, are you going to vote for this  
18 \$11 million borrowing?

19 MS. GATELLI: No.

20 MS. FRANUS: Absolutely not?

21 MS. GATELLI: No.

22 MS. FRANUS: Are you going to vote  
23 for it, Mrs. Fanucci?

24 MS. FANUCCI: I can answer that  
25 question, I mean, I did vote for it in the

14

1 budget, I knew it was in the budget.

2 MS. FRANUS: So when the vote comes  
3 for the borrowing are you going to vote for  
4 it?

5 MS. FANUCCI: I would look -- hope  
6 in light of the tax office money that this  
7 won't have to be done, so I hope for all --

8 MS. FRANUS: That tax money we won't  
9 be getting possibly until next year, and  
10 that's still going to be borrowing.

11 MS. FANUCCI: I still believe with  
12 the fact that the banks and other people are  
13 aware that we have the money coming to us  
14 regardless of how much it is that we can  
15 come to some type of alternative, you know,  
16 aside from borrowing, so I really would  
17 rather work on that right now than try to  
18 borrow \$11 million and that's what I can  
19 tell you.

20 MS. FRANUS: Mrs. Gatelli, why did  
21 you vote last week for that Lackawanna  
22 Avenue project?

23 MS. GATELLI: Why did I vote for it?

24 MS. FRANUS: The three of you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Because I believe in

15

1 the project and I'm not going to refuse a  
2 grant from the state.

3 MS. FRANUS: But you are letting out  
4 two people? Are you running for election  
5 again? Are you running for election?

6 MS. GATELLI: I haven't decided yet.

7 MS. FRANUS: When do you think you  
8 are going to decide? I mean, I'm just  
9 trying to figure out where --

10 MS. GATELLI: Next February I'll  
11 decide if I'm running for office.

12 MS. FRANUS: Well, I just hope the  
13 people know if you are going to be nice and  
14 do all of these things that are nice it's  
15 because you want to get elected, so I'm just  
16 going to sort of keep an eye on you.

17 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Franus, I have  
18 been doing nice things for 27 years. I  
19 don't know if you aware of that or not.

20 MS. FRANUS: Well, I have seen  
21 enough, so get a good look at my face  
22 because I'm not going anywhere. I mean, you  
23 have no sense of decency when it comes to  
24 the people and we are not going to forget  
25 it. You know, I watched the D&C debate last

16

1 week --

2 MS. GATELLI: I don't think that's  
3 very.

4 MS. FRANUS: Well, I think, if the  
5 shoe fits wear it, Judy.

6 MS. GATELLI: And I don't think it's  
7 very nice. I always return your phone calls  
8 whenever you have called me and I have done  
9 everything you have ever asked me to do.

10 MS. FRANUS: Well, what was that,  
11 fix a pothole or something?

12 MS. GATELLI: You asked about  
13 McDowell --

14 MS. FRANUS: Yes, that's one thing.

15 MS. GATELLI: Last week you asked  
16 about something else.

17 MS. FRANUS: What was the something  
18 else?

19 MS. GATELLI: I forget what it was.

20 MS. FANUCCI: It couldn't have been  
21 too important because you have never done  
22 anything for the taxpayers so far. This is  
23 the first time that I have known you that  
24 have you done anything that I have asked  
25 you.

17

1 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Franus, I'm not  
2 going to listen to your badgering. Just go  
3 on.

4 MS. FRANUS: No.

5 MS. GATELLI; I am not going to --

6 MS. FRANUS: I want the people to be



7 aware.

8 MS. GATELLI: People are aware.

9 People are aware.

10 MS. FRANUS: You said you didn't  
11 want Channel 61 on television because you  
12 didn't like the way people spoke, that  
13 should tell you something. You know why you  
14 don't want 61 on television so people will  
15 see how you act and they won't see your  
16 voting record for the election, the coming  
17 election, and that's sad.

18 MS. GATELLI: That's what this is,  
19 all politics.

20 MS. FRANUS: On your part.

21 MS. GATELLI: And you're going to  
22 badger up here.

23 MS. FRANUS: I'm not a politician,  
24 Judy.

25 MS. GATELLI: So I won't get elected

18

1 and who you are going to promote up here,  
2 that's all it is all about.

3 MS. FRANUS: I'm not here to promote  
4 anybody.

5 MS. GATELLI: And the station should  
6 not be about that. It should be about city

7 business.

8 MS. FRANUS: The station is only  
9 showing the people how you act and how you  
10 vote.

11 MS. GATELLI: And how you are  
12 badgering for political reasons.

13 MS. FRANUS: Badger who, me?

14 MS. GATELLI: People badger you for  
15 political reasons.

16 MS. FRANUS: You are the one that  
17 are badgering people, I'm not going to go  
18 there. I said I spoke about that D & C  
19 thing last week on television, people were  
20 screaming, screaming from the audience, a  
21 whole audience was screaming and not one  
22 person was called out of order, not one  
23 policeman took anybody out of there. Isn't  
24 that amazing how democracy works, that was  
25 in Washington DC, but here we are at city

19

1 council and you have had me taken out twice  
2 by a police officer. You had cameras  
3 removed and people get scanned. How come we  
4 are not scanned anymore? My gosh, I have a  
5 metal keychain. I mean, how come we are not  
6 scanned anymore, Judy? I mean, are you not  
7 threatened anymore? Can't you -- another

8                   thing, how come you are answering me now,  
9                   but three weeks ago you weren't. I think  
10                  it's got something to do with the election.

11                   MS. GATELLI: Yeah, I'm getting  
12                   ready already for that.

13                   MS. FRANUS: Well, every week. Every  
14                   week.

15                   MS. GATELLI: You are getting ready  
16                   to push your candidate, that's what you are  
17                   doing.

18                   MS. FRANUS: I don't have a  
19                   candidate, I don't even know who is running.

20                   MS. GATELLI: Yes, you do. Yes, you  
21                   do.

22                   MS. FRANUS: May I ask --

23                   MS. GATELLI: And I have supporters  
24                   who run, Fay, and we know what this is all  
25                   about.

20

1                   MS. FRANUS: Oh, no, we don't, Judy,  
2                   never have a clue --

3                   MS. GATELLI: I know what it's all  
4                   about.

5                   MS. FRANUS: But no matter what, I'm  
6                   not running for office and I don't know  
7                   anybody that is.

8 MS. GATELLI: Well, you should run, I  
9 told you that before.

10 MS. FRANUS: This has nothing to do  
11 with me, it has to do with me and how you  
12 are trying to pull the wool over people's  
13 eyes.

14 MS. GATELLI: The people will know  
15 better. The people know who has helped them  
16 and who hasn't.

17 MS. FRANUS: Yes, that's right,  
18 namely, Mrs. Evans and Billy Courtright  
19 have. You, McGoff and Fanucci have never  
20 helped the people. You vote all the time  
21 against the people and we are not going to  
22 forget it. Don't ever forget it. I hope  
23 you people will never, ever forget. Never  
24 to vote for Judy Gatelli, Bob McGoff and  
25 Mrs. Fanucci.

21

1 MS. GATELLI: There is your political  
2 advertisement from Scranton, PA. Thank you.

3 MS. FRANUS: I'm a taxpayer.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mike Dudek.

5 MR. MILLER: Mrs. Gatelli, may I  
6 address as I normally do in the beginning?

7 MS. GATELLI: I didn't have it down,  
8 Douglas, you will have to wait. Mr. Dudek.

9 MR. DUDEK: Mike Dudek, 608 Depot  
10 Street, Scranton, PA. I live in the Plot.  
11 And the first thing that I want to do is to  
12 congratulate the five members of City  
13 Council who took my suggestion very  
14 seriously about voting for a forensic audit.  
15 All I have to ask you to do is to look at  
16 what has happened ever since the five of you  
17 united together and took that vote, the rats  
18 are finally coming out of the Single Tax  
19 Office because they all know what this audit  
20 is going to bring. I don't know what it's  
21 going to bring and the forensic auditors  
22 won't know until they do it, but because you  
23 have the political courage to do it as a  
24 united council of five something finally is  
25 going to be done there.

22

1 Now, I can't make up the stuff that  
2 gets printed in our local newspaper, but I  
3 will tell you as someone who has taught  
4 civics for a number of years, the worst  
5 possible perversion of the First Amendment  
6 can only occur when a free press decides to  
7 get in bed with the government against the  
8 will of the people, and I'm just going to

9 use the words of today's editorial to make  
10 the point I'm talking about. "Former Tax  
11 Collector Ken McDowell has left this office  
12 unaccountable," they were talking about  
13 pervasive inattention to detail, "But  
14 Mr. McDowell is not alone."

15 Listen to this, "During his six  
16 years at tax collector he was not pressed  
17 for accountability by the three principal  
18 governments for which the city, from which  
19 the office collects an array of taxes,  
20 Scranton, the Scranton School District and  
21 Lackawanna County."

22 Now, did I lose my memory or wasn't  
23 Mrs. Evans screaming about this for at least  
24 the last three years? Hasn't Nancy Krake  
25 come up here at least seven different times

23

1 to talk about seven different instances in  
2 that city tax office, in the Single Tax  
3 Office over the years? Hasn't Tom Gilbride,  
4 the president of the Scranton School Board  
5 screamed about this? Do we all forget that,  
6 do we collectively forget that awful  
7 headline, "Gilbride a liar" or am I the only  
8 one that remembers?

9 Mr. Gilbride took very, very

10 positive steps to try to get that  
11 information and he has been getting pilfered  
12 by this paper for doing it. Janet Evans has  
13 been trying to push for this information, we  
14 have political cartoons of her, we have  
15 editorials lambasting her and occasional  
16 news articles lambasting her, and it's just  
17 so demeaning, but yet who is rising like out  
18 of this like a Phoenix? It kind of reminds  
19 me of the 1953 version of the movie the "War  
20 of the Worlds", the '53 version where the  
21 Army is on one side of the valley and the  
22 death ray is on the other side of the valley  
23 and up comes the death ray, the flying wing  
24 flies over the death ray and drops a nuclear  
25 bomb on us, much like the nuclear bomb that

24

1 have been dropped on you. And the death ray  
2 absorbs the power of these nuclear bombs and  
3 every time I think of it I keep thinking of  
4 Mrs. Evans who keeps coming out of this  
5 getting stronger and stronger and stronger.  
6 It's almost the same thing. I mean, that  
7 you see in the movies, but again, I want to  
8 congratulate the five of you for your unity  
9 of purpose because if you had not done that

10 we would still be waiting for information,  
11 we would still be waiting for answers, but  
12 you put the pressure on. This is a very  
13 good demonstration of your power as city  
14 council people. You have the power to scare  
15 people when they need to be scared.

16 There was a good Jesuit priest at  
17 the University of Scranton who taught an  
18 ethics course, and I hope this will stay  
19 with you the way this has stayed with me,  
20 whenever you come across a difficult  
21 situation especially the kind of situations  
22 you have on council, apply three tests: Is  
23 the action I'm going to take good or bad,  
24 right or wrong, proper and improper. If  
25 it's good, if it's right, and it's proper do

25

1 it because then you cannot possibly go  
2 wrong. Thank you.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

4 Mr. Spindler.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council,  
6 Les Spindler, city resident, homeowner.  
7 After this week or whatever school year is  
8 over I guess the former Bishop Hannon  
9 building is going to be vacant, I think that  
10 would be an excellent place for a medical



11 school to go instead of misplacing people  
12 from their residences on Washington Avenue  
13 or wherever it's going to be. It's already  
14 a school, you know, they don't have to do  
15 any building in there or anything. Some  
16 people might argue there is no parking, but  
17 there is a parking lot right next door to  
18 it, if it's not big enough they can build a  
19 parking garage right next to. We all know  
20 Chris Doherty loves building parking garages  
21 so there we go. Enough on that subject.

22 The next thing, I was here quite a few  
23 weeks ago when a gentleman spoke to me about  
24 the bridge, upper Linden Street past the  
25 U-Haul there that the sidewalks were caving

26

1 in and they with were all in bad shape and  
2 anyone look into that?

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Les, I asked and I  
4 do not believe that's going to be included  
5 in the project on Lackawanna Avenue.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, I understand that  
7 it's a different bridge.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I thought possibly  
9 it was, but it's not. As far as repairing  
10 it I haven't gotten an answer on it.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, something should  
12 be done with that. It's a mess. Next  
13 thing, Mrs. Gatelli, Mrs. Garvey, thank you  
14 for this ordinance from 1980 about the dogs.  
15 One thing I have to read here, struck me  
16 kind of strange, Section two, running at  
17 large it's called, "It shall be the duty of  
18 every police officer or authorized agency to  
19 seize and detain any dog or dogs which are  
20 running at large."

21 I'm not going to read the whole  
22 thing. Why would it be the duty of the  
23 police officer, I never heard of them having  
24 to do anything with dogs, it should be the  
25 animal control officers. First of all,

27

1 police officers aren't equipped to capture a  
2 dog, especially if it's a dangerous dog, I  
3 mean, what are they supposed to do, hit it  
4 over the head with a billy club or what? I  
5 don't know how they could put that in the  
6 ordinance.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: They can issue  
8 citations, I believe, Les.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Pardon me, Bill?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe the  
11 police officers can issue citations, that's

12 why that would be in there.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, okay. I talked  
14 about the \$11 million more in the paper  
15 today, Stu Renda was talking and he said  
16 it's possible the city might not get any of  
17 that, but I think he is just told that by  
18 the mayor to make sure council will vote to  
19 have \$11 million, but you didn't see Chris  
20 Doherty's name mentioned at all in that  
21 article, but yet in a separate article about  
22 the houses being torn down in west side the  
23 mayor said we'll be there for six months, we  
24 are tearing down all of the houses, the  
25 blighted houses, but when it comes to the 11

28

1 million dollars it didn't mention him, but  
2 we know he is behind him. We don't need to  
3 borrow anymore money. The city is in enough  
4 debt as it is and instead of tearing down  
5 all of these blighted houses I think we  
6 would be better off repairing them and  
7 fixing them up and giving them to families  
8 that need them and let they pay taxes on  
9 them. When they are torn down they are  
10 going to be empty lots with weeds growing  
11 and just places for people to dump garbage.

12 They are going to be no good at all. If  
13 they were repaired and given to people to  
14 pay taxes at least the city would be making  
15 some money on them. Thank you.

16 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

17 Mr. Ellman.

18 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie  
19 Ellman, homeowner, and still working on it,  
20 member of the Taxpayers' Association.

21 I saw your husband on his motorcycle  
22 and you were noticeably absent?

23 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm not a real risk  
24 taker, I like to keep my appendages where  
25 they are.

29

1 MR. ELLMAN: Maybe you ought to start  
2 on a scooter and work your way up to like  
3 what he got.

4 MS. EVANS: I think I would be on a  
5 tricycle.

6 MR. ELLMAN: Miss Judy, I'll get you  
7 and take you for a ride. Miss Judy, while  
8 I'm thinking of it, do you remember, I don't  
9 know, a year or so ago I was talking about a  
10 house, a condemned house near me and those  
11 people living in it, they have -- I don't  
12 know the story at all, but they have taken a

13 house and remodeled it and fixed it all up  
14 on the outside, I suppose it's the same on  
15 the inside, but, you know, people keep  
16 coming up here and saying tearing down all  
17 of these houses isn't the answer, you know.  
18 Again, I'm going to say you're going to be  
19 like Memphis, thousands of vacant lots where  
20 they torn down houses. Nobody rebuilds, you  
21 know, they are just vacant. I'm from  
22 Memphis and I know what I'm talking about.  
23 The city is really funny looking, you go  
24 down any street and there is vacant lots  
25 everywhere and I'd say half of them, you

30

1 know, aren't being kept up by neighbors and  
2 all. It's not nice looking. I don't know  
3 what the answer is with them all because I  
4 know there is some blighted ones.

5 The old Smith house has been vacant  
6 three or four years, but it's probably still  
7 of sound structure. I had no idea what it's  
8 worth and what's going on. The house behind  
9 me has been remodeled several times and it's  
10 now it's condemned and it's not too bad  
11 looking, I don't even know what happened to  
12 it. It's Section 8, I think everybody just





14 President, council members, Bill Jackowitz,  
15 South Scranton resident, member of the  
16 Taxpayers' Association. April 2008 the  
17 unemployment rate for the Scranton/  
18 Wilkes-Barre rose another tenth of a  
19 percentage point, we are now at 5.9, still  
20 ranked 13th out of 14th metro area in the  
21 state. The only metro area that has a  
22 higher unemployment rate is Johnstown which  
23 is a much smaller area. Johnstown's  
24 unemployment rate is 6.1 percent. The  
25 state's unemployment rate is 5 percent, also

33

1 the national unemployment rate is a 5  
2 percent, so, again, as the numbers show  
3 Scranton is again at the bottom of the  
4 economic ladder of the state. I am  
5 confident that self-proclaimed stooge number  
6 one, Councilwoman Fanucci, will have  
7 something to say about this. Possibly more  
8 jobs than McDonald's like she referenced  
9 last week or maybe high-end stores. How  
10 about real jobs that actually pay a liveable  
11 wage, not part-time job for students or  
12 senior citizens jobs, but yet every week the  
13 residents are informed how good things are  
14 in the area.



15                   Last week we were told that we  
16                   should be happy that Scranton has restaurant  
17                   and bar jobs available. As a Scranton  
18                   resident I found that be to very insulting.  
19                   Scranton residents deserve much better than  
20                   restaurants and bar jobs. The consumer has  
21                   no money to spend and in Scranton we no  
22                   longer have a consumer because most people  
23                   have no money unless you happen to be  
24                   politically connected and able to get  
25                   yourself a state job.

34

1                   By the way, I find it very  
2                   interesting last week when Councilwoman  
3                   Gatelli stated that taxpayers' money was  
4                   spent for her new husband's retirement party  
5                   from the school district. Councilwoman  
6                   Gatelli's own words, not mine. I have  
7                   attended retirement parties and promotion  
8                   parties in my 29 years of government  
9                   service, including my own, and never have I  
10                   heard of taxpayers' money being used to pay  
11                   the bills for the party.

12                   Mr. Minora, as an assistant district  
13                   attorney I would like for you to look into  
14                   this matter because if taxpayers' money was

15 spent on a retirement party a crime has been  
16 perpetrated. The guests at a party pay for  
17 the expenses, not the taxpayers.

18 Also, I would like to see an  
19 investigation into the city controller's  
20 office. Something is not right there either  
21 just like the Single Tax Office. Last week  
22 I found it very amusing to hear an appointed  
23 tax collector tell an elected council person  
24 that it was none of his business what the  
25 interest rate is. No wonder why we have a

35

1 12.2 million dollars in excess, taxes have  
2 not been collected in years, and we have  
3 been distressed for 17 years. Also, I find  
4 it interesting that all of the questions  
5 that Mr. McGovern and Mrs. Vitale would not  
6 answer appeared in the Doherty Times-Tribune  
7 on Sunday. The Doherty Times-Tribune  
8 investigative reporters have been working  
9 hard, just four years too late.

10 As far as the 500 block of  
11 Lackawanna Avenue, I started speaking on  
12 this project in 2005, 2006, and 2007. I was  
13 lied to, misled and told that answers were  
14 forthcoming and still have not come and what  
15 do we have in 2008? More lies, misleading

16 statements and a much larger bigger bill.  
17 What a city.

18 As far as South Scranton, what a  
19 mess. I was born, educated and live in  
20 South Scranton and it is a mess and has been  
21 for at least the past 27 years and getting  
22 worse everyday. Someone in the local  
23 government should step up and do something  
24 about this. Oh, I forgot, we are planting  
25 trees. That will solve everything. What a

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1 city. Now the mayor is going to clean up  
2 West Scranton, how about completing South  
3 Scranton first? Now I see where the city  
4 will borrow another \$12 million. We have to  
5 repay the loan from 2005, 5.5 million and  
6 another 5.5 million to cover the 2008 budget  
7 which, by the way, was approved by the  
8 current city council without having the  
9 money available.

10 What a city. Approve the 11 million  
11 and put the city into a deeper distressed  
12 debt status, worry about the money next  
13 year, remember, for seven years Mayor  
14 Doherty has gotten his way every year.  
15 Council has supported his budgets, borrowing

16 and Recovery Plan. The citizens get the  
17 government they deserve, Thomas Jefferson  
18 once said. Respect is something that is  
19 earned not a right. You cannot believe what  
20 a politician or elected official says.  
21 Their voting record is all that matters.

22 And as far as Doug Miller, he IS a  
23 harmless, inexperienced kid and president of  
24 one.

25 MS. GATELLI: Thank you for your

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1 kind comments. Mr. Dobson. No? Is there  
2 anything else that cares to speak?  
3 Mr. Davis.

4 MR. DAVIS: Salaam aleikum, peace  
5 and blessings of the law be with you.  
6 Excuse my costume. I was laying there in  
7 the bed and I said someone called me on the  
8 telephone and said, "Jim, did you know that  
9 they had lined off the streets in front of  
10 the school down on Wyoming Avenue even  
11 though they are going to close it down?"

12 And it was -- they used to the same  
13 paint as they did at Prep and yet they have  
14 not done any of streets in central city as  
15 far as crosswalks are concerned and I said,  
16 yes, I knew that, but I have gone before

17 city council and I have asked them several  
18 times.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Davis, could I  
20 interrupt you for one second?

21 MR. DAVIS: Go ahead.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: This past Sunday I  
23 believe it was when I was going through town  
24 there was somebody doing lines.

25 MR. DAVIS: Where?

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I asked him who  
2 he worked for, all right? He is working for  
3 a contractor so evidently, I don't know for  
4 a fact because I haven't looked into it,  
5 evidently the city has hired a contractor to  
6 paint the lines throughout the city, so from  
7 what -- now he is just a worker telling me  
8 this, what this gentleman told me they going  
9 to paint I believe on the weekends all of  
10 the lines in the city.

11 MS. EVANS: And many got them painted  
12 already.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: So that would be a  
14 good thing in my eyes. You know, if we are  
15 getting them done. I just think there  
16 wasn't the manpower, and I'm not making

17                   excuses for them, but there wasn't the  
18                   manpower to do it. They only had three  
19                   people in this department, so evidently  
20                   maybe, Kay, we can look into it.

21                   MS. GATELLI: I talked to Jeff  
22                   Brazil, they did hire a contractor.

23                   MR. COURTRIGHT: So, we are going to  
24                   get them painted and I was all upset about  
25                   it as much as you are.

39

1                   MR. DAVIS: Thank you. I realize  
2                   that, that's the reason why I didn't keep  
3                   hanging on you for it.

4                   MR. COURTRIGHT: I just -- they are  
5                   going to be painted, thank God.

6                   MR. DAVIS: Let's hope they at least  
7                   go through -- they should be able to do  
8                   something about doing it on a consistent  
9                   basis since the traffic is so high in these  
10                  areas and we do have a lot of kids, we have  
11                  a lot of senior citizens that walk these  
12                  streets and accidents are prone to happen if  
13                  things are not taking care of properly.

14                  I have gone to other cities and the one  
15                  thing that you notice in every large city  
16                  that you go into is that the pedestrian  
17                  lines, the street lines are well taken care

18 of and it takes the whole city look clean.  
19 It makes the whole city look well taken care  
20 of and policed and we don't have that there.  
21 That is the reason why many people don't  
22 respect it. That's why people overrun the  
23 lines and accidents will occur. I saw two  
24 old ladies today almost get hit by cars  
25 making left turns and not really looking

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1 well and they were in the crosswalks, but  
2 that's neither here nor there. We can't  
3 protect everyone in the world or everyone in  
4 the city but we are not doing our jobs.  
5 That's your job to make sure that we are  
6 safe and secure in this environment and you  
7 are not doing it. I don't think so.

8 I hear the problems about the  
9 \$12 million, you know, every time you talk  
10 about being depressed or without money the  
11 people that hurt the most are the people  
12 down at the bottom of the chain, those who  
13 don't have the jobs. The last ones hired  
14 are the first ones fired, you have heard  
15 that before. We know that for an exact, you  
16 know, we know that be true, but yet I'm  
17 saying to you, you cannot keep doing this,

18           you cannot keep ignoring the public from  
19           it's bottom because eventually they are  
20           going to revolt and if they revolt that  
21           means it's going to get nasty, and that's no  
22           good. We don't even come here to represent  
23           us as it stands right now because they know  
24           that whatever we say is going to be  
25           overlooked and not taken care of. We don't

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1           have that kind of sense of responsibility  
2           from what we say to you. I spoke about  
3           those streets out there for how much years  
4           and now they finally get a contractor?  
5           Before they told us that they didn't have  
6           the money for the paint or they didn't have  
7           the money for the people to do it and then  
8           they go out and they hire a contractor to do  
9           it? There is something wrong. I mean,  
10          maybe it's me. Maybe I'm not the right  
11          person to ask for things like painting the  
12          crosswalks or being earnest and sincere  
13          about making people safe when they walk the  
14          streets, but I try and I'm glad that we  
15          finally found someone to do something about  
16          it and I hope it gets done all the way down  
17          to Lackawanna Avenue because this is -- our  
18          kids that's all how far they walk. Our kids



19 don't bus, that's all there is to it, but we  
20 need you to stay on this one if you can.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

22 MR. DAVIS: If you be earnest and  
23 sincere with us for a change instead of  
24 raising all -- instead of asking for more  
25 loans and more money and more money and just

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1 make sure the things that are being paid for  
2 by us right now are not being done. You got  
3 to do something about being a representative  
4 to us and for us and you are not.

5 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone  
6 else care to speak.

7 MR. DAVIS: Just Silly. Silly.

8 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,  
9 Doug Miller, president of the Scranton  
10 Junior Council. Boy, two weeks to go. I  
11 certainly won't miss this, I'll tell you  
12 that much. You know, politics as usual.  
13 You know, I guess it's not a bad thing to  
14 speak towards the end of the meeting, it  
15 gives me an opportunity to respond to some  
16 comments that are made, I don't usually have  
17 that opportunity in other weeks.

18 First, I would with all due respect

19 to Mr. Ellman and his statements about  
20 ruining my political career and things like  
21 that, you know, maybe if people came up  
22 here, Mr. Ellman, and conducted themselves  
23 in a professional manner and acted like  
24 adults I wouldn't have to make statements  
25 like that. You know, I'm all for open

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1 government and I feel everyone should have  
2 the opportunity to see their government in  
3 action, but it's ashame that you have to  
4 ruin it for all and that's what I feel about  
5 that.

6 MS. GATELLI: Douglas --

7 MR. MILLER: -- and respect your  
8 thoughts.

9 MS. GATELLI: -- just speak, Honey.

10 MR. DAVIS: He should be addressing  
11 council.

12 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me.

13 MR. DAVIS: That's what we were told.

14 MR. MILLER: Things will never  
15 change. As far as Mr. Jackowitz'  
16 statements, president of one, or whatever he  
17 said, well, I could say that at least I'm  
18 here. You know, there is kids out there  
19 that have done worse things, at least I'm

20 here dedicated because I love this city and  
21 for two years I have been out in this city  
22 doing community service projects, where have  
23 you people been?

24 Moving on, I would like to also  
25 address some statements that were made last

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1 week, didn't have the opportunity to do  
2 that. Generally, I don't like to respond to  
3 critics, but I feel in this case I must do  
4 so. First, let me make it quite clear here,  
5 that no one puts me up to saying anything.  
6 I don't allow anyone to dictate and I speak  
7 for myself. The speaker that made the  
8 comment is a perfect example of someone that  
9 is told what to say. You know, many of the  
10 Legion of Doom or whatever they like to call  
11 themselves address council with speeches  
12 written for them by others to help promote  
13 elected official's agendas. The same  
14 speaker also made a sarcastic remark  
15 regarding the amount of members on Junior  
16 Council. Since our inception two years ago  
17 nearly 20 high school students have served  
18 on our council. Currently the number has  
19 dipped to two members, not one as inaccurate

20 once again. You know, maybe if the speakers  
21 that attended these meetings acted like  
22 normal human beings and set a good example  
23 we might have a full table of high school  
24 students, but the truth is parents don't  
25 want to send their kids here because they

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1 don't want to put them in front of this  
2 every week and this is truly sad and  
3 pathetic and I feel sorry for all my  
4 classmates who are missing out an  
5 opportunity to learn about their government  
6 because it's a great opportunity for them.

7 Now, moving on here some business  
8 here. Earlier in the day we received some  
9 news about the Pennsylvania smoking ban  
10 bill, it's being sent for a final vote.  
11 Earlier this morning the House and Senate  
12 Conference Committee discussed an ordinance  
13 that was approved 5 to 1. The lone no vote  
14 was Senator Bob Mellow, he voted, no, due to  
15 the fact that the bill that he proposed  
16 would allow Scranton and Allegheny County to  
17 reenact their ordinances that we adopted a  
18 year ago, so he would like to see those  
19 changes made so that can happen. Hopefully,  
20 talks will continue and we all get on the

21 same page and hopefully at the end of the  
22 day we will have a smoking ban in  
23 Pennsylvania and we can move forward and  
24 have Governor Ed Rendell sign the bill.

25 Last Thursday, the Scranton Junior City

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1 Council and West Scranton High School paid  
2 tribute to Captain James Robeson and the  
3 West Scranton High School Alumni, also,  
4 joined by family and friends and special  
5 guests we unveiled a plaque that honors  
6 Captain Robeson. This plaque will hang in  
7 the alumni room and will act as a lasting  
8 tribute to Captain Robeson.

9 In addition, a scholarship was  
10 formed in Captain Robeson's name. The  
11 scholarship is presented to Senior Matt  
12 Gavern, and on behalf of junior council I  
13 would like to thank everyone that helped  
14 make last Thursday a very special day for  
15 the West Side community. With that said, I  
16 say thank you.

17 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Jude. Well,  
19 Judge, we lost another one.

20 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, but they --

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: It's been a good  
22 year.

23 MS. GATELLI: They had a good year.

24 MR. SLEDENZSKI: I know. Billy, you  
25 are the best up there, Bill, remember that,

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1 Bill.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thanks, Chris.

3 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.

4 Nelson Ancherani, no Mr. McGoff so I'll  
5 speak like he is here anyway. First  
6 Amendment Rights, expressing my opinions.  
7 Here it is June 3, '08, three more meetings  
8 and you will start your two months summer  
9 vacation, July and August. When you return  
10 in September you will have two months and  
11 the administration will be presenting it's  
12 209 City of Scranton budget. My prediction  
13 it will be another record budget, but that  
14 is really nothing new. Every budget that  
15 was presented by this administration was a  
16 record budget. And you three rubber  
17 stampers, Ms. Gatelli, Mr. McGoff and Ms.  
18 Fanucci voted for the lasted one. When you  
19 think about it for the last seven years it  
20 was rubber stampers who voted for the last  
21 seven budgets.

22                   Last week Mr. McGoff expressed that  
23                   he didn't want to be the ringmaster.  
24                   Evidently, it is his belief that these  
25                   council meetings are a circus. I tend to

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1                   disagree. What I see are concerned citizens  
2                   and taxpayers coming to council meetings  
3                   expressing their concerns for a city that  
4                   has been home for many of them for their  
5                   entire lives and others who have come to  
6                   Scranton to live and make Scranton their  
7                   homes. They wouldn't stay here if they  
8                   didn't like it or love their city, so those  
9                   of you who call council a circus all I see  
10                  is concerned residents and taxpayers who  
11                  want to know where their 600 million went  
12                  and where it was spent. They also want to  
13                  know why the roads and streets aren't paved  
14                  when the city will take in 600 million in  
15                  revenue by the end of this year. In fact,  
16                  once council raises the 11 million loan the  
17                  city is going past the \$11 million loan the  
18                  city is looking for, it will 611 million.  
19                  We know where \$5.5 million went and we had  
20                  to pay American Anglican 5.5 million for an  
21                  arbitration the city lost for violating the

22 contract.

23 Getting back to the ringmaster  
24 remark, Mr. McGoff, if you are don't want to  
25 be ringmaster keep your performers in two.

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1 Last week when I was speaking Mrs. Fanucci  
2 interrupted saying, "That would me. Just  
3 say Sherry Fanucci. Don't say certain  
4 people, come on. "

5 Mr. McGoff, you bang your gavel when  
6 audience members speak out from the back of  
7 the room, but yet you let Ms. Fanucci  
8 interrupt me, but then again, you show your  
9 selectiveness. You are the ringmaster of  
10 double standards.

11 How about this in today's Scranton  
12 Slimes, 6-3-08, "Scranton, taxes won't stop  
13 loan," by Stacy Brown, shaft writer.

14 Stu Renda, business administrator,  
15 or in other words, the city's lead  
16 cheerleader is beginning to prepare the  
17 sheep for the shearing. Stu is preparing  
18 the taxpayers for another \$11 million loan  
19 that the city wants to take out. A 5.5  
20 million is earmarked for a 2005 loan.  
21 Question, Stu, why weren't payments made on  
22 that loan and if it's three-year loan why is



23 5.5 million needed now? Stu was quoted, "I  
24 spoke to Mr. McGovern Monday, in looking at  
25 our books it seems that probably five

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1 million in wage tax collection is ours."

2 Stu, if you looked at your books  
3 earlier maybe you would have discovered that  
4 the city wasn't getting it's wage taxes.  
5 Another question, how can the city need 11  
6 million more now when by the end of the year  
7 the city will have received \$600 million in  
8 revenue and loans. 600 million. How could  
9 we need 11 million more? I can't  
10 understand, but think about it, borrow 11  
11 million more it will probably translate into  
12 a 30 million payback. Add this one to the  
13 approximately 400 million long-term debt and  
14 it will go to approximately 430 million  
15 long-term debt.

16 Mr. McGoff, you made a remark about  
17 doing your homework on agenda items,  
18 hopefully, you will start. Maybe you can  
19 lose that rubber stamp. Please think about  
20 the taxpayers, have mercy.

21 And as long as I have a little bit  
22 of time we'll go back to the issues: 15

23 million in raises cumulatively over the last  
24 seven years, 59 new hires, 30 clerical  
25 positions lost. Potholes. 5.5 million

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1 American Anglican arbitration loss paid by  
2 the Sewer Authority, again, causing a  
3 56 percent raise in sewer bills. 12.2  
4 million found in the tax office. Index  
5 cards with employee's, city information  
6 social security numbers thrown in the  
7 dumpster behind city call and blowing around  
8 the court. The person who retrieved them is  
9 threatened with arrest instead of trying to  
10 find out the reason and who threw them out.  
11 Thank you.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mrs. Evans.  
13 Oh, I'm sorry, he is usually last. Nelson,  
14 you let somebody get by.

15 MR. HEWITT: Thank you, city council.  
16 My name is John Hewitt, city resident and  
17 taxpayer, homeowner, also a member of the  
18 Scranton Fire Department. I'm here for  
19 particularly one reason, I'm also a member  
20 of the Black Sheep organization from West  
21 Scranton. That organization does a lot of  
22 fundraising for the sick children throughout  
23 the area. Being a member of that group at

24 one of the recent meetings a motion was made  
25 to donate \$500 to the police and

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1 firefighters' memorial. With that being  
2 said, I have a check for the \$500 and if  
3 that's okay I'll give that to Mr. Miller.

4 Also, on behalf of the fire department  
5 I want to thank Junior City Council members  
6 and the group from West Scranton High  
7 School, I'm sure Jimmy would be honored  
8 knowing that he is being honored like he has  
9 been throughout the last couple of weeks and  
10 also I know his family is very touched by  
11 the help and support from this community.  
12 So with that said, I'll give it to  
13 Mr. Miller.

14 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

15 MR. MILLER: I know I spoke, but I  
16 have to on behalf of Junior Council thank  
17 the Black Sheep organization and Mr. Hewitt  
18 for their support for the police and  
19 firefighters' memorial. With everyone  
20 working together we know we can reach our  
21 goal and very soon we will see a police and  
22 firefighters' memorial, so thanks to the  
23 Black Sheep organization and Mr. Hewitt.

24

MS. GATELLI: Thank you again.

25

Anyone else? Mrs. Evans.

53

1

MS. EVANS: Good evening. Last week

2

we briefly discussed some issues pertaining

3

to Channel 61. After skimming today's

4

newspaper as well as the Sunday Times I am

5

more convinced than ever of the necessity

6

for Channel 61, 62 and it's operator of

7

Scranton Today. The banner headline for

8

Tuesday, June 3, "City, taxes won't stop

9

loan."

10

What a surprise. The mayor intends

11

to borrow again as he has done each year

12

since 2003. The real surprise would be if

13

he announced for even one fiscal year that

14

he will not borrow millions of dollars.

15

Perhaps in 2009 during his political

16

campaign he will go cold turkey. He appears

17

to borrow annually to pay for previous

18

borrowing and, of course, to keep pace with

19

his champagne and caviar spending habits.

20

Oddly, however, according to the

21

April 2008 report of the city controller

22

dated May 22, 2008, the 5.5 million 2005

23

loan appears to be sitting in an account, in

24

fact, there is close to 5.9 million listed

25 for that account, but this is all old news.

54

1 Today's headline was discussed at city  
2 council as far back as December of 2007 and  
3 as recently as last week's council meeting.

4 By viewing council meetings on Scranton  
5 Today Channel 61 you, the viewers, learned  
6 of this 11 million Doherty debt package  
7 seven months ago. You learned about the  
8 over quarter of a billion dollars in  
9 long-term debt. You learned that tax  
10 information is none of your business. You  
11 learned that tax office representatives  
12 didn't answer all of council questions and,  
13 in fact, they still have not done so. You  
14 were shocked by those answers, just as you  
15 were shocked that it took two months and the  
16 suggestion of the subpoena to obtain an  
17 audience with tax office appointees. Yet, I  
18 was not shocked because that is the precise  
19 behavior of much of the Doherty  
20 administration. Transparency and  
21 accountability only apply outside of city  
22 hall.

23 Further, I take umbrage with the  
24 Scranton Times for their failure to

25

investigate and report the truth,

55

1 specifically over the last seven months, but  
2 that's only one confined example. The Times  
3 writers state that city and county officials  
4 charged with oversight of the tax office  
5 failed to notice or intervene. That is not  
6 true. Reporters, however, failed to  
7 investigate and write about repeated  
8 requests for information and declined  
9 appearances by not only Ken McDowell, but  
10 city department heads as well over the last  
11 several years at Scranton city council.

12 I noticed questionable procedures  
13 and failures at the Single Tax Office in  
14 December of 2007 and even years before that  
15 I spoke at council meetings about my  
16 concerns. Where were your EMS refunds?  
17 Where were tax rebates? Why wasn't everyone  
18 responsible for paying the taxman? And you,  
19 the viewers, can attest to it. Without  
20 Scranton Today Channel 61 you would know  
21 only what this mayor and his friendly  
22 newspaper wish you to know. The real truth?  
23 I brought problems up about the tax office  
24 and Mr. McDowell right here, right to the  
25 forefront. What did the newspaper do? It

1 endorsed Mr. McDowell for political office  
2 more than once.

3 Now, the mayor wants 11 million in  
4 borrowing again, he doesn't need it. He  
5 doesn't cut costs, he expands them. He and  
6 the BA never worried about the numbers from  
7 the tax office in 2005, 2006, and 2007.  
8 What does that tell you? Remember, the 5.5  
9 million from the tax office remarkably and  
10 coincidentally will fall into the mayor's  
11 lap in 2009 just in time for a reelection  
12 campaign.

13 Scranton Today Channel 61, they must  
14 be replaced in order to prevent information  
15 from reaching the public. After all, if you  
16 can't control the TV station then you can't  
17 spin the information and if you can't spin  
18 the information you have got to terminate  
19 that station. Now, what can you do? Fight  
20 for Scranton Today and Channel 61, protect  
21 your right to the truth and read critically  
22 because sometimes the only pages of the  
23 newspaper that appear to contain the whole  
24 truth are the obituaries.

25 Also, I have proof that a complaint

1 was forwarded in February 2008 to the Ethics  
2 Commission and others against Electric City  
3 TV, but it mysteriously disappeared from the  
4 legal department and the Ethics Commission.  
5 I would assume that everyone received this?  
6 No. Then, I'll share it with you or if you  
7 would like Neil can make copies for  
8 everyone.

9 I also have some requests for the  
10 week. A letter to Mrs. Novembrino, city  
11 controller, council requests copies of  
12 invoices and/or vouchers, unpaid receipts  
13 for audits of the Scranton Single Tax Office  
14 by McGrail, Merkel, Quinn and Associates for  
15 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005. Although the  
16 attempted audit in 2005 is reported to have  
17 been unsuccessful, was the firm paid for  
18 Mr. Marce's work? Please provide copies and  
19 any written responses on or about June 13,  
20 2008.

21 A letter to Mr. Greg Sunday,  
22 business administrator, Scranton School  
23 District. Council requests copies of  
24 invoices and/or vouchers and paid receipts  
25 for audits of the Scranton Single Tax Office



1 by McGrail, Merkel, Quinn and Associates for  
2 2002,3, 4, and 5. And please provide copies  
3 of any written responses on or before  
4 June 16, 2008.

5 A letter to McGrail, Merkel, Quinn  
6 and Associates, please provide copies of  
7 cancelled checks from the City of Scranton  
8 for audits and any work performed in  
9 relation to these audits of the Scranton  
10 Single Tax Office for 2002, 3, 4, and 5.  
11 Also, did your firm submit a proposal or a  
12 bid for this work? Please respond on or  
13 before June 16, 2008.

14 A letter to HR director, Mrs. Moran:  
15 Please provide the city's justification for  
16 the termination of the Health Care Cost  
17 Containment Committee. I understand that  
18 negotiations with the clerical union have  
19 been finalized and that this committee is  
20 not an issue for other municipal unions.

21 A letter to Mr. Seitzinger, in March  
22 2008, you sent a response to city council  
23 regarding a property at Luzerne Street and  
24 14th Avenue in which you indicated that the  
25 problems would be addressed. As of June 2,

1           2008, the garbage and recycle bin remain on  
2           the sidewalk 24/7. The former garage area  
3           is still littered with chunks of concrete  
4           and piles of dirt. This is the third  
5           request for action. Neighbors believe that  
6           the owner must have political connections  
7           since this mess has remained despite  
8           complaints, registered by three members  
9           council and residents of the area for  
10          approximately two years. Please provide a  
11          response on or before June 9, 2008.

12                    A letter to the board of directors  
13                    of Electric City TV, why does the name of  
14                    Chris Balton no longer appear on ECTV's  
15                    contact page?

16                    943-45 Providence Road, in-ground  
17                    pool remains uncovered and contains water  
18                    despite the fencing at this abandoned  
19                    property and the neighbors are concerned for  
20                    the safety of children.

21                    And, finally, in relation to  
22                    discussion that city council had last week  
23                    with regard to a piece of legislation on  
24                    which we were voting, specifically, a grant  
25                    for the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue, the

1 Moran family has responded to the statements  
2 that were made at last week's council  
3 meeting. I don't want to read this entire  
4 letter, it's quite lengthy, it is addressed  
5 to Attorney Minora and Mrs. Fanucci. It  
6 begins, "The original Coney Island and the  
7 entire Moran family are deeply concerned  
8 about the false, misleading and defamatory  
9 statements that you made at the May 27,  
10 2008, city council meeting.

11 We expect you to retract your  
12 respective comments and offer a public  
13 apology to correct the record at tonight's  
14 meeting which happens to be the two-month  
15 anniversary of the still unsolved arson.  
16 And it goes on explaining some of the  
17 statements made about opting out and the  
18 filing of an injunction and the Moran family  
19 states, "You know perfectly well that we  
20 never filed an injunction. The next time  
21 you state that we filed an injunction  
22 against the city or anyone that was  
23 dismissed by the Court produce the affidavit  
24 bearing our signatures filed with the  
25 request for relief, the index number and the

1 judge's order. They don't exist."

2 They do go onto address I think  
3 many, many of the misleading statements that  
4 were made about them. They are concerned  
5 about the eminent domain proceedings against  
6 Buona Pizza which is also located within the  
7 legislated project area, of course, they are  
8 concerned for themselves and they have many,  
9 many questions that have not surprisingly  
10 gone unanswered through the years because  
11 for many years, at least from when Mr. Moran  
12 and has told me, it was impossible to talk  
13 to Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Rinaldi remains  
14 secretive, although, we are going to meet  
15 with a representative obviously of the  
16 developer. I think it is important to know  
17 all sides of the story. It's not my side of  
18 the story, but Moran's side of the story  
19 and, you know, it might suggest that the  
20 newspaper look more closely into this and  
21 read the letter that was sent to council  
22 because I think -- I would have to agree  
23 with the Moran's there possibly are  
24 misleading statements being made at city  
25 council and they shouldn't have been, but

1 I'll leave that now to the Morans, I'll  
2 leave that to Mr. Rinaldi and I'll leave  
3 that to the Scranton Times, and that's it.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Fanucci.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Well, I'm going to pick  
6 up on that. I did receive a letter from the  
7 Morans asking me to retract my statements  
8 and I certainly will not be doing so. I  
9 will agree that there has been many  
10 misleading statements made from this podium,  
11 it was not by me, but I definitely will make  
12 and I'm going to make a motion tonight that  
13 in light of the fact that it's the two-month  
14 anniversary of the arson that took place for  
15 Coney Island that we send a letter, Kay, to  
16 the D.A.'s Office requesting that they take  
17 over the investigation of the arson so that  
18 maybe we can get some closure for this  
19 family on what happened with this arson, so  
20 I'd like to do that in the form of a motion,  
21 I'd also like to cc our director, Director  
22 Hayes as well as Chief Davis, and that they  
23 also join into recommend that the D.A.'s  
24 Office take this over and looks into in this  
25 arson for this family. And that's in the

1 form of a motion.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that.

3 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, I  
5 just, I wouldn't want my second to be  
6 misunderstood, and I don't think it's  
7 Mrs. Fanucci's intentions that the Scranton  
8 Fire Department can't handle it, I'm sure  
9 they could.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, God, no, of course.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm sure they could,  
12 just looking for a little bit more help  
13 maybe in the form of the manpower and maybe  
14 in the form of resources, so I wouldn't want  
15 to be misconstrued that we are saying that  
16 our department couldn't handle it, I'm sure  
17 they could, but we could all use a little  
18 help now and then.

19 MS. FANUCCI: I certainly did not  
20 mean to imply that, I hope I did not, but  
21 that's not my intention.

22 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the  
23 question? All those in favor? Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

2 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The eyes  
3 have it and so moved.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Also, in regards to the  
5 letter, I did receive asking me to change my  
6 statements and there was a lot of may I say  
7 alluding to the fact that my statements are  
8 not only inappropriate from this standpoint  
9 because also I work for the Governor's  
10 Office, as if I would have something to do  
11 with loans. I always said I wish I was as  
12 important as people give me the credit for  
13 being, but I'm certainly not. I wish I  
14 could give grants and loans out and do  
15 everything for the state, but unfortunately,  
16 the Governor does not think as highly of me  
17 as the Moran family does. So I had nothing  
18 to do with the decision to decide who gets  
19 the money on Lackawanna Avenue.

20 I do believe that these are issues  
21 that should not be discussed on a normal  
22 basis at Council chambers, I believe this is  
23 how we get into our problems. You know, the  
24 law is out there for reasons to take, you  
25 know, take over. I mean, if there is a

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1 problem you go to the Court and you settle  
2 it. Just like the eminent domain process,

3 just like anything that goes on in America.  
4 We have people out there suing council on a  
5 daily basis. Some of them have been made it  
6 into a permanent career, but that's what  
7 it's about, so, there is no need to come  
8 here waiving papers and discussing things  
9 constantly that already have taken on their  
10 own way which is the system, which is the  
11 Court system, and they are out there to help  
12 them and in the end if it works out I think  
13 it will be wonderful thing if they can prove  
14 what they need to prove and I will not be  
15 retracting any statements. That's all I  
16 have on that.

17 On the 11 million in borrowing.  
18 This definitely was not a big surprise to  
19 anyone who has read the budget. This was  
20 not a big, you know, windfall that all of a  
21 sudden the mayor came to us and said, "Oh, I  
22 need 11 million."

23 We knew this was coming up. We know  
24 we that we're floating a bond for  
25 \$5.5 million and at some point you got to

66

1 pay for the bond. Now, do I want to borrow  
2 the money? I certainly don't want to borrow



3 the money. I believe in light of what's  
4 going on in the tax office now as I had  
5 stated to Mrs. Franus before that I hope  
6 that we can sit down and come to some type  
7 of an arrangement where we do not have to  
8 borrow, and maybe the banks will see that we  
9 are hopefully getting some money or maybe  
10 the audit will show something more than we  
11 are expecting which I hope would be the  
12 fact, so I am going to sit down this week  
13 and try to dedicate as much time as I can to  
14 finding some alternate solution so we do not  
15 have to borrow.

16 If you think that that's an easy  
17 decision up here that is probably the  
18 hardest decision we have to make. At some  
19 point you have to, you know, decide whether  
20 or not we can borrow more money, I would  
21 rather not borrow money, so that is  
22 something that I would be committed to this  
23 week and hopefully deciding some great  
24 answer will come up and we'll figure out a  
25 way or maybe the bank will let us, I don't

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1 know, but I'm going to find out. I'm going  
2 to try and see what I can do it.

3 So, let's talk about the Stooze

4 comment, which I love, I would like to  
5 address my wonderful who believes they might  
6 be my colleague, Mr. Jackowitz, calling me  
7 Stoooge number one because I said that all  
8 jobs are welcome in the City of Scranton.  
9 You get up here and you discuss that we are  
10 very much unemployed in our city and yet  
11 it's a problem that I said all jobs are  
12 welcome, that we need minimum paying jobs,  
13 we need large paying jobs, we want them all.  
14 So, anyone out there who is contemplating on  
15 starting a business or coming to the city  
16 please do not be afraid if you feel your  
17 jobs are not up to certain people's par, we  
18 want everyone welcome here, come here and  
19 please employ everyone in our city, so that  
20 we aren't a statistic because, yes, some  
21 people need jobs that are not as high paying  
22 because they can't do jobs that are high  
23 paying. I, myself, wish that I could go out  
24 and get myself a job that's worth \$200,000 a  
25 year, I can't even with all of my wonderful

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1 connections, can you imagine that, but  
2 that's life and we welcome everyone here and  
3 the most successful cities in America and

4 all over the country there is a McDonald's s  
5 and there are wonderful companies employing  
6 people for the large amounts of money,  
7 that's what it's about. So I'm sorry that  
8 in the same token of the conversation you  
9 got a little off base by saying we don't  
10 want your jobs, but yet we have very  
11 unemployed.

12 And as far as being a stooge, the  
13 taxpayers make their own decision, they look  
14 around, they see what's going on. I don't  
15 believe that they need people getting up  
16 here week after week with very sad sarcastic  
17 motives telling them how to feel and what to  
18 think because, quite frankly, it's not  
19 really working out. It doesn't make me look  
20 bad it actually makes you look bad. And  
21 that is all I have.

22 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Courtright.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. As far as  
24 demolishing the properties, I understand  
25 that there is pros and cons and some people

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1 are for and some people are against, but my  
2 one concern remains the same and that is  
3 when the property is demolished sometimes,  
4 many times the city does not own the

5 property, they demolish for whatever reason,  
6 it's a health hazard or whatever the case  
7 may be, a danger, and that remains a concern  
8 of mine what becomes of the property after  
9 we demolish them and I think I believe I  
10 asked last week possibly Mr. Renda, not  
11 Mr. Renda, Mr. Seitzinger, give me an idea  
12 of what their game plan was in there, with  
13 that said, I got a call this week  
14 coincidentally, I mentioned there was an  
15 empty lot the city had tore down a building  
16 on the a corner of Jackson and Hyde Park  
17 Avenue, when the gas company I believe it  
18 was doing all of the streets throughout the  
19 city last year they dug it out they had to  
20 repave them on that empty lot they placed a  
21 great deal of gravel and they spread it out  
22 nice and evenly, every time it rains very  
23 hard al that gravel travels halfway down the  
24 block into about the 120-122 of South Hyde  
25 Park Avenue, the people just can't pick it

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1 up anymore, it's extremely, heavy, so if  
2 Mr. Seitzinger would take a look at that  
3 particular lot for me and see if there is  
4 something they can't do with that, I had

5 mentioned last week you can barely see the  
6 sidewalk anymore because the gravel has  
7 migrated out almost to the road and the one  
8 gentleman actually has buckets because he  
9 doesn't have a wheelbarrow, he has buckets  
10 of this gravel that he swept up from the  
11 front of his house and put in the backyard,  
12 it's too heavy for him to carry back up the  
13 street, it's over half a block. There was  
14 another gentleman that put it in a  
15 wheelbarrow and wheelbarrowed it back up the  
16 street, so I don't almost think that they  
17 need to be doing that.

18 The mission or the church or  
19 whatever that think we are calling that is  
20 down on Olive Street there, I got a letter  
21 about that today that I guess it's still in  
22 operation, it's still in full swing and not  
23 even people from the neighborhood that are  
24 sending me, passersby are upset that the  
25 people are hanging out in front of it now,

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1 so I hate to be a burden to Mr. Seitzinger,  
2 but I guess this falls under him again if he  
3 it can take a look at that and let us know  
4 what the status is on that.

5 And Meadow Avenue and River Street,

6 I guess this would go to Mr. Brazil, what's  
7 the status of that light up there if they  
8 could just update us on that. I know you  
9 are going to kill me, Kay, with all of these  
10 unanswered questions.

11 MS. GATELLI: I don't want to  
12 interrupt you, but I think that I was told  
13 they are not going to put a light there  
14 because they're putting it in --

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: They were going to  
16 put one lower, right. If he can clarify  
17 that for us because they are putting a light  
18 about a block down and I know everybody  
19 would look to see one at Meadow River, I  
20 guess it would be --

21 MS. GATELLI: And I think PennDOT  
22 did the study.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: If they could let us  
24 know, then I'll be happy to ask about it.  
25 And one last one, Kay, sorry about this,

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1 Greenridge Street and Wyoming Avenue there  
2 was -- I think it was the Greenridge  
3 Presbyterian Church, I don't know who owns  
4 it now, but it has been boarded up and the  
5 neighbors aren't happy with the way it's

6 being maintained if somebody could take a  
7 look at that.

8 I got a call from one of the Times  
9 reporters today asking me about something  
10 about the tax office and coincidentally they  
11 asked about something I was going to ask a  
12 question on myself tonight and this was  
13 monthly reports, I was asked did I know that  
14 the city was supposed to be receiving  
15 monthly reports from the tax office and I  
16 said I didn't know that when I had first got  
17 on council and I'm sure you will read it in  
18 paper, so I won't say the whole conversation  
19 that I had with him, but, anyway, could we  
20 find out I guess it would be from either  
21 Mrs. Novembrino or Mr. Renda, are we now  
22 getting monthly reports, I believe we have  
23 been getting them from the last couple of  
24 months from the tax office because their  
25 understanding --

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1 MS. GARVEY: We did get one report.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: We did get one?

3 Okay. I'm going to talk about this, and I  
4 really don't want to, but for me sometimes  
5 when I'm in Main Avenue or I'm in the post  
6 office or whatnot somebody will yell to me,

7 "Hey, did you get that's guy's scooter yet?"

8 You know, that's been the cry they  
9 have been giving me for a couple of years  
10 now about Mr. Stucker's scooter and then  
11 they would ask a lot of times about the  
12 money for cutting the mayor's hedges that we  
13 gave Jimmy a little money, now they are  
14 asking me when he is going to get the rest  
15 of the money, so much make a little  
16 humorous, but this isn't too humorous, the  
17 last week, I'll try to say this as  
18 diplomatically as possible, the last week  
19 when I would say hello to somebody or was at  
20 a local club that has a lunch the last  
21 Thursday of every month, say, hey, you  
22 didn't finish eating that, none of your  
23 business they are telling me. I say,  
24 "What's up?"

25 "None of your business."

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1 So the comment I'm getting from  
2 everybody from Burger King to the post  
3 office is none of your business, and some of  
4 the people are a little irate about it, they  
5 thought I was being insulted they thought I  
6 should have answered that strongly, they



7 have given me what they would said which I  
8 can't repeat here on the air, but the common  
9 thing from all of the people and it's  
10 continuing about this comment that it was  
11 none of my business what the interest was,  
12 and this is most of my -- I'm talking about  
13 school teachers, former school teachers,  
14 former principals, judges, just several  
15 different people said the same thing to me,  
16 you know, that's an insult for them to say  
17 that to elected officials, and I say, you  
18 know, I can handle that, we get insulted  
19 quite a bit, but I think the insult is to  
20 the people whose taxes flow through that  
21 office because they all say the same thing,  
22 it's not only your business, but it's our  
23 business, too, and I believe it is. So,  
24 maybe now you will stop saying to me it's  
25 none of my business when I talk to you, I'd

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1 rather you ask me about Mr. Stucker's  
2 scooter, all right, but I felt I had to say  
3 something because some people felt I should  
4 have said something at the time and maybe I  
5 should have, I don't know, but I was kind of  
6 taken back a little bit, so that's all I  
7 have. Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. I just have  
9 a few items, when I'm hearing about  
10 demolition and blight and people wanting  
11 houses to be rehabilitated, and you go to  
12 the neighborhoods and you talk to the people  
13 around that structure that's been abandoned  
14 for four or five years and obviously no one  
15 wants to buy it and no one is taking care of  
16 it and there is drug activity there, there  
17 is kids going in and having beer parties in  
18 there, there is rodents, you can go ask any  
19 of those neighbors if they want that house  
20 rehabilitated and I will guarantee you that  
21 they will say they want the house to come  
22 down. They don't want it rehabilitated,  
23 they don't want an apartment house  
24 rehabilitated because they will get an  
25 apartment with 40 people living in it that

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1 all say they are related to each other.

2 There is another theory in the  
3 neighborhoods about density and if you read  
4 neighborhood journals they will tell you  
5 that increased density of homes causes  
6 blight in neighborhoods. As you know, there  
7 aren't as many people living in Scranton as

8 there were many years ago so we do have an  
9 abundance of homes which one of the speakers  
10 comes here and says, you know, I think you  
11 just want to get rid of the homes, yeah, we  
12 do. That is one of our goals in South  
13 Scranton, in lower South Scranton, get rid  
14 of the density and make some green space.  
15 They don't want the houses one on top of  
16 each other three, four and five units in  
17 them, so that is the theory behind some of  
18 the demolition issues.

19 Yes, there are programs to  
20 rehabilitate homes. There are two beautiful  
21 homes that were rehabilitated on the 100  
22 block of Pittston Avenue that I would  
23 welcome anyone to go and see from Lackawanna  
24 Neighbors, they are fantastic. They are old  
25 homes that have been redone and they are

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1 magnificent. So, yes, we do rehabilitate  
2 some of the homes, but some of them that  
3 have been abandoned for four and five years  
4 go and ask those people and they want them  
5 torn down.

6 There is the issue about the grass,  
7 and I agree there that that, too, does  
8 become a problem, but many of them would

9                   rather the grass than the social pollution  
10                   that comes with some of these abandoned  
11                   homes. I suggest that as a council, if my  
12                   colleagues would agree, that we send a  
13                   letter to the magistrates in the city to  
14                   encourage them and we'll send a copy to  
15                   Mr. Seitzinger and Mr. Oleski to use  
16                   community service to cut some of these lots  
17                   in the summertime. We do that in South  
18                   Scranton, Magistrate Russell, and we just  
19                   had our recent meeting and we are going to  
20                   buy some lawnmowers and weedwhackers to give  
21                   to these people that have to do community  
22                   service and we do get quite a lot of them  
23                   cut down, so if you guys would agree --

24                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Can I just say one  
25                   thing?

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1                   MS. GATELLI: Sure.

2                   MR. COURTRIGHT: I think it was  
3                   Magistrate Kennedy and Magistrate Russell I  
4                   had spoken about this several years ago and  
5                   they are all for that program, the only  
6                   problem they have is that I guess the people  
7                   that are doing community service have to be  
8                   supervised, somebody has to say they were

9                   there "X" amount of hours, so they probably  
10                   would be looking for volunteers. I mean, I  
11                   would be willing to take my turn to  
12                   volunteer to supervise, maybe I'll even do  
13                   some work, but anyway, that's the problem.  
14                   All the magistrates are in favor of that,  
15                   but you need somebody to document that they  
16                   were there for "X" amount of hours and I  
17                   think it would be a great program.

18                   MS. EVANS: I think one other problem  
19                   though that maybe we can think about  
20                   addressing is that many of the homeowners  
21                   next to these now abandoned lots, and as you  
22                   said they are very happy to have the houses  
23                   torn down, they wanted it for a long time, I  
24                   have never heard a complaint in the  
25                   neighborhood about it, but they do complain

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1                   about what you just mentioned and often  
2                   times an adjacent homeowner wants to buy  
3                   that property because he or she is taking  
4                   care of that property anyway, they take care  
5                   of their own and they don't want an eyesore  
6                   right next to them, so they do it  
7                   voluntarily, and usually it's not a lot  
8                   that's going to be large enough for anyone  
9                   to build another home on, it's just a small

10 parcel of land that they would like to buy,  
11 but yet through the years time and time  
12 again I have had people approach me, I think  
13 you have to, Mr. Courtright --

14 MS. GATELLI: It's cumbersome.

15 MS. EVANS: Many people want to do  
16 that and yet for whatever the reasons it  
17 never -- well, I shouldn't say never, it  
18 very rarely ever happens for anyone, I think  
19 we should be actively trying to allow those  
20 neighbors to buy those pieces of property  
21 because they will take care of them.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, I agree there  
23 and they do go through the Vacant Property  
24 Review Committee for anyone that's  
25 interested in purchasing a property you can

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1 call OECD and they will put you in contact  
2 with the Vacant Property Review Committee  
3 and you can purchase the property through  
4 them. It does take several years which is  
5 frustrating.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Gatelli, I  
7 don't know maybe I will make this  
8 suggestion, maybe you already know, you  
9 worked there, as they are getting ready to

10 tear down these properties maybe OECD can  
11 get on top of it and find how you can get  
12 clear title because I think you right, the  
13 people -- I saw it happen on Watress Street  
14 where the people on either side bought half  
15 and they expanded their yards, so they know  
16 what properties they are going to be tearing  
17 down maybe they can start through the  
18 process of -- because, again, if the city  
19 tears it down that doesn't necessarily mean  
20 it's the city's lot. They have to take it,  
21 and that takes time, a lot of time, so maybe  
22 -- and they might be doing that already.

23 MS. GATELLI: Well, they do the  
24 Pittsburgh Plan. You know, I don't agree  
25 with the Pittsburgh plan.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: It's cumbersome.

2 MS. GATELLI: I don't know any other  
3 way to do. I know years ago we would have  
4 council neighborhood meetings we wanted to  
5 sell them all for a dollar, you know, just a  
6 quitclaim sale and sell them for a dollar,  
7 but there was some legality, you know, that  
8 we weren't allowed to do it for some reason.

9 MR. MINORA: The Pittsburgh plan.

10 MS. GATELLI: Well, we didn't want to

11 do the Pittsburgh plan because it takes too  
12 long.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, if anybody  
14 could expedite that it would be greatly  
15 appreciated.

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes. Absolutely. The  
17 next thing I wanted to talk about was the  
18 loan. I do know that it was in the budget  
19 that I voted to pass, however, I was hopeful  
20 at the time, and I did tell the mayor that I  
21 was not interested in borrowing anymore  
22 money. I did speak to him today. I told  
23 him about my feelings and he said that it is  
24 a last resort and they are looking for  
25 avenues to not borrow anymore money, so I am

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1 going to keep in contact with Mr. Renda and  
2 hopefully we will not have a necessity to  
3 borrow anymore money.

4 The pool, I think some of you  
5 mentioned a problem with the swimming pool,  
6 I had a problem with a pool, someone  
7 complained about a pool and I called Patty  
8 Jennings, the health inspector, and the very  
9 next day the pool was drained and taken care  
10 of, so if anyone has a problem with the



11 pool, with water that's stagnant and  
12 smelling you can call the Health Department  
13 in the city and, like I said, Patty took  
14 care of it immediately, and I would like to  
15 commend her for that. Bill likes to do that  
16 with employees now and then and she really  
17 did an excellent job, the next day the pool  
18 was drained. And she can be reached at  
19 348-4193 and then there is a menu and you  
20 would push for the health inspector.

21 As far as Channel 61, there will be  
22 a Channel 61, we will be on television. As  
23 you can see we are still on. So, you know,  
24 for the people that say we are not on we are  
25 on and we are going to remain on, you know,

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1 one way or another we will be on television,  
2 so I'd say not to worry about that. And  
3 that's all I have that are tonight.

4 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, I'm sorry,  
5 I just wanted to add though in this case  
6 with this particular pool they have already  
7 been in contact with that office and the  
8 city had been out there already, but the  
9 owner of this abandoned home apparently is  
10 ignoring what's been outlined by the city,  
11 so I'm just hoping the city then will go to

12 the next step.

13 MS. GATELLI: To the magistrates,  
14 yeah, and have to file a citation. Mrs.  
15 Garvey?

16 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. NO  
17 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SIXTH ORDER. NO  
18 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
19 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
20 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -  
21 RESOLUTION NO. 34, 2008 - AUTHORIZING THE  
22 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
23 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT  
24 WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF  
25 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR),

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1 BUREAU OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION IN  
2 ORDER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT OF \$50,000.00 FROM  
3 THE HERITAGE AND OTHER PARKS APPROPRIATION  
4 FOR SWIMMING POOL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY  
5 OF SCRANTON.

6 MS. GATELLI: What is the  
7 recommendation of the Chair on Community  
8 Development.

9 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
10 Committee on Community Development, I  
11 recommend final passage of Item 7-

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.  
13 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
14 call, please.  
15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.  
16 MS. EVANS: Yes.  
17 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.  
18 MS. GATELLI. Yes.  
19 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.  
20 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.  
21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.  
22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.  
24 (Mr. McGoff not present.)  
25 MS. GATELLI: I hereby declare Item

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1 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. Motion to  
2 adjourn.  
3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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