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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI. Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes, and prior to
15 Third Order we do have a proclamation to
16 read and to present and if the students
17 would please stand and we'll come around.

18 I would like to read the following
19 proclamation for the students of West
20 Scranton High School who were involved in
21 the initial phases of the smoking ban which
22 has now become part of Pennsylvania state
23 law. I would like to also acknowledge the
24 teachers, Mr. Tom Murray, and Mr. Jason
25 O' Hearn for their work with the students,

1 and promoting the civic action which I'm
2 sure will benefit not only the city and the
3 state but benefit the students for the rest
4 of their lives. Also, vice-principal
5 Bridget Frownfelter for her role in
6 encouraging the students to take on such a
7 worthy endeavor.

8 The Proclamation reads: "WHEREAS,
9 as the Council of the City of Scranton is
10 desirous of honoring "WEST SCRANTON HIGH
11 SCHOOL STUDENTS HECTOR GONZALEZ, MICHAEL
12 GENELLO, CHESTER WILLIAMS, KATHLEEN CADDEN,
13 BRIANNA SPINDLER, ALYSSA GATTO, AMY GILBERT,
14 JUSTINE TYRELL AND OLIVIA WALSH" in
15 recognition of their dedication and hard
16 work in their desire to ban smoking in the
17 City of Scranton; and

18 WHEREAS, the "WEST SCRANTON
19 STUDENTS" introduced to Scranton City
20 Council an extensive presentation about the
21 value of banning smoking in public gathering
22 places; and

23 WHEREAS, in their research contacted
24 officials in the Pennsylvania House of
25 Representatives as well as offices of the

1 mayors of New York City and Philadelphia in
2 an effort to study the health and economic
3 impact the smoking ban has on the citizens
4 of these cities in order to pass along
5 knowledgeable information to the citizens of
6 Scranton; and

7 WHEREAS, under the supervision of
8 their West Scranton Teachers, Mr. Jason
9 O'Hearn and Mr. Thomas Murray, this lesson
10 was meant to encourage student engagement in
11 government and show that well-researched and
12 presented arguments will be listened to by
13 the government.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
15 on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, Scranton
16 City Council wishes to congratulate the
17 "WEST SCRANTON STUDENTS," their teachers and
18 parents for their outstanding achievement.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
20 Proclamation be made a permanent part a
21 minutes of this council as lasting tribute
22 to Hector, Michael, Chester, Kathleen,
23 Brianna, Melissa, Amy, Justin and Olivia."

24 Congratulations, and there is also a
25 proclamation that will be for the school

2 COMPARISON REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE SINGLE
3 TAX OFFICE ON JULY 9, 2008.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
5 If not, received and filed.

6 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. TAX COLLECTION
7 COMPARISON REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE SINGLE
8 TAX OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2008.

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

11 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
12 VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
13 HELD ON JULY 20, 2008.

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

16 MS. GARVEY: 3-D. APPLICATIONS AND
17 DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING HEARING
18 BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2008.

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

21 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third
22 Order.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Prior to
24 citizens; participation, any announcements
25 from council?

1 MS. EVANS: A cancer benefit for

2 Beverly Koch, a young mother who is battling
3 lung cancer, will be conducted on Saturday,
4 September 20, at the E-Street Pub and
5 Eatery, 223 West Market Street in North
6 Scranton from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15
7 and available at the door. If you are
8 unable to attend, but are still interested
9 in making a donation, a benefit fund for
10 Beverly has been opened at Penn Security
11 Bank, 1901 Sanderson Avenue, Scranton.

12 Also, the Upper Hill Ecumenical
13 Committee comprised of the Myrtle Street
14 Methodist Church, Immaculate Conception
15 Church, and St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran
16 Church will be conducting events during the
17 remainder of 2008 to benefit St. Francis of
18 Assisi kitchen. Monthly friendly family fun
19 nights will be held at the Dunmore
20 Friendly's restaurant during the hours of 5
21 to 8 p.m. on the following dates:

22 September 24, October 15, and November 19.
23 Please keep in mind that the September 24
24 date you can make a difference in the lives
25 of others by dining out once each month and

9

1 encouraging others to do so as well.

2 MS. FANUCCI: I actually have one

3 thing to say, I know that we are very packed
4 here with our participants, but the fact
5 that the school board meeting is going on
6 right now and the amount of money that is
7 being spent out of the taxes from our
8 citizens and that they unfortunately had
9 scheduled the meeting for tonight, I just
10 wanted to make sure that everyone in the
11 audience was aware that that meeting is also
12 going on and with the amount of money that
13 you are paying, I would believe that you
14 would want to get there to voice your
15 opinion because I know how you are so strong
16 on how your money is being spent in the
17 city.

18 So I just wanted to make sure that
19 everyone here was aware that that was also
20 an option for tonight because I was a little
21 taken back and sad to see that that meeting
22 was also scheduled on the same night as ours
23 and we are talking about a lot, a lot of
24 money, so that is really all I wanted to say
25 to give people an opportunity.

10

1 MR. MCGOFF: Anybody anyone else?
2 Thank you. Citizens' participation. First

3 speaker, Harold Cameron.

4 MR. CAMERON: Good evening,
5 distinguished members of our council, and
6 good evening. I want to draw your reference
7 to an ordinance authorizing the mayor and
8 other appropriate city officials under 5-B I
9 guess you would call it to enter into
10 agreement with an organization known as
11 OCWEN Loan Servicing. I don't know too much
12 about this agreement, but what I do want you
13 to know is the Better Business Bureau has
14 rated OCWEN Financial as unsatisfactory.
15 Their business practices generated 523
16 complaints in the past 36 months and 188
17 complaints in the last 12 months, so the
18 Better Business Bureau says doing business
19 with them is a bad policy.

20 Then, ConsumerComplaintsBoard.com
21 has a number of the consumer complaints
22 lodged against OCWEN Loan Servicing and
23 OCWEN financial and then the
24 MortgageInsider.net, the gentleman that
25 writes this says that, "When I search for

11

1 complaints against OCWEN Loan Servicing I
2 found the worst complaints a mortgage
3 service can get levied against them."

4 A quick story, years ago, years ago,
5 and, of course, this is now 2008, but years
6 ago my dad had a loan and it was bought out
7 by OCWEN and he was making his payments on
8 time, and they kept saying, no, you are not
9 making your payments, the money didn't
10 appear, the branch manager actually called
11 their office and said, "I can certify that
12 the money was indeed sent."

13 They refused. They said, "No, the
14 money has never been received."

15 Ultimately, dad went to another bank
16 and the branch manager of that bank tried to
17 called OCWEN and I said, "I've got \$36,000
18 for you to pay this loan off."

19 They wouldn't accept it. His lawyer
20 called OCWEN Financial and said, "Listen, we
21 want to pay the loan off."

22 They wouldn't accept it. Finally.
23 The vice-president of People's Bank in
24 Nicholson, Pennsylvania, calls. They hung
25 up on him. This was years ago.

12

1 MS. FANUCCI: I just want to
2 interrupt you, I'm Sherry, I want to
3 interrupt for one second because I wanted

4 you to understand that we are not borrowing
5 money or doing business with them.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Okay? So, I didn't
8 know you want you to think that we were
9 entering into like a business agreement with
10 them.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

12 MS. FANUCCI: They are giving us the
13 money and at the end they will be giving us
14 the land, we will actually get the land so
15 it's not like we are, you know, into a
16 financial agreement with them. I just
17 wanted you to understand that.

18 MR. CAMERON: Just a one-time and
19 when it's done it's over -- .

20 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

21 MR. CAMERON: -- and when it's done
22 it's over and we have no further --

23 MS. FANUCCI: Exactly, so it's not
24 like we are in a financial agreement with
25 them.

13

1 MR. CAMERON: Okay, I just wanted you
2 to be aware if you were entering into
3 anything --

4 MS. FANUCCI: No, I think it's great

5 that you --

6 MR. CAMERON: Super.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you so much.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Cameron.
10 Les Spindler.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.
12 Les Spindler, Scranton resident and
13 homeowner. Last week I spoke about the
14 people burning wood in the backyard and,
15 Mrs. Gatelli, you said you thought that you
16 did something about this as a council?

17 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I'm going to
18 report on that in motions, I have some
19 information on that.

20 MR. SPINDLER: I know what you did
21 was you okayed for the purpose of heating
22 your houses that that's -- this wasn't back
23 in 2002.

24 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, I know, I'll
25 report on it, so I don't take up your time.

14

1 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, well, I don't
2 have a lot of stuff to say anyway. Let's
3 see, last week, Mrs. Fanucci, you commented
4 about the Connell building there is going to

5 be apartments and stores and this and that
6 and I'd like to know who is going to move
7 into these apartments because nobody is
8 moving into this city. In my area alone
9 where I live within maybe a three-block
10 radius of my house in the last five weeks
11 five different homes have gone on for sale.
12 That's one house a week that went up for
13 sale just within three blocks of my house.
14 There is nobody moving into this city, there
15 is people moving out, but not in. Maybe the
16 only people moving who are moving in are the
17 elderly and they'll be going into the
18 nursing homes.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Les, was this a
20 question?

21 MR. SPINDLER: No, it wasn't a
22 question, Mrs. Fanucci, it's just a comment.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, you are just
24 talking at me, okay?

25 MR. SPINDLER: The next thing, I hear

15

1 excuses from CDT, Chris Doherty TV, that the
2 reason the broadcasts aren't live is because
3 they don't have any money. Well, Scranton
4 Today worked on a shoestring budget that
5 carried the meetings live, the sound was

6 know how many times, but the line painting I
7 asked in front of the Steamtown Mall and on
8 the corner of Franklin and Spruce, I noticed
9 within the last two weeks brand new lines
10 have been painted in front of Prep High
11 School. Now, there seems to be lines
12 painted all over the city except in the
13 entrance to of the Steamtown Mall and the
14 corner of Franklin and Spruce. Why is this?
15 Can anyone answer me?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Les, the ones around
17 the schools was the joint effort between the
18 school district and the city. The city
19 supplied the materials, the school district
20 painted their own lines. But, I believe I
21 asked them, and I didn't get it in writing,
22 but I believe that the painting in front of
23 the mall is scheduled to be done. I
24 specifically asked them about that, and I
25 explained the problems and I thought it

17

1 would have been done by now, but I will
2 check and make sure.

3 MR. SPINDLER: It'd be nice because
4 I've only been asking for three years now.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll have an answer
6 for you next week.

7 MR. SPINDLER: And find about Spruce
8 where it meets Franklin.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Because there is a
11 dotted line down the center, but when you
12 come to the corner that was always three
13 lanes.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Spruce and Franklin;
15 right?

16 MR. SPINDLER: I have asked about
17 that, also.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right, got you.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: You are welcome.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.
22 Andy Sbaraglia.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
24 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians. I
25 know it's -- you just got a little

18

1 information on this project, but this 5-C,
2 you know, it's selling this and selling
3 that, selling this, selling that,
4 transferring this back, forget it. It's
5 long complicated, what does PEL say? Now, I
6 know originally they disapproved of it and

7 they certainly can't approve of it now
8 because they just did it twice. Now, I
9 would like to know what does PEL think of
10 all of these things before you go voting on
11 another transfer?

12 That's something you should check
13 with PEL on because they disapproved of it
14 before and certainly you can't approve of it
15 now. Let's go to, let's get into 7-F, I
16 guess, and "G". As you know, the city has
17 lined up loans and borrowing and grants, I
18 think it's all grants up to 29 million for
19 the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue. Do you
20 realize that with \$29 million we wouldn't
21 have to collect city real estate taxes in
22 the city for two years? That's two years
23 worth of taxes you just poured into
24 Lackawanna Avenue. Of course, it's not --
25 well, it's our money, but I'm willing to get

19

1 into all of the different places it came
2 from and basically it comes back to people
3 who are working.

4 MS. FANUCCI: But, you do know they
5 are not just going to give it to you just to
6 pay the taxes? I mean, that's not going to
7 happen.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't care. I'm
9 just telling you what it amounts to.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Well, right, but it's
11 comparing an apple and a grape.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: The reason why I'm
13 bringing it up at this time is because last
14 week in the middle of the week there was a
15 list of people houses that were going up for
16 sale.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Mine was one of them.
18 I sold mine.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: I know did, but I'm
20 not talking about your selling it, I'm
21 talking people that were being forced, okay,
22 by the bank, that was the reason, so --

23 MS. FANUCCI: Been there.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yes. We are in
25 trouble. This city is in trouble and you

20

1 are not helping it.

2 MS. GATELLI: Andy, the United States
3 is in trouble.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'm not referring to
5 the whole world, I can't change the world.

6 MS. GATELLI: And we need to --

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: That I can't do.

8 MS. GATELLI: We need to concentrate
9 on that, too.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: But I'm talking
11 about -- you have to start somewhere. When
12 you start a journey it's the first step
13 that's important. You don't see that.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Andy, I totally agree
15 with you on that, but what I'm saying is
16 \$29 million to say, I'm not taking it for
17 this, if we could put it towards taxes you
18 don't think we all would have done that? We
19 would do that in a heartbeat.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't think you
21 would have.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, come on, Andy.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: I really don't think
24 so. I really think you do what you do
25 because people are make being out on this

21

1 project.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Now, that is the --
3 first of all, it's absolutely wrong.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: When I asked you --

5 MS. FANUCCI: The people who are
6 putting the work hats on and going down
7 everyday to work, the union people who are
8 building those building, the people who live

9 there, the people who will be able to shop
10 downtown, the people who are putting the
11 windows in, the computers, the rugs, they
12 are the people who are making the money.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, no, no. First of
14 all, a lot of them union people you talk
15 about don't live in the city.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Oh --

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Don't tell me they
18 don't, I'm a union member and I was in the
19 building trades, I know how much money I
20 made and they told me I was crazy to live in
21 Scranton.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Wouldn't you have lucky
23 if you could have went downtown and went in
24 a project right in your backyard? That's
25 what it's about.

22

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: All of them projects
2 I went to was done with the developer's
3 money, not with public money. When the bank
4 went up, the Citizen's Bank went up in town
5 you think they went for grants?

6 MS. FANUCCI: You are saying we
7 shouldn't use public money? We should take
8 public money?

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'm not saying that.
10 I'm not just telling you what exactly that
11 amount of money would do.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Of course, it would,
13 but we are taking what's given to us. We
14 are taking it.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'm not here to argue
16 with you on this projects.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Well, you are saying
18 --

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, you are answering
20 me.

21 MS. FANUCCI: I am answering you.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: The only thing I
23 want from you is what does PEL say? That's
24 the answer that I want from you being that
25 your department and nothing else.

23

1 MS. FANUCCI: I'll look and find out
2 what PEL says.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, why didn't you
4 already know what PEL said being you
5 attended all the PEL meetings? You should
6 have known that.

7 MS. FANUCCI: I didn't attend a
8 meeting in the past -- this year actually,
9 since PEL because they are putting together

10 a new plan.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: You haven't been to
12 PEL since January?

13 MS. FANUCCI: No, this -- since we
14 have been back in session.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Oh, you are talking
16 about after the break.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: But before the
19 break, PEL must have told you what they
20 thought.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Actually, they did not
22 tell me what they thought about it.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, then how come
24 it was quoted in the paper?

25 MS. FANUCCI: Well, they told the

24

1 Times, they didn't tell me.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: They don't tell you
3 to much, do they?

4 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, no.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: But, obviously,
6 where you sit and where I sit is two
7 different things. I consider the people
8 more important than all of central city, I
9 always said that. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Donna Dolan.

11 MS. DOLAN: Good evening, Council.

12 Good evening, fellow citizens. I'm a
13 resident of Scranton, homeowner in the Plot
14 Section. I'd like to start out with giving
15 you a little bit of a story, it's about
16 skunks. Our dearly beloved little creatures
17 like to live in a radius of two miles of
18 water, the Lackawanna river. They reproduce
19 at the rate of five to six young per year
20 who stay with their mother for a year.

21 Now, they are all God's dear little
22 creatures, but they are sitting in my
23 backyard and they are walking down the
24 sidewalk and my dear little Cairn Terrier
25 would like nothing more than to go right

25

1 after them which, of course, I do not want
2 to deal with the consequences of being
3 sprayed, so as a result I cannot leave my
4 back porch when it's dark, and as the days
5 go on it's getting darker earlier and
6 earlier. Need I say what I'm dealing with
7 when I can't take her out, and it infuriates
8 me that \$300,000 has been spent on a dog
9 park that I can't use and I can't walk my
10 little dog in the backyard.

11 Now, I didn't come here tonight just
12 to complain without a possible solution, and
13 I realize with the problems facing Scranton
14 this is minor, but it is a quality of life
15 issue and it is a matter of Scranton Pride,
16 so I called to find out what could be done.
17 Well, skunks are not on the list of animals
18 to be taken care of. First I was told that
19 our inspector was not certified, I don't
20 know if that's true or not. So I took it
21 upon myself to call the mayor's office and I
22 asked what could be done, and I was told
23 that he you would need to do this yourself
24 because allegedly the city had been sued by
25 giving work -- by doing the rodent removal,

26

1 rather, taking work from other contractors
2 is basically what I was told. I said, well,
3 I said if that's the case, I said, would you
4 please ask the mayor to use some of
5 discretionary money to higher these
6 contractors so that the rodents, the skunks,
7 whatsoever can be removed. So, I was told
8 that this would be passed onto the mayor.
9 Now, that was only yesterday so I will give
10 him time.

11 My next thing that I would like to
12 propose is that city council would write a
13 letter to the mayor requesting that
14 contractors be hired to deal with this
15 problem, that would be for this time period.
16 Once they go into hibernation in December we
17 have until spring to do with them again.

18 The second thing I would request is
19 that you would put in the budget for '09
20 some money to deal with this problem because
21 it is not going away. It's only going to
22 get worse, and I promise you, I'm not going
23 away until they are gone. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Dolan.
25 Sam Patilla.

27

1 MR. PATILLA: Good evening, Mrs.
2 Evans, Mr. Courtright. A statement that I
3 read that Nelson made got me to wondering,
4 he commented on as a taxpayer, his tax
5 dollars being used by the city in
6 arbitration in Court cases against the
7 police, fire and clerical unions and his
8 membership dues in the union being used to
9 defend his position against the city. That
10 got me to thinking, you know, with the
11 failures of AIG, Lehman Brothers,

12 Countrywide and all of these other crooks on
13 Wall Street, you know, the billions and
14 billions of dollars that our government, our
15 fellow government is using to bail those
16 businesses out should be made available to
17 the average taxpayer, the middle class
18 working family or working poor, so that they
19 can pay of he principal amounts in their
20 mortgages and other debts owed to them
21 crooks, you know, they are in the same boat
22 as what Nelson spoke on. Now, not only are
23 they getting bailed out with taxpayers'
24 dollar, but the taxpayers still owe them
25 mortgages, so they also are still paying

28

1 that money.

2 Contact our legislators, tell them,
3 we want our money used to protect us, you
4 know, we need the trickle up effect not the
5 trickle down effect. We pay off our
6 mortgages, that provides us with liquidation
7 and ready cash that we can use and spend in
8 small businesses, small businesses grow,
9 that leads to expansion, expansion leads to
10 that money being sent or used by banks to
11 expand. So those that don't have or those

12 that are carrying the weight right now are
13 taken care of instead of bailing out the
14 crooks that are responsible for us being in
15 this position we are in any way.

16 Which leads me into another issue I
17 wants to comment on. A couple of weeks ago
18 my neighbor had rocks thrown at her because
19 she stepped outside of her home and asked a
20 couple of idiots to stop throwing rocks at
21 her pets, pets within the gate in their home
22 minding their own business. These idiots
23 come along, these little, itty bitty things,
24 and they are throwing rocks at them and she
25 asked them kindly to stop throwing rocks at

29

1 her pets and they start throwing them at her
2 and it just dawned on me that, you know,
3 maybe if this administration stopped trying
4 to blame the unions for all of the ails that
5 Doherty's borrowing has caused instead of
6 pounding the pavement seeking donations or
7 giving donations to coffee shops, beauty
8 parlors and unequipped television stations,
9 that money that should have been solicited
10 that would have provided for the additional
11 police, additional fire and the possibility
12 of providing them with the tools that they

13 need to keep us safe. You know, a few
14 months ago people were stating there is no
15 crime in Scranton, so as of lately, just
16 going by what I read on the Internet, the
17 attacks against our senior citizens are on
18 the rise, drugs are on the rise, arson is on
19 the rise, bank robberies are on the rise,
20 home invasions are on the rise, robberies
21 are on the rise. This isn't is time to
22 reduce our police our fire departments, it's
23 the time to dig in and give those guys and
24 gals what they need to keep you us safe.

25 You know, whatever you do, and I was

30

1 privy to hear a portion of the caucus that
2 was held earlier in regards to that balloon
3 payment due this December, refinancing is
4 borrowing. There is no and's, if's or but's
5 about it, all right, so you can't come to me
6 and tell me, well, if we don't make this
7 payment then the roof is going to cave in.
8 We are the United States in 2008, the roof
9 already caved in. All around us the roof
10 has caved in, and as Ms. Evans so eloquently
11 stated before, that loan should have never
12 been applied for a city that's distressed

13 anyway, and to further that the city of
14 Scranton should have never agreed to any
15 type of loan that carried an adjustable rate
16 with it, you know, anything that the city
17 does should be fixed and set out in stone.

18 We shouldn't have to bail out the Sewer
19 Authority. We shouldn't have to bail out of
20 the Housing Authority. We shouldn't have to
21 bail out any authority that doesn't report
22 directly to Scranton City Council. That's
23 between the office of the mayor. You know,
24 you are our last line of defense and we need
25 you to start doing your jobs. Thank you.

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1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Patilla.
2 Frank O'Connell.

3 MR. O'CONNELL: Good evening,
4 Council members. My name is Frank
5 O'Connell, 507 Quincy Avenue.
6 Mr. Courtright, maybe you can answer this?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure.

8 MR. O'CONNELL: It's about permit
9 parking, the signs are posted, the cops
10 come, they don't give them a ticket they put
11 a warning sign on and the warnings are
12 already there with the sign I asked them,
13 why didn't you give them tickets out, I have

14 to go down and get one and put it in my
15 windshield, and anybody that parks there
16 should have an up-to-date permit otherwise
17 you should get a ticket, that didn't happen.
18 I called at 12:30, as of 3:00 nobody came
19 up. They came a quarter to six and put a
20 red warning sticker on them, it's been going
21 on a long time and I'm just wondering why
22 the red sticker and not a regular ticket,
23 \$25 ticket.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know your
25 particular instance why the red ticket, but

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1 traditionally what they would do is if
2 somebody creates an infraction like that
3 they used to put a warning ticket on, if
4 they were to be called back to that same
5 instance then they would actually ticket
6 them. It's discretionary on the officer's
7 part. Where are you?

8 MR. O'CONNELL: I'm at 507 Quincy
9 Avenue.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Excuse me, five
11 what?

12 MR. O'CONNELL: 507 Quincy Avenue.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll call down

14 tomorrow and find out.

15 MR. QUINN: I'm just wondering
16 because I have a sticker on my windshield
17 that's good, but there is a lot of cars that
18 come and park there and they are going down
19 the University, I know that for a fact, and
20 they are not getting tickets and there was
21 nine of them there today, nine cars without
22 permits and not one of them got a ticket.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm guessing that
24 if nobody came until 6:00 they were tied up
25 on something that should be considered --

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1 MR. O'CONNELL: I called at 12:30.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Unfortunately,
3 sometimes they get busy. I think there was
4 a major incident that happened today, I'll
5 check into it.

6 MR. O'CONNELL: I'll let that go.
7 One more thing, the shootings up in the Hill
8 Section, I don't know if you know how many
9 we had in the last month, do they have
10 officers walking the beat up to a certain
11 time or because this is happening at one,
12 two o'clock in the morning.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: During -- there are
14 different intervals, they are not the same

15 time everyday. The problem is that they
16 don't -- there is not enough officers
17 volunteering for the overtime to staff every
18 beat.

19 MR. O'CONNELL: I understand.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: We as council
21 offered to give, you know, time and a half,
22 but not every officer -- they are not filing
23 every single beat because there is not
24 enough officers volunteering for that.

25 MR. O 'CONNELL: I'm just afraid

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1 somebody is going to seriously injured.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Believe me, I wish
3 we had officers 24/7 On every Street, that
4 would be -- for me that would be -- -

5 MR. O'CONNELL: It's scary, because
6 it's three houses away from where I live on
7 the right and up on Gibson there was another
8 shooting and the week before was on Quincy
9 and they were shooting University students,
10 that's who live in them two houses.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: My understanding is
12 that they tried to make sure that the Hill
13 is one of the sections if they don't have
14 enough officers to staff the entire areas,

15 that the Hill Section is one of the ones
16 that they staff first.

17 MR. O'CONNELL: Okay.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I know Captain
19 Graziano is the captain of patrol unit
20 officer.

21 MR. O'CONNELL: I didn't know if you
22 are aware there was three different --

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't want to say
24 there is more incidents than what you know.
25 They will say I'm trying to scare people.

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1 MR. O'CONNELL: All right. Thank you
2 for your time.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: You are welcome.
4 I'll check into that for you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.
6 O'Connell. Stephanie Gawel.

7 MS. GAWEL: Stephanie Gawel. Good
8 evening, Council. Could I ask Mr. Minora,
9 when you do expect to hear about the
10 decision on that you --

11 MR. MCGOFF: Please answer.

12 MS. GAWEL: Went and spoke to the
13 judge?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, we had our
15 argument last Thursday before Judge

16 Thompson. He said he would give us a prompt
17 decision.

18 MS. GAWEL: So, maybe another two
19 weeks?

20 MR. MINORA: You know, it's hard -- I
21 don't know his schedule. I don't know what
22 kind of briefing schedule he is on, if he
23 has got a lot of arguments that he has to
24 write opinions on. It's just something I
25 couldn't accurately guess at, I'm sorry.

36

1 MS. GAWEL: Okay, I'm just trying to
2 keep it fresh. Okay. Still struggling with
3 the arrogance of this mayor and it's
4 administration. Oh, before I get
5 sidetracked, did anybody find out whether we
6 had any other accounts with Fidelity besides
7 that one? Was anybody able to find out?

8 MS. FANUCCI: I put in a call and I
9 did not find out anything yet.

10 MS. GAWEL: Thank you. Because of
11 his arrogance he just won't negotiate with
12 these unions and, you know, the FOP and
13 stuff and he is not just, you know, he is
14 holding the safety of the city up. You
15 know, and I mean obviously you hear

16 everything that's going on that it's just
17 very unsafe out there, but, I mean, like the
18 widows haven't had a raise in seven years,
19 the retired people haven't had a raise in
20 seven years and everything keeps going up.
21 How are these people supposed to go on? I
22 mean, I have insurance at work, but my
23 co-pay on my medicines just went from \$25 to
24 50, and I work so I can get overtime. What
25 are these people supposed to do? We got to

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1 get to work in here. You know, like, he has
2 been writing letters about the flooding
3 situation back in Keyser Avenue, I mean,
4 it's just not water, it's sewer water going
5 into these people basements, that's a health
6 and safety issue. Nobody has gone. I
7 know -- I believe you went to one meeting
8 back at Keyser Avenue and I think you did,
9 but, I mean, as far as like anybody from the
10 city that really should have gone whether it
11 be the public safety director or DPW or
12 whoever is in charge of that stuff, nobody
13 has gone. They don't respond to the
14 letters, the mayor doesn't. I mean, you
15 know, we just want -- they just want some
16 help back there.

17 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Gawel, where is
18 their sewage?

19 MS. GAWEL: Back on Cameron Avenue
20 and Keyser, like, it comes across Keyser
21 Avenue.

22 MS. GATELLI: By Mr. Newcomb's
23 house?

24 MS. GAWEL: Yeah. We are talking
25 back in that that area.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Just for the record, a
2 new catch basin was put there.

3 MS. GAWEL: Yeah, but it didn't help.

4 MS. GATELLI: It's not helping
5 because the problem is on Keyser Avenue so
6 we are working with Frank Shimkus right now
7 to try and get some funding to put some
8 catch basins up on Keyser. They redid
9 Keyser Avenue and they never addressed the
10 storm water.

11 MS. GAWEL: Yeah, okay. All right.
12 Excellent.

13 MS. GATELLI: So we are trying with
14 that particular issue.

15 MS. GAWEL: Okay. Thank you very
16 much.

17 MS. EVANS: I might add though, that
18 flood work for Keyser Avenue was included in
19 the CDBG grant applications and that I
20 noticed that in the allocations that's a
21 project that was not included. So, yeah, I
22 would hope that city council is going to
23 examine that closely and make the proper
24 arrangements.

25 MS. GAWEL: I just want to address

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1 the citizens again and some of the
2 employees, I think they need to sit down and
3 put their thoughts down and come in and talk
4 to you people so that you are not looking at
5 the same people thinking we are all nuts
6 here driving you crazy with our issues,
7 because we don't want to be the same faces
8 and we want you to understand that there is
9 other people out there with the issues.

10 And I would like to address the
11 council. We like you live because that way
12 we know nobody has edited you, nobody is
13 misquoting you and there is actually times
14 when we agree with council and we are going,
15 all right, we've got to give them that one.
16 Like, I would like to go to the
17 commissioner's meetings, I can't, they are

18 during the day, I can't keep leaving work.
19 You know, why do we pick and you guys so
20 much? You are our service people. You are
21 the ones that look after our safety, our
22 health, and that sort of stuff. I didn't
23 even know the meeting for tonight for the
24 school taxes, I really didn't, but I still
25 would have been here talking to you because

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1 you are looking after my safety issues and
2 my issues, and we also, of course, don't
3 trust the Times to quote you guys honestly
4 either, so that's why we like you live.
5 Okay? Thank you and have a nice night.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Gawel.

7 MS. GATELLI: I think we should send
8 Mr. Washo a letter to have his meetings at
9 night where more people could attend.

10 MS. GAWEL: Well, according to him,
11 according to him he can't because he has his
12 people come in to answer questions where
13 we --

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So do we.

15 MS. GAWEL: That was the song and
16 dance I had seen someplace from him.

17 MS. EVANS: Our people come in.

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MR. MCGOFF: David Dobson.

MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council.

Dave Dobson, resident of Scranton. On 5-C I
can't figure that out. Apparently we keep
borrowing to pay back the old loan and I
understand that it's tough times, but we
really need to start to tighten the deficits
up and get rid of them because they are not

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helping anything and a lot of this public
money I had spoken before, I think it should
be looked into to start to try to build
industrial parks and so forth to get
businesses to move into the city. Our
neighbors up in Covington Township seem to
be doing quite well with that. They have
had a few setbacks up there and in spite of
the fact that it's actually -- there are
some negatives there because some of the
lakes and tourists areas have been affected
by this development. We have a lot of
Brownfields and I just attended a meeting
over in the Providence section with Bernie
McGurrel and they have a grant to start to
identify brownfields, but I think they
basically need the money to get the
riverwalk and stuff started and I feel

19 that's a pretty good idea. We do need green
20 space in the city, a city without green
21 space becomes unlivable. And so, therefore,
22 what I'd like to see someday is some
23 direction in that area taken where we start
24 to look into building industrial parks and
25 so forth instead of apartment houses or

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1 whatever. The renovations are already in
2 progress, but the only thing I could object
3 to is sometimes it just seems like it's more
4 and more and money, and I'll grant you this,
5 that for the last 26 years we have had a
6 corporate fair attitude out of Washington
7 and any time people are enjoying the crowd
8 or the mob, whichever you want to call it,
9 and start contacting the Congressman and so
10 forth. I contact them everyday, I have
11 letters from Kanjorski. Remember, Bill, I
12 give you an article on energy back around
13 election time, 70 percent of our crude would
14 have to be eaten up on biofuels or food
15 production, well, Mr. Kanjorski mailed me a
16 letter back on that. I gave him a little
17 speech for about a half hour the poor guy.

18 So some people think they are fooling

19 people and so forth by pushing biofuels, but
20 it's not a good idea, it's really not a good
21 idea in all cases. They just want to sound
22 like they have a solution, but they really
23 don't. If the solution was there it would
24 be already enacted, and I'm going to keep it
25 short tonight. Please, industrial

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1 facilities, look into and if we have to
2 lobby then we lobby, if you people could do
3 a pretty good job on the smoking ban and I
4 was pretty well-impressed with how
5 well-organized you were, so let's start
6 lobbying for something else now that we have
7 a smoking ban passed.

8 On 6-A, this has been a contentious
9 situation for quite awhile now with our
10 parks and swimming, we are getting back to
11 swimming. It's a grant for swimming pool
12 conservation and improvements, well, when we
13 pass this please, please start to consider
14 the kids from the Hill section. They need a
15 place to go to. If you put a ten-year-old
16 kid on a bus it would cost them \$3.00 just
17 to get across town to take advantage of free
18 swimming, so we really need to take care of
19 people up there, too, and hopefully someday

20 we will have free swimming.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobson.
22 Lee Morgan.

23 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
24 The first thing I have is the
25 Scranton/Lackawanna Taxpayers' and Citizens'

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1 Association is at the school board meeting
2 tonight. We are a multi-dimensional
3 organization and we are paying a lot of
4 attention to many issues that are being
5 propelled in this city and outside of this
6 city, but the one thing I think that we need
7 to first look at here is 5-C. I think that
8 this council should vote, no, and then let
9 whatever is going to happen happen. I think
10 we have borrowed enough money.

11 I think that the mayor said this
12 week that Scranton is the place you want to
13 come to if you want to make money. Well, if
14 you were one of the residents living in this
15 city you can't make enough money to pay your
16 bills and that's why everybody is living,
17 but I guess if you are a financial
18 institution and you are loaning the city
19 money, well, then the sky is the limit

20 because this city is so -- it's debt level
21 is so bad that it's unbelievable that there
22 is any residents left in this city.
23 Everybody who can is selling their house if
24 they can. I mean, it's pretty obvious, you
25 can see by the amount of "For Sale" signs in

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1 this city that if people are desperate to
2 get out of here. We have over a 18 month
3 supply of homes in this city for sale.
4 People can't get out of here. We have
5 numerous times elected council members who
6 said they weren't going to allow anymore
7 borrowing and the borrowing just continued
8 and continued and continued. There is no
9 money for anything, and I think that this
10 council is under the opinion that, you know,
11 it's just show up and get your check day as
12 far as I'm concerned. I mean, I have never
13 heard this council even say where the money
14 went to from the snow storm of 2007 on
15 Valentine's day. I have never heard THIS
16 council present who the contractors were who
17 earned all of that money. I must have
18 missed something.

19 I mean, you know, it's one thing to
20 sit here and propel and agenda, but it's

21 another thing to show leadership and now
22 that we have the presidential campaign in
23 full swing we have Mr. Obama and Mr. McCain
24 talking about how corrupt our government
25 is.

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1 Now, when you see what's happened to
2 access to council meetings and now they are
3 trying to say that, well, make the taxpayer
4 group won't be shown anymore. It's
5 absolutely ridiculous. How could we take a
6 public access channel off the air? I mean,
7 there is a good reason why in my opinion
8 Mr. Doherty started earning money for his
9 campaign in the next election, but to be
10 truthful with you no matter how much money
11 this man could raise he shouldn't serve
12 another term as mayor in this city because
13 this city's budget has become so bloated and
14 the sad part is, is that that council had an
15 opportunity to review all of the these
16 budgets and it just didn't work the way it
17 should have. There is no excuse for all of
18 the consultants, there is no excuse for
19 what's happened to our fire department and
20 our police department, it's just horrendous

21 what's happened to this city, and, I mean,
22 to sit there and just do nothing, and you
23 know what, I equate passing this loan
24 agreement as another case of doing nothing.

25 You know something, we are down there

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1 chasing Mr. McDowell with a subpoena, what
2 happens to the ones for all the authorities
3 in the City of Scranton? How much money
4 does the City of Scranton owe? Don't you
5 want to know?

6 The residents, they are trying to
7 get out of here the few that are here are
8 wondering how they are going to survive.
9 They have seniors that are wondering how
10 they are going to pay the heat bill. We
11 have young families starting in this city
12 that have come here from wherever they have
13 come from and they can't survive.

14 The majority of the school students
15 are on school lunch, 20 percent of the
16 people in this city are below the poverty
17 level and my question is, what has this
18 council done other than pass the mayor's
19 agenda? And every time a councilman
20 resigned the mayor picked his hand-picked
21 person and put him on this board through his

22 whole administration, and the last time he
23 gambled himself. And we can't rely on the
24 newspapers to tell what's going on here, we
25 rely on Channel 61. And then, Mrs. Gatelli,

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1 when you were president you decided with the
2 mayor that maybe we should remove these
3 cameras. And then we went further, then we
4 took Mr. Pilcheski into Court and anybody
5 who raises their voice again the mayor seems
6 to beget he treatment, and the problem is
7 that we have got enough treatment and what
8 we need now is leadership. We need somebody
9 to figure out how we are going to salvage
10 this city or do what I said a long time ago,
11 file bankruptcy. The residents can't pay
12 anymore, they are broke. Nobody is bringing
13 jobs here. We have handed money to all of
14 the special interests you can find. Look at
15 the mayor's political contributor's list and
16 look at all of the people that are connected
17 in the city, they are living well, but the
18 ordinary everyday citizen have nothing to
19 look forward to except debt and death.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.

22 Jim.

23 MR. STUCKER: I live on Adams Avenue
24 now, I moved from Providence Square and I
25 feel a lot better, and it's a lot better up

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1 there. I have my own -- they have a stove
2 and refrigerator and everything for me.
3 Now, over by where I live on Mulberry Street
4 by the soup kitchen there we need a light
5 there, the light is out. I mean, it don't
6 -- the light is yellow and turns -- it's
7 supposed to green and it don't, and John
8 Doherty, he owes me money yet, not Mayor
9 Doherty, John Doherty, and I moved out of
10 his building. There is no -- there is
11 nothing, no shower or nothing in it, and
12 everybody told me, come to city council and
13 bring it up, there is only a sink and a
14 toilet in the apartment, everybody else has
15 except me.

16 Right around the corner, same
17 building, there is mildew in the building, a
18 lot of mildew in the building, a lot of
19 mildew in the building.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Can you leave your
21 address with Neil, please?

22 MR. STUCKER: I don't live at

23 Providence Square anymore.

24 MS. FANUCCI: There is where you used
25 to live?

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1 MR. STUCKER: Yes.

2 MS. FANUCCI: That's okay, still
3 would you leave that address with Neil?

4 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. 219 that's
5 where -- 219, that's where I live, 219
6 Market, 219 Market Street. And, Andy, I did
7 a round in his building with the
8 weedwhacker, my own weedwhacker, I cut the
9 weeds and he never paid me. He owes me \$20
10 bucks, he never paid the bill. There are
11 people that owe me money and they don't want
12 to give it up.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Who is this now,
14 Jim?

15 MR. STUCKER: Andy, the guy's name is
16 Andy.

17 MS. FANUCCI: You got to start
18 getting your money up front before the job.

19 MR. STUCKER: Well, he told me he
20 would pay me and he never gave me --

21 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah, you got to start
22 saying, "I'll see the cash then I'll do your

23 lawn." We have been down this road; right?

24 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Yeah. So, I
25 hope you can do something about it, you

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1 know. Let me see, what else. I think
2 that's it. Just that light by the soup
3 kitchen, that's all.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thanks, Jim, and good
5 luck in your new home.

6 MR. STUCKER: All right. Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Mr. Davis.

8 MR. DAVIS: Saalam aleikum. There is
9 two reasons for coming here, one of which to
10 have your problems aired and perhaps thought
11 about and talked about and perhaps chang the
12 conditions. I keep coming here and talking
13 about a condition that everybody tells me,
14 Jim, they are not going to change it. It's
15 an impossibility, the homes are already
16 gone, the community is already gone. You
17 have eradicated a community that was really
18 well-formed, and for many years it was
19 well-formed. We had a church, the Vine
20 Street Baptist Church that had been formed
21 back in the early 1900's and it was wiped
22 out with all of the it's community. After
23 one --from one parishioner to the next to

24 the next and then all of the properties was
25 gone. Mrs. Gatelli, you are part of that

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1 action. You were there and you saw it
2 happen so, therefore, I can still blame the
3 people here for what has happened to our
4 community.

5 Now, you are living in a place in
6 South Side where fires are popping up
7 everyday, do you think a firemen is going to
8 help you as much as he would help somebody
9 else after the way you have treated them as
10 far as their whole thing of, you know,
11 getting proper retribution from the
12 government is concerned? I don't think so.
13 I just don't think so. If I were a firemen
14 and I was asked to go to your house because
15 of a fire I would be kind of slow.

16 MS. EVANS: Mr. Davis, if I might --

17 MS. GATELLI: That's inappropriate.
18 I have had fire alarms at my house and they
19 are there in 30 seconds.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Davis, I think all
21 you're doing is insulting the firemen, quite
22 frankly, who take their job very seriously
23 and do their jobs.

24 MS. GATELLI: They would never do
25 that.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: I don't think you
2 insulting Mrs. Gatelli, I think you have
3 insulted now the fire department.

4 MR. DAVIS: What this city council
5 has done to our community is bigger than an
6 insult. I think it's time for you to be
7 insulted back, and I'm insulting you,
8 because I don't think you deserve the
9 services of this city after the way you have
10 treated the firemen and the policemen. You
11 just don't deserve it.

12 MS. GATELLI: I think everyone up
13 here supports the police and firemen.

14 MR. DAVIS: It doesn't look like, it
15 doesn't act like it.

16 MS. GATELLI: Well, I don't what else
17 we can do.

18 MR. DAVIS: I mean, maybe you ought
19 to sit out here --

20 MS. GATELLI: I have met with the
21 fire and police.

22 MR. DAVIS: May you ought to resign
23 so you could sit out here.

24 MS. GATELLI: If we could sign a

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contract tonight we would sign it.

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MR. DAVIS: Seriously. Maybe you

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should resign your position and sit out here

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and listen to what we hear. What we hear --

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MS. GATELLI: No, I think you should

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listen to what we're saying, Mr. Davis.

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MR. DAVIS: Well, I'm telling you

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the firemen --

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MS. GATELLI: We all support the

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firemen and the policemen.

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MR. DAVIS: --I talked to --

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MS. GATELLI: And that's the unfair

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for you to say that we don't.

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MR. DAVIS: They say it's your

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faults.

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MS. GATELLI: That's not true.

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MS. FANUCCI: How is it possible it's

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our fault?

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MS. GATELLI: We voted to have the

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policemen meet on behalf of the --

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MR. DAVIS: Because the contracts are

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in your hands.

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MS. FANUCCI: The contracts are in

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our hands?

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MS. GATELLI: That's not helping

1 MS. FANUCCI: That's actually very
2 inaccurate. The contracts are not in our
3 hands. If the contracts were in our hands,
4 I believe they would be finished a long time
5 ago. So, what you are saying is very
6 inaccurate, and I'm sure that we can get any
7 fireman or policeman to verify that the
8 contracts are not our hands.

9 MR. DAVIS: Is there any firemen
10 here? No. Okay, I'll try and find someone.

11 MS. FANUCCI: I think you should.

12 MR. DAVIS: I'm going to and find
13 someone --

14 MS. FANUCCI: I think that's a great
15 idea. Ask them if city council has let them
16 down in not fulfilling their contracts.

17 MR. DAVIS: Because I know of several
18 people who have come here and complained to
19 you.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Complaining is one
21 thing, but accurate information is another.

22 MR. DAVIS: You're right. It's like
23 having a wife that doesn't listen.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Exactly. Exactly.

25 MR. DAVIS: Please. Please. We are

1 not that dumb. We really aren't. Sometimes
2 you may think that we are. You may think
3 that we don't have the ability to listen to
4 you, but we do listen to you and we go home
5 and we listen to the tapes of what you said
6 and we know what you are saying. These
7 people when they come here to complain to
8 you have their acts together because this is
9 a tough crowd to please. You are not -- I
10 could say that you are not being truthful,
11 you are not being that truthful to all of us
12 at all times. I know you are trying to and
13 - but, you know, truth is a strange animal,
14 it really is, and it's really a gamble when
15 someone tells me I'm not telling the truth,
16 but you know what? We see the results of
17 your words. We see the results of your acts
18 and your deeds and we don't like it and it's
19 not -- hey --

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

21 MR. DAVIS: It's all we have. It's
22 all we have to worry about.

23 MS. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council.
24 Liz Hubbard, Scranton resident and taxpayer,
25 skunk hater. Anyway, I really wasn't going

1 to speak tonight, but it just occurred to me
2 today is the anniversary of the '04 flood
3 and we are still sitting in a disaster in
4 lower Greenridge with no siren, no bank, no
5 levy, although, they are started to make
6 some progress in the 1600-block of Nay Aug,
7 they are tearing that building down.
8 Anyway, you are going to get ahold of Mr.
9 Shimkus and talk to him about money for this
10 flood, whatever you were talking about, why
11 don't you try to get ahold of Mr. Shimkus
12 and Mr. Smith and see if they can't get some
13 kind of a grant to clean the skunks out of
14 the city.

15 I called Senator Mellow's office the
16 other day, that was a trip, he said that's
17 the game commission. I said, yeah, I know
18 they told me that I have to hire somebody.
19 Well, because -- and I said to him that the
20 skunks are not only in Scranton they are up
21 the whole valley, he said he lives in
22 Archbald and he has them, too, but that lady
23 that was here tonight with that, you know,
24 if mommy skunk has five babies there's five
25 more mommies and daddies for next year and

1 it's disgusting, it really is.

2 And I just have a question, we have
3 the 500 of Lackawanna Avenue, we have the
4 Connell building, can anyone up there tell
5 me the last time that there was anything of
6 any consequence built in this city without
7 public funds where a private developer built
8 something without tax dollars with like
9 using his own money? Can anybody think of
10 anything?

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think that guy at
12 Good Fellows didn't use any -- he didn't use
13 any city money; right?

14 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

15 MS. HUBBARD: Where about?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Good Fellows on
17 Mulberry Street.

18 MS. HUBBARD: Yeah, but I'm talking
19 about major projects.

20 MS. GATELLI: How about the nursing
21 home in Minooka? They didn't have any
22 funding.

23 MS. HUBBARD: The what?

24 MS. GATELLI: The nursing home that's
25 in Minooka.

1 MS. EVANS: Maybe the Oppenheim
2 building.

3 MS. HUBBARD: The Connell building
4 they want to make loft apartments, I don't
5 know who is going to live in them, but they
6 want to do this and they are going to make
7 the money, but yet our money has to go to
8 building or redoing. I mean, it's getting
9 ridiculous, it really is getting outrageous
10 and we just keep electing the same people to
11 do the same thing, and it doesn't matter
12 what political party you are, it's all the
13 same, public money for everything. They
14 forget that they pay public money, too, in
15 the way of taxes. Anyway, have a nice
16 evening, and please do something about the
17 skunks.

18 MS. GATELLI: I know, we have to.

19 MS. HUBBARD: The two and the
20 four-legged kind.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Hubbard.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South
23 Scranton resident. First of all, Mrs.
24 Fanucci left, but she brought up about the
25 school board meeting. The Scranton/

1 Lackawanna County Taxpayers' Association is
2 at that meeting and will be representing the
3 citizens of Scranton as best we can.

4 Also, in regards to the
5 Commissioner's meeting, the
6 Scranton/Lackawanna Taxpayers' Association
7 is well ahead of the city council because we
8 have sent letters to Corey O'Brien and Mike
9 Washo months ago and received responses from
10 them and basically their response was, the
11 meeting will continue at 10:00 because
12 that's their normal hours of operation and
13 they have to have their staff members
14 available for the meeting. We even
15 suggested that they have one meeting a month
16 at night or they have one meeting every six
17 months at night and, again, we got the same
18 answer, we don't have that problem in the
19 city because the mayor never shows up at the
20 meeting and he never sends any of his
21 representative here, plus four of the people
22 on city council have day jobs, so that's why
23 the meetings stay at 7:00.

24 As far as skunks, I encounter two
25 skunks every morning, Monday through

1 Saturday at 6 a.m. when I go to work, and I
2 walk from my front to my back to get into my
3 vehicle. One of these days who knows, if it
4 happens you will be one of the first to know
5 about it. But, anyway, the skunk problem is
6 terrible, you can't go into an area in this
7 city without smelling skunks, seeing skunk,
8 people are afraid to go out in their back
9 yards, front yards, go for walks, whatever.

10 The primary responsibility of any
11 elected official, whether it be a mayor,
12 whether it be a city council man or whether
13 it be a tax collector, it doesn't matter, an
14 elected official's primary responsibility is
15 to provide for the safety and the protection
16 of it's people, the people who elected them.
17 That is not being done. You may laugh about
18 skunks and we may think it's funny, but it's
19 not. It's a serious problem. Skunks spread
20 rabies quicker than dogs do and if anyone
21 has ever been sprayed by a skunk it's not
22 going to be a very pleasant thing. This
23 problem needs to be resolved. I agree
24 Representative Shimkus, Representative Smith
25 should be contacted, city council should

1 have done this a long time ago because Mrs.
2 Hubbard has been talking about this.

3 Last week we were told, I was told
4 how hard you people work. We bring problems
5 to you as residents but we never see
6 results. Never. It's either forgotten
7 about, you know, I have over 40 questions
8 that I have asked city council in the last
9 two years that I have not received answers
10 for. I have sent e-mails, I get a
11 one-sentence answer to an e-mail. Now, how
12 much research and time was put into that? I
13 mean, seriously.

14 Now, speaking of e-mails, today I
15 was on the Scranton.pa.gov website and I
16 happened to go onto the OECD. Now, this is
17 an official government website from the City
18 of Scranton and I hit the consolidated plan.
19 And I quote, this is right on the government
20 website OECD, and I quote, "The median
21 family income in Scranton is \$39,233 which
22 is 21.6 less than the national median family
23 income of \$50,046. The per capita income in
24 the city is \$16,174 which is 25.1 less than
25 the national per capita income."

1 This is a right on our website

2 advertising our city, and we are telling
3 everybody don't come to Scranton because you
4 are not going to make any money. But I got
5 to give them credit because they are being
6 honest and being truthful. The good part
7 about all of this is that the date on this,
8 2004, four years ago on the Scranton.pa.gov
9 website OECD.

10 We all know the situation has gotten
11 worse in this town, so, please, please, I
12 beg you, do not pass any tax increases, do
13 not approve anymore borrowing until you can
14 resolve the problems within the city and
15 that includes the skunks. We need to do
16 something for the citizens, the police
17 officers, the fire department, safety. The
18 primary responsibility of any elected
19 official is to provide for the safety of
20 their citizens. You are not doing it. You
21 are allowing this mayor to walk all over
22 you. If I was on city council, if I had to
23 sit on the mayor's front porch I would sit
24 on his front porch for a week and a half if
25 I had to. Do something for the citizens for

1 once. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Tank you, Mr. Jackowitz.

3 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.

4 Nancy Krake. I have an article here that
5 was in September 13th Pittsburgh Trib
6 Review, the title is "Big Mess. How Many
7 Others?" "Big problems about the
8 questionable finances of the Beaver
9 Initiative Growth, better known as BIG
10 suggested bigger problems with the State
11 Department of Community and Economic
12 Development."

13 These are the folks that sent the
14 Pennsylvania Economy League here and
15 allegedly oversee them. "The DCED doesn't
16 know what exactly happened to millions of
17 dollars in state grants that went to the
18 scandalous guard at Beaver County Nonprofit
19 BIG. Essentially, this was a dubious
20 two-man enterprise cooked up by Democrats
21 Mike Veon, the disgraced former house whip
22 charged with theft, conflict of interest and
23 criminal conspiracy, and State Senator
24 Gerald McGowan. Mr. Veon, who bragged about
25 the funding money to BIG is accused of

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1 directing a multi-million dollar

2 collaboration at the taxpayers' expense.

3 While there are some records about
4 failed projects, thanks to extensions
5 granted by the DCED," which all of this
6 should read extremely familiar with council,
7 "the state still doesn't have a full
8 accounting. Some of the audits for these
9 projects were due two years ago. How could
10 this have gone on for years without proper
11 state supervision?"

12 It seems awfully familiar. An
13 agency spokesman says, "The information is
14 expected soon, reassured the Department of
15 Community and Economic Development long has
16 been a bad joke. It has dolled out millions
17 of public dollars with little or no
18 accountability and too often has served as a
19 perverted gate keeper in providing funding
20 that government, not the marketplace deems
21 worthy."

22 I believe this was Mr. Sbaraglia's
23 point earlier. If BIG is the rule rather
24 than the exception, and the public should
25 expect as much, how many other state funding

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1 recipients are misusing, misplacing or
2 simply stealing taxpayer dollars? It's

3 clear that this is happening in Scranton.
4 The State Department of Community and
5 Economic Development through the
6 Pennsylvania Economy League has allowed this
7 man and his administration to make financial
8 choices whose consequences the citizens of
9 this city will be paying for a long time to
10 come.

11 For example, three persons of this
12 council have voted to raise your taxes
13 27 percent, Mrs. Gatelli, Mrs. Fanucci,
14 Mr. McGoff. For borrowing it costs
15 \$16 million each year even before any money
16 can be appropriated we have to start the tab
17 running. This city owes \$16 million in debt
18 payments on long-term borrowing every single
19 year January 1. You are about to make that
20 larger, I suspect.

21 Also, for approving budgets that
22 have ballooned 30 million since this mayor
23 took office versus the \$4 million that Mayor
24 Connors was allowed to raise his budget
25 under the same Pennsylvania economy

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1 guidelines. That's fascinating. I have a
2 question, will the people of Scranton hold
3 accountable the persons responsible for the

4 financial choices that have been made, Mrs.
5 Gatelli, Mrs. Fanucci and Mr. McGoff. It
6 has not been the police and fire department
7 or any of the worker for that matter, in
8 fact, police and fire have had little impact
9 on the budget rise except for the rise in
10 their chief salaries.

11 And, by the way, Mrs. Fanucci, I
12 don't believe the question is why aren't we
13 at that meeting of the school district, it's
14 why didn't the school district and the
15 county declare distress?

16 And I also believe that that nursing
17 home was KOZ, although, I'm not sure. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.

20 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.
21 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer. I
22 also wasn't going to speak tonight until I
23 went on the Times website and I saw
24 "Scranton City Council to vote for the
25 refinancing 5.5 million."

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1 Up to that point I didn't know it
2 was on the agenda, I hadn't read it. Now I
3 see it's 5-C, but it's 6.1 million instead

4 of 5.5. In that Times-Tribune, Scranton
5 City Council will vote on refinancing
6 5.5 million, "As city council be asked
7 tonight to approve the refinancing of
8 \$5.5 million loan that was taken out three
9 years ago to cover budget expenses."

10 That is the year that the money
11 started being accumulated and the hidden
12 12.2 million in the plus Scranton Tax Office
13 account. Then it goes back, "The original
14 deadline to repay the bond was December 15,
15 but Mayor Chris Doherty's administration
16 will seek legislation to stretch the payment
17 plan over the next 17 years."

18 Mr. McGoff, the budget isn't
19 supposed to be presented to council until
20 November 15. I predict a multi-million
21 dollar loan for that budget, but I see you
22 are getting a head start on borrowing.

23 Back to the article, "Business
24 administrator, Stu Renda, says he expects
25 the usual outspoken criticism pointed at the

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1 debt Mr. Doherty has accrued, but Mr. Renda
2 said that the political differences aside,
3 this is different than debating whether to
4 borrow more money. This is a loan that's

5 already owed and not refinancing could cause
6 the city to default."

7 Why is it still owed? Why wasn't it
8 budget in the three succeeding years? Three
9 preceding years, I'm sorry. If that 12
10 million two plus wasn't in that unknown
11 account we wouldn't need to borrow any
12 money. There is no way that -- the article,
13 "There is no way Mr. Renda said that
14 Scranton has the ability to repay it now.
15 We barely have money to pay our bills.

16 Mr. Renda and Ray Lowry of PNC
17 Bank are meeting with Council for early
18 caucus at 5:45 p.m. to discuss the
19 refinancing which would need another two
20 readings if the legislation advances. With
21 interest, the city owes 5.8 million. The
22 ordinance for refinancing sets a maximum
23 principle amount of 6.1 million."

24 Maybe if Mr. Renda didn't get a
25 \$46,000 increase since he started working

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1 for the city we would have some money to pay
2 some of the bills. Don't forget, we have
3 \$350 million long-term debt. Also,
4 \$15 million in raises and new hires since

5 Mr. Doherty took office.

6 Back to the article, "The new
7 repayment plan also comes with costs from
8 marketing fees and an annual letter of
9 credit which acts as bond insurance, almost
10 an additional two million over the 17 years.
11 Seventeen years. What will the final
12 payment, final total payback be, almost
13 triple the loan?

14 Last week we are talking about the
15 UDAG grants. If there is no accountable for
16 UDAG grants does that mean the city can go
17 out and have a nice big party and just say,
18 "No council approval," and we could go out
19 and we could have a nice big party, I guess
20 that's what that means.

21 What happened at the earlier caucus,
22 I know in motions maybe somebody could cover
23 that, I didn't know about that until I read
24 this, and maybe the city wouldn't be in such
25 a mess if we didn't put on a millionaire

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1 front with a hobo hind end. Thank you.

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

4 MS. GATELLI: Chrissy, no hat for me?

5 MR. SLEDENZSKI: No hat, Jude. Well,

6 Janet, what do you think of me coming here
7 to Scranton? I'm over with you guys now,
8 right, Janet?

9 MS. EVANS: Way to go, Chris. Let's
10 take it all the way.

11 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Billy, I'm sorry
12 what I said about you the other night. I'm
13 sorry I said that about you and I'm sorry
14 about what happened, all right?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: No problem.

16 MR. SLEDENZSKI: What do you think,
17 Jude, West Side (inaudible) back to
18 Scranton. That's where I'm going to stay.
19 Baby.

20 MS. GATELLI: Maybe I'll have to
21 follow you over there, Chrissy.

22 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Yeah, follow me
23 over.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Any other speakers?
25 Thank you. Mrs. Evans.

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1 MS. EVANS: Good evening. On
2 tonight's council agenda legislation to
3 borrow 6.11 million in 2008 appears. This
4 comes as no surprise since the mayor has
5 borrowed consecutively each year since 2003

6 when he initiated the Doherty debt with 74
7 million in borrowing. Including the 2004,
8 2006, and new 2008 lease revenue bonds, the
9 city will owe a total of 20.1 million
10 dollars for the DPW, which incidentally, is
11 owned by the Sewer Authority.

12 In 2001, the final year of the
13 Connor's administration, the operating
14 budget was \$55,790. \$2.9 million in surplus
15 was gifted to the new mayor. In 2002, when
16 Mr. Doherty first took office, the city
17 budget increased to \$57,497. Today, 2008,
18 the city budget has ballooned to
19 \$84,558,000, an increase of over 27 million
20 in seven years. And, remember, the police
21 and firefighters, big ticket items have
22 never received a pay increase. They remain
23 the same as they were in 2002. At the same
24 time, one out of every five Scrantonians
25 lives in poverty and well over half of our

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1 children receive free or reduced price
2 lunches at school.

3 The 2002 long-term debt was
4 palatable compared to the over one quarter
5 billion dollars and growing principal and
6 interest we see today in 2008. Have costs

7 increased? Absolutely, yes, for every local
8 government and for each of us as well. The
9 necessities of life grow more expensive each
10 year and sometimes every month.

11 Each year since 2004 I have warned
12 Mr. Doherty and council about his borrowing
13 and spending habits, urging cuts and cost
14 saving measures without decreasing public
15 services. Particularly, in our recent
16 economy, companies across our nation and in
17 our city as well have cut their budget to
18 offset rising costs. They are scaling back
19 on expenses by trimming capital spending,
20 reducing jobs and slashing travel budgets.
21 They are digging deep to find savings.

22 Unfortunately, Mr. Doherty doesn't see
23 fit to do the same. He promised to run this
24 city like a business and as CEO he and his
25 board of directors have reaped the profits

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1 while we as shareholders have been handed
2 the bills. Rather than cutting and digging
3 deep to create savings, the mayor comes
4 before you with his hand out once again.
5 The citizens are buried in Doherty debt,
6 yet, Mr. Doherty is looking for \$6.1 million

7 more.

8 Some may call this refinancing, but
9 when the mayor continues to borrow to pay
10 off borrowing and he is basing borrowing on
11 warm and fuzzy comfort levels and visions
12 and hopes shared with banks you might be
13 better served to call these interminable
14 agreements insane. Most of us have had
15 enough of his BS, borrow and spend policies.

16 On a brighter note, I am pleased to
17 learn that Merrill Lynch, as far as we know,
18 will return to Scranton and take up
19 residence in the long vacant Southern Union
20 building in October. I am happy that this
21 beautiful building will be occupied by
22 several tenants and that Mr. Donahue
23 received such a good deal, five million for
24 a \$16 million building. I hope the presence
25 of Merrill Lynch will attract other notable

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1 businesses who will provide jobs to our
2 residents and a financial injection into our
3 economy. Just one important fact the
4 newspaper failed to mention, KOEZ. As for
5 taxes, the city covers will have to wait
6 until the KOEZ on the Southern Union
7 building expires and so for now half a glass

8 is better than none.

9 And today, in fact, I received as
10 I'm sure my colleagues have, a beautiful
11 colored brochure, "The Scranton Plan
12 Property Profile," and it illustrates and
13 provides information concerning properties
14 that are available for lease or sale
15 throughout Lackawanna County, but what I
16 found notable as I admired all of these
17 beautiful buildings and locations is that
18 those properties that were KOEZ are only
19 those properties located in Scranton. When
20 we travel outside the area to Olyphant,
21 Dickson City, Moosic, no KOZ'S.

22 Attorney Minora has determined that
23 apparently council can amend the ordinance
24 of 1991 to provide that the use and
25 disbursement of UDAG repayment funds must be

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1 approved by city council, and I believe he
2 will be further researching and working on
3 that matter for us to present us with a
4 draft of legislation as soon as he can.

5 MR. MINORA: Glad to.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And in
7 response to an agreement, or rather I should

8 in response to an in agreement with a
9 request made by Mrs. Dolan this evening, I
10 move that city council request that the
11 mayor hire contractors to address citywide
12 problems with skunks.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

14 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

15 MS. GATELLI: The only thing I would
16 suggest also is that maybe we could include
17 it in our block grant funding as a request
18 of city council. I would think that many of
19 the neighborhoods are low to moderate income
20 and some of them could be paid for with
21 those funds.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, I think we will
23 have to -- I think we can inject that into
24 the proposal, but I think the mayor is going
25 to need to examine the funding sources as

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1 well.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else on the
3 question? All in favor signify by saying
4 aye.

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MS. EVANS: Also, we received about a
12 week ago yet another report from the
13 Scranton Tax Office, the subject of which is
14 tax collection comparables, and I just have
15 to say that the tax office is doing a good
16 job in my opinion. They are bringing in
17 increased collections and they are providing
18 information, information that was designated
19 by state law and I just wanted to recognize
20 them for that. I am impressed and I am
21 hoping for a resolution of that audit as
22 soon as possible, but in the mean time kudos
23 to Mr. McGovern and Mrs. Vitali.

24 And I did want to say that finally,
25 my computer had been incapacitated for the

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1 last week, however, it is up and running
2 again. I don't have citizens' requests for
3 the week, but assuredly I will next week and
4 that's it.

5 MR. MCGOFF: I was going to suggest
6 that perhaps Merrill Lynch could attract
7 Lehman Brothers then we could have two
8 companies that are -- sorry. Mrs. Gatelli.

9 MS. GATELLI: I just have a few
10 responses from also week. I spoke to Donny
11 King regarding the people that live in the
12 flood zone where it has already been
13 repaired that are still being required to
14 carry flood insurance. He told me that the
15 maps are not changed yet by FEMA and the
16 Army Corp is working through the process.
17 Even through the Albright has been done for
18 years now, the process for the whole area
19 has not been completed, therefore, everyone
20 is required to have flood insurance.

21 The other thing was the open burning
22 in the outdoor fireplaces of which some of
23 us have been getting complaints. There was
24 an ordinance in 1970, the air pollution
25 control ordinance, where the city banned

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1 open burning. Rob Farrell sent a memo in
2 '02 to Chief Davis and Shawn Flynn: "It is
3 clear from the ordinance that the any open
4 burning must be done in a container which
5 has a flue to accommodate the smoke and
6 embers. The BOCCA Fire Prevention Code also
7 has a section preventing open burning. The
8 code officials shall prohibit open burning
9 that will be offensive or objectionable due

10 to smoke or odor. The fire department
11 considers it to be hazardous to allow
12 backyard fires in containers such as
13 chimineas without some form of screening to
14 prevent burning embers to escape."

15 So, reading the applicable ordinance
16 and the BOCCA provisions outdoor stoves are
17 permissible with both a flue and proper
18 screening. So anyone that has one in their
19 neighborhood that is bothering them should
20 call the fire department or license and
21 inspections, both have the right to check on
22 those issues.

23 In response to the status of the
24 audit, I have sent letters to Northeast
25 Credit and Mary Lou Vitali of which I have

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1 not received a response yet from either
2 person, so I am awaiting them and I will
3 give you my report as I get the responses,
4 and that's all I have.

5 MS. GARVEY: Excuse me for minute,
6 Mrs. Gatelli, I did speak to Mary Lou
7 Vitali, she called in response to the letter
8 that I sent out, and Attorney McGovern is
9 going to be collecting that information and

10 passing it on to Rossi and Company soon they
11 hope.

12 MS. GATELLI: Oh, good. Thank you,
13 Mrs. Garvey.

14 MS. FANUCCI: I was asked by
15 Mrs. Evans for requests for two -- the
16 information regarding the Connell building
17 and Wolfington from last week. Wolfington
18 was the developer who is going to do the
19 first project at the Connell building, they
20 are not doing their project now, there is a
21 new project, but, no, they did not receive
22 any funding for that, and this new company
23 is not look for the tax abatement that
24 Flemington was when they came to see us, so
25 they are not looking for any further funding

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1 than what we have.

2 MS. EVANS: So, it's a different
3 group?

4 MS. FANUCCI: Yes. They are a
5 totally different group and not looking for
6 -- they are not even structured the same
7 way, so they are not looking for anymore
8 money.

9 MS. EVANS: Everything is up-to-date.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Everything is

11 up-to-date, yes. In fact, they are ready to
12 go, which is good a thing.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Sure. Also, I wanted
15 to talk about the refinancing. This was not
16 new information for us. We knew that this
17 would be coming about. Anybody who is at
18 home with their balloon payments and have
19 been hit with that understands exactly what
20 we are doing and why we are doing it. Lower
21 payments, it's just like you at home when
22 you refinance your house your payment goes
23 lower. When you took out your loan the
24 first time around it was not as low and then
25 you took out the balloon payment, you

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1 understand exactly how big of a hit that has
2 been, and the city is not any different than
3 you who are running your small financial
4 institution for yourself at home. You need
5 to try to save money and do the best and I
6 will be obviously voting for that and I knew
7 I was going to be voting for that, so this
8 is not a new thing for me. I don't consider
9 this, you know, new borrowing. It is pretty
10 much just a refinancing, so I wanted to

11 spike on that.

12 Also, I do want to send a letter,
13 make a motion to send a letter to our county
14 commissioners on behalf of the speakers
15 here, asking them if they can please start
16 to have some of their meetings on evenings
17 when the taxpayers could come and actually
18 voice their opinions to them. And as side
19 note, we have had no problem having any our
20 caucuses, people are willing to come in the
21 evening, in fact, it is actually easier to
22 get people here in the evening because it
23 doesn't have to go through work schedule, so
24 I'm doing that in the form of a motion.

25 MS. EVANS: Second.

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1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
2 in favor?

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you, and that is
10 all I have.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Kay, if I could have

12 you send a combined letter to Ray Hays,
13 Director of Public Safety, there is some
14 type of problem with the police motorcycles
15 that they haven't been on the road for
16 several days now and if you could update us
17 on what's going on, why the motorcycles
18 aren't on the road, I have a general idea,
19 but if you can get specific as to why they
20 are not there and when they are going to be
21 out on the road.

22 Also, it was my understanding that
23 the sorely needed cars in the police
24 department were supposed to be arriving
25 July, they haven't seen those yet, so if you

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1 can just fill us in on where they are.

2 Mark Migliori early on had given me
3 his cell phone number, and I called and it
4 says it was temporarily out of service. Kay
5 asked him for his new cell phone number so
6 I'm going to try and contact him, but I was
7 going to suggest that possibly they ran the
8 meetings when they wanted to do, one replay
9 at least three times and now what I had two
10 people tell me in the past week is that
11 because of their work schedule two of the

12 three times that they run the meeting they
13 are not able to see it so if the one time
14 they play if they aren't working they can't
15 see it, so if at the would consider
16 replaying the meeting a few more times I
17 think at least those two people would
18 appreciate it.

19 The live feed, I'm not quite sure
20 what that problem is, they are telling me
21 it's not financial, and this is probably way
22 out there, but is it possible for Scranton
23 Today to operate until these guys get up and
24 running? I have no idea when they are going
25 to get their money to get their equipment, I

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1 don't have any idea when they are going to
2 give their live feed or could they use the
3 live feed that Scranton Today has? I don't
4 know if it's a matter of location or what
5 the problem is, but --

6 MS. FANUCCI: I'm going to have a
7 suggestion, I believe that the equipment
8 should be ours. I believe in the beginning
9 we give a grant for that equipment, so I am
10 wondering if the equipment is by rights, you
11 know, for the city and if that was provided
12 or whatever we actually own the equipment,

13 so that might be something that we need to
14 look into because I know when it started off
15 it was an initial -- there was initial
16 monies given for the purchase of that
17 equipment in the beginning.

18 MS. EVANS: I have information on
19 that at home, yes, and I can bring that in
20 next week to try to verify what you are
21 saying because my recollection serves from
22 having read that probably more than two
23 months ago, it seemed to be quite the
24 opposite that, you know, this was indeed
25 their equipment because it was not purchased

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1 through any government funds. They
2 conducted fundraisers and they were quite a
3 number of other particular --

4 MS. FANUCCI: In the beginning they
5 weren't private. In the beginning they were
6 not a private entity.

7 MS. GATELLI: Scranton Tomorrow.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Scranton Tomorrow was
9 the one and actually we gave funding to
10 Scranton Tomorrow for Scranton Today, so I'm
11 wondering and, in fact, I was wondering
12 anywhere where is that equipment and is that

13 our equipment anyway because I know that we
14 started off with Scranton Tomorrow.

15 MS. EVANS: Right.

16 MS. FANUCCI: And that we did, so,
17 yeah, that would be great if you looked into
18 that so we can see, maybe that will help,
19 Bill, I'm sorry.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: No, that's all
21 right.

22 MS. EVANS: I'll have that for you
23 for next week.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, great. I
25 mean, I don't know, obviously, I shouldn't

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1 say anybody, but most people aren't happy
2 with the way things are going. They haven't
3 been able to do meetings that they wanted to
4 do, they haven't been able to program like
5 they want to program. There is no live
6 feed. If this is going to go on
7 indefinitely, is it that farfetched to let
8 Scranton Today step back in and run it until
9 they get up and running properly? I don't
10 know, is that asking too much?

11 So, I will get the new phone number
12 off of Kay and I will ask Mark if he has a
13 time frame on when these problems are going

14 to be resolved. I'm sure they would like to
15 get them resolved, but now the complaints
16 are continual about no programming on the
17 TV, no live shows, no zoning, no this, no
18 that. I am going to repeat myself, I really
19 think they should have ran the station, both
20 of them run parallel until we were up and
21 running 100 percent, and now we are
22 presented with a problem that I don't think
23 anybody is happy with.

24 MS. FANUCCI: The zoning is on now.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: The zoning is on

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1 now? Okay? So, I will get that number off
2 of Kay tomorrow, the new number, or I'll try
3 Mark's number, it says it's only temporarily
4 out of service so maybe something was wrong
5 with it.

6 One thing I would like to bring up,
7 someone mentioned, I forget who it was at
8 the podium, about police officers not
9 getting raises and firefighters not getting
10 raises, but I think the thing that many
11 people do forget, and the speaker, whoever
12 it was mentioned this, that you got to
13 remember something, the retired police

14 officers and their wives, their husbands
15 that are left behind, the retired
16 firefighters, the only time they get any
17 kind of raise is when the active members get
18 a raise and then they get half of it, so
19 they too or suffering and most of them are
20 of retirement age or maybe they can't work
21 now, so for six or seven years they too have
22 not gotten a raise so I think we need to
23 remember them, also. And I hope that
24 something can be resolved in the near
25 future.

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1 I'm going to speak because I'm sure
2 when the voting comes up on the borrowing or
3 whatever name you want to get it there is
4 going to a lot of speaking so I will do my
5 speaking now. I had hoped years back in I
6 believe it was 2005 when the loan was given
7 that the mayor would have come up with some
8 kind of solution. We recessed twice during
9 our meeting, went in the back room, called
10 Lynn Krushefski, I have rehashed this story
11 I don't know how many times, I really hate
12 to bring it up again, but my hope was that
13 they would figure out a way to cut spending
14 and we wouldn't have to have anymore

15 borrowing.

16 Almost each and every year that I
17 sat on this council I have seen this happen.
18 We, when I say "we", council, I mean, this
19 council, the council that I served with
20 previously, we have almost no say on how the
21 money is spent, how the jobs are given out,
22 who gets the raises, but each and every year
23 it's put to us to come with a solution, you
24 know, it's dropped on our doorstep and, I
25 mean, I understand that's the way it's

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1 always been suggested in the past to how we
2 can rectify these problems with other
3 budgets and they didn't pass it, and that's
4 the way government works, I guess, but I
5 don't want say I didn't create the problems
6 so don't ask me to fix it, but I think it's
7 kind of unfair. It's always laid on our
8 doorstep almost each and every year that I
9 have sat on this council there has been a
10 problem and we are the ones that are
11 supposed to come up with the solutions.

12 I understand when you come to the
13 podium and say, "You, council, council
14 council," all of speakers say, well,

15 remember, the mayor is guy with the power,
16 he is the guy that's doing the spending, all
17 right? Understandably, you can't talk to
18 him because he is not sitting here, but I
19 know I have tried, the five years that I
20 have been here to try and do something to no
21 avail, but I'll leave it at that I'm sure
22 once the vote come up there will be a lot
23 more speaking on it, and that's all I have.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,

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1 Mr. Courtright. Just a few brief things,
2 I'll call about the -- I'll try and get
3 Mr. Renda about the Fidelity accounts, but
4 actually the account that we are talking
5 about wasn't a city account, it was an
6 account with the Single Tax Office, so I
7 don't even know if we have any accounts in
8 anyway with Fidelity Bank. That one wasn't
9 a city account. Also, the people who are
10 speaking about Cameron Avenue, North Cameron
11 Avenue, I did have a call to DPW and
12 Mr. Brazil was going to try and get in touch
13 with the city engineer and I asked if they
14 would then meet with me and perhaps someone
15 from the Sewer Authority and go to North

16 Cameron Avenue and take a look at the
17 situation and see if there is any -- see if
18 there was anything that could be done in the
19 present rather than waiting for future, you
20 know, possibility of dealing on Keyser
21 Avenue and so. The gentleman that had
22 contacted me originally is becoming quite
23 desperate with the flooding that occurs on
24 North Cameron Avenue, I have yet to hear
25 back from Mr. Brazil and whether we have

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1 arranged any meeting with the engineer, but
2 I will try and expedite that if I can and
3 hopefully at least get some type of answer
4 as to whether there is something that we can
5 do in the present or whether it is something
6 that is more long range.

7 Also, as far as the outdoor burning,
8 as I was reading through that, I think we
9 should also perhaps look into that the
10 original legislation provided for an air
11 pollution control monitor or something and I
12 don't think we have one of those anymore, I
13 least I haven't heard you one.

14 MS. EVANS: No, there was a
15 Department of Health at that time as well.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sure that there is
17 somebody that inspects, but there were some
18 very specific guidelines for how to measure
19 whether something was in violation of the
20 law. I don't know what the -- I don't know
21 what the Ringelmann Smoke Chart is, but
22 that's what they were referencing, but
23 perhaps it would be something to at least
24 when we again talk with Chief Davis and see
25 if there is somebody that actually does go

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1 out and investigate those things and perhaps
2 get some resolution there.

3 And one thing that also is on the
4 agenda for this evening, the CDBG grants, we
5 received those just recently and even more
6 recently we received a list of all
7 applicants for the grants. We have not
8 necessarily had an adequate amount of time
9 to review those and while we are under some
10 time constraints for dealing with those
11 grants so that the money is not lost, I have
12 asked council if we can in some way move
13 that into it's proper committee this evening
14 and also the time frame allows us 30 days
15 after the second reading for a public
16 hearing so that we do have time to review

17 them and perhaps edit that list in some
18 meaningful way. Just so people know that
19 what is being presented tonight is probably
20 not a final listing of the grants, there
21 will probably be amendments to that, but
22 because of the time constraints we do need
23 to expedite it somewhat.

24 And also I will ask that there was a
25 question about whether someone from OECD

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1 should be here when we finally have a public
2 hearing, I will make that request to OECD
3 that someone -- that the night that we do
4 have the public hearing on the block grants
5 that someone be here in case there are
6 questions that we may have or someone else
7 may have about them, and that is all. Thank
8 you.

9 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B. FOR
10 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING
11 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
12 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN
13 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND
14 OCWEN LOAN SERVICING, LLC FOR THE TRANSFER
15 TO TITLE TO A PARCEL OF LAND COMMONLY KNOWN
16 AS 810 HERTZ COURT TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON

17 AND FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENT IN FULL FOR
18 THE DEMOLITION LIEN ON SAID PROPERTY AND
19 SATISFACTION OF THE DEMOLITION LIEN.

20 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
21 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
22 introduced into it's proper committee.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All

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1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF
10 CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT
11 AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
12 PENNSYLVANIA (THE "AUTHORITY") PURSUANT TO A
13 LEASE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING
14 THE INCURRENCE OF LEASE RENTAL DEBT IN THE
15 MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SIX MILLION ONE
16 HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,100,000),
17 PURSUANT TO THE ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, 53
19 PA.C.S, CHAPTERS 80-82, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS
20 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT;
21 DETERMINING THAT SUCH DEBT SHALL BE INCURRED
22 UNDER THE DEBT ACT AS LEASE RENTAL DEBT TO
23 BE EVIDENCED BY A CERTAIN SUBLEASE AND
24 GUARANTY AGREEMENT OF THE CITY SECURING A
25 GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE BOND TO BE EXECUTED

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1 BY THE AUTHORITY TO FINANCE A PROJECT FOR
2 THE AUTHORITY CONSISTING OF ALL OR ANY OF
3 THE FOLLOWS: (1) ACQUIRING THE AUTHORITY'S
4 LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN SUCH REAL PROPERTY
5 SUBJECT TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT FROM THE CITY
6 AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH CURRENTLY
7 REFUNDING THE SEWER GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE
8 NOTES, SERIES OF 2005; AND (2) PAYING THE
9 COSTS AND EXPENSES OF FINANCING SUCH
10 PROJECT; BRIEFLY DESCRIBING SUCH PROJECT FOR
11 WHICH SUCH DEBT IS TO BE INCURRED; DECLARING
12 THE GUARANTY OF SAID AUTHORITY'S GUARANTEED
13 LEASE REVENUE BONDS TO BE A PROJECT OF THE
14 CITY FOR WHICH LEASE RENTAL DEBT IS TO BE
15 INCURRED; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN CITY OFFICERS
16 TO PREPARE, CERTIFY AND FILE WITH THE
17 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC

18 DEVELOPMENT THE DEBT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY
19 SECTION 8110 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT
20 DEBT ACT AND AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF
21 A DEBT STATEMENT AND BORROWING BASE
22 CERTIFICATE; APPROVING THE FORM OF AND
23 AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT CERTAIN CONDITIONS,
24 EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE AFORESAID
25 LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY

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1 AGREEMENT; SPECIFYING THE AMOUNT OF THE
2 GUARANTY OBLIGATION OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO
3 SUCH SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY AGREEMENT AND THE
4 SOURCES OF PAYMENT OF SUCH GUARANTY
5 OBLIGATION; REPEALING INCONSISTENT PRIOR
6 ORDINANCES; SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CONDITIONS
7 TO THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE
8 AFORESAID LEASE AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND
9 GUARANTY AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE PROPER
10 OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO TAKE ALL REQUIRED,
11 NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE RELATED ACTION IN
12 CONNECTION WITH SUCH PROJECT AND THE
13 EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE LEASE
14 AGREEMENT AND SUBLEASE AND GUARANTY
15 AGREEMENT; APPROVING THE FORM AND
16 DISTRIBUTION OF A PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL
17 STATEMENT AND AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WITH
18 REGARD TO THE GUARANTEED LEASE REVENUE

19 BONDS; APPOINTING VARIOUS PROFESSIONALS;
20 PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS
21 ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING SAID PROJECT
22 DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE
23 OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be

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1 introduced into it's proper committee.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

5 Anyone?

6 MS. GATELLI: I would just like
7 Attorney Minora to, maybe he is not the
8 right person, but I think he is, I'd like
9 someone to put it in writing that this is
10 not borrowing, that is refinancing of, you
11 know, an old loan.

12 MR. MINORA: Well, I don't know if
13 that's a legal question, but I think that's
14 what the ordinance itself says.

15 MS. GATELLI: Because people are
16 saying that we are borrowing and I said I
17 wouldn't borrow anymore money, and I would
18 be uncomfortable if I did. I have been

19 under the assumption that this is just a
20 refinancing like the county did several
21 weeks ago, they refinanced, you know, quite
22 a bit of their money, too, and if we don't
23 make a payment in default I don't know what
24 the consequences of that would be, so I want
25 to be assured by someone with authority

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1 other than the mayor to say that, yes, this
2 is a refinancing, this is not new borrowing.

3 MR. MINORA: I'm not the guy then.
4 Someone with authority, I don't think that's
5 me.

6 MS. EVANS: What about Mr. Renda, I'm
7 sure he would be happy to say that.

8 MS. FANUCCI: I don't know if that's
9 works either.

10 MS. EVANS: He is the business
11 administrator.

12 MS. GATELLI: Maybe I'll call my
13 accountant tomorrow and ask.

14 MR. MINORA: There you go.

15 MS. GATELLI: Do you think he has the
16 authority, Amil?

17 MR. MINORA: Well, I think he has the
18 know how anyway.

19 MS. GATELLI: Okay. That's the only

20 thing I'm going to -- I'm going to vote to
21 introduce it, but I'm not comfortable if
22 it's new borrowing. I wouldn't be
23 comfortable with that.

24 MR. MCGOFF: I did ask the question
25 during the caucus as to what the amount, the

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1 additional amount would be --

2 MS. FANUCCI: With the loan.

3 MR. MCGOFF: -- to the city and I'm
4 not sure that I ever got a response.

5 MS. FANUCCI: No, you didn't.

6 MR. MCGOFF: The best that I can
7 figure, and I did talk to Mr. Renda after we
8 left and he asked me if I did get an
9 adequate answer and I told him, no, and we
10 talked very briefly. The best I can figure
11 is that there will be an additional cost to
12 the city of approximately \$4.7 million over
13 18 years, but at the same time it does
14 reduce the yearly payment even though it is
15 extended, so there are --

16 MS. GATELLI: And what will be the
17 result if we default on that payment?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Not good, and I guess,
19 you know --

20 MS. GATELLI: I think it's
21 interesting that it's almost the amount that
22 we are allegedly due from the tax office,
23 you know, that seems to have a familiar ring
24 to it, the amount. It's unfortunate that
25 that audit isn't being done more

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1 expeditiously that we could maybe have that
2 money by December 15 and pay it.

3 MS. EVANS: Or, you know, it would
4 also I think be very encouraging to see the
5 mayor try to make cuts to his budget.
6 That's something he has really never done in
7 the seven years that he has been seated in
8 this office, so it's very difficult to say,
9 well, I'll just approve this for you when
10 you have no evidence of belt tightening on
11 behalf of the administration and, you know,
12 I for one, I know I have not -- I have not
13 favored borrowing since I have been seated
14 here and it's not because I wish to be
15 contrary, it's because I have examined the
16 budgets very closely, the bond series,
17 etcetera, and I know, for example, if any
18 one of us or any one of you were unable to
19 meet your payments it would be very
20 difficult for us to come not once, not

21 twice, but actually, you know, three times
22 here and borrow with the same collateral and
23 borrow to pay your borrowing and that's
24 exactly what he are doing and each year it
25 continues ceaselessly, and I suppose for as

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1 long as I'm seated here I will always be
2 waiting for a council that will stand up and
3 stop all of the borrowing.

4 MS. GATELLI: And then what do we
5 face? What consequences do we face, you
6 know? I don't know what I'm ready to
7 default on a loan payment. I mean, I'm
8 not -- I haven't been here as long as you
9 have and I wasn't here for that 2005 that's
10 coming due now, so, I mean, I can't take
11 responsibility for that, but I don't want to
12 take responsibility for defaulting on a loan
13 that would have serious repercussions, so,
14 you know, maybe we can find out what those
15 repercussions would be also before the final
16 vote on this.

17 MR. MCGOFF: And I do disagree with
18 one thing you said, Mrs. Evans, I do think
19 you like being contrary at times.

20 MS. EVANS: Actually, no, I don't.

21 I'm not contrary, I'm very pragmatic. I'm
22 very realistic and I think maybe as an
23 English teacher I'm very accustomed to looking
24 at both sides of an issue, and that in
25 reaching a decision, at least that's what I

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1 encourage in my classroom, do a full
2 examination of both sides of an issue and
3 then reach a conclusion. But, no, I
4 understand that you are kidding, at least I
5 hope you are as an intellectual fellow.

6 But, you know, I guess I'll state for
7 the record once again, I didn't vote for
8 that, and I don't feel that anyone seated
9 here is responsible for that. The man who
10 is responsible needs to do something about
11 it, and I don't feel there is anymore that I
12 at least can do than I have been trying to
13 do for the last five years and I have
14 offered him a way out on more than one
15 occasion with budget creations, etcetera,
16 and everything has been completely ignored.

17 And so until I see some evidence of his
18 serious intention to tighten his belt in
19 this economy and do the right thing I don't
20 think he should be bailed out any further.

21 MR. MCGOFF: On 5-C, all those in

22 favor signify by saying aye.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

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1 MS. EVANS: No.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

3 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
4 moved.

5 MS. GARVEY: We need a motion for a
6 public here to be held.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Right. I would like to
8 make a motion to schedule a public hearing
9 on Item 5-C for September 30th at 6:00 p.m.

10 MS. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
12 those in favor signify by saying aye.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. GARVEY: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
20 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
21 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF

22 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
23 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
24 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
25 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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1 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
2 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
3 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM.

4 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
6 introduced into it's proper committee.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
10 those in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

13 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
16 ayes have it and so moved. At this time I
17 would like to make a motion to schedule a
18 public hearing for Item 5-D for
19 September 23rd at 5:45.

20 MS. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
22 those in favor signify by saying aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
3 ayes have it and so moved. Prior to 5-E
4 could I just -- I know last week we tabled
5 another project on traffic signals, and I
6 did not follow-up on that during the week.

7 MS. EVANS: I did.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I did, too.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Is this something that
10 we should again table until we get some idea
11 as to how --

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: This is a different
13 situation than the other one.

14 MS. EVANS: Similar, but different.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: If I may --

16 MS. GATELLI: They haven't had a
17 study over there like we have had on Moosic
18 Street.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the other one --

20 MS. GATELLI: The mini-mart
21 situation.

22 MS. EVANS: Actually, they did a

23 traffic study which was paid for by the
24 owner of the project, and that was required
25 by PennDOT to be done and paid for at his

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1 own expense and, in other words, he
2 is complying with the requirements of
3 PennDOT, it's been a two and a half year
4 process and basically all they are going to
5 do I think is change the timing of the light
6 so that traffic doesn't back up on Moosic
7 Street.

8 Now, the gentleman who owns Jay's
9 Commons, I think, it's similar in that he is
10 going through the same process, traffic
11 study, having to pay for that, etcetera,
12 satisfying the requirements of PennDOT, but
13 I believe he is a required to have an
14 additional signal; is that correct,
15 Mr. Courtright?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe so and it
17 will probably be at his cost.

18 MS. EVANS: Oh, yes.

19 MS. GATELLI: That leads to that
20 one?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think what we are
22 going to do is because, now, I'm talking
23 about Jay's Common, there was nobody exiting

24 out of that area, per se, other than there
25 was a -- I don't want to call it an alley,

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1 there was a space between that building at
2 what used to be the VFW building and the
3 Fish Market and so now it will be actually
4 traffic coming out, so that will be at his
5 expense. The one on Moosic Street not only
6 did he paid for it, but now when they come
7 up with the timing he is going to pay for
8 them to do the timing, that will be at his
9 -- he will have to pay for that, too, so
10 that's the developer's costs.

11 I don't know if a study has been
12 done on Main Avenue or not yet. I'm
13 assuming that he paid for it.

14 MR. MCGOFF: It says as a result of
15 the impact study.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm assuming that
17 he paid for it, and I shouldn't assume, but
18 in most cases it's always the developer.

19 MS. EVANS: And all of these steps
20 have to be followed, I believe, before
21 either of the developers would be granted a
22 traffic impact permit by the state, and
23 until that is received they really can't

24 proceed any further with their projects.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. Thank you. For

109

1 the clarification. Please, 5-E.

2 MS. GARVEY: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 A RESOLUTION - APPROVING REVISION OF THE
4 EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION
5 OF MAIN AVENUE AND SWETLAND STREET AS A
6 RESULT OF THE TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY PREPARED
7 FOR THE JAY'S COMMONS PROJECT.

8 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
9 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
10 introduced into it's proper committee.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
14 those in favor signify by saying aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
22 A RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF NANCY D.
23 BISIGNANI, 1200 PINE STREET, SCRANTON,
24 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE

25

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD. MS.

110

1

BISIGNANI'S TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2007

2

AND HER NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11,

3

2012.

4

MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

5

entertain motion that Item 5-F be introduced

6

into it's proper committee.

7

MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

8

MS. FANUCCI: Second.

9

MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All

10

those in favor signify by saying aye.

11

MS. EVANS: Aye.

12

MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

13

MS. GATELLI: Aye.

14

MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

15

MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

16

eyes have it and so moved.

17

MS. GARVEY: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -

18

A RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN MOORES,

19

315 THIRTEENTH AVENUE, SCRANTON,

20

PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE

21

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD. MR.

22

MOORE'S TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2007 AND

23

HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11,

24

2012.

25

MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

111

1

entertain a motion that Item 5-G be

2

introduced into it's proper committee.

3

MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4

MS. FANUCCI: Second.

5

MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All

6

those in favor signify by saying aye.

7

MS. EVANS: Aye.

8

MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

9

MS. GATELLI: Aye.

10

MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11

MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

12

eyes have it and so moved.

13

MS. GARVEY: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -

14

A RESOLUTION -REAPPOINTMENT OF ELLA RAYBURN,

15

934 NORTH WEBSITE AVENUE, SCRANTON,

16

PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE

17

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD. MS.

18

RAYBURN'S TERM EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 11, 2006

19

AND HER TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 11,

20

2011.

21

MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

22

entertain a motion that Item 5-H be

23

introduced it's proper committee.

24

MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

25

MS. FANUCCI: Second.

1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
2 those in favor signify by saying aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
10 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 26,
11 2008 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL
12 CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229589 ENTITLED "DCNR
13 GRANT-SWIMMING POOL IMPROVEMENTS" FOR THE
14 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS FROM
15 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
16 AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR) FOR SWIMMING
17 POOL IMPROVEMENTS IN CITY OF SCRANTON.

18 MR. MCGOFF: You have heard reading
19 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-A
21 pass reading by title.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
24 those in favor signify by saying aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

1 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

2 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
5 ayes have it and so moved.

6 MS. GARVEY: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
7 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 37, 2008 - AN ORDINANCE
8 - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE UPDATED CITY
9 OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2009
10 THE FIRST-YEAR REVISION AN EXTENSION OF THE
11 2008 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

12 MR. MCGOFF: You have heard reading
13 by title of Item 6-B, what is pleasure?

14 MS. FANUCCI: I move that Item 6-B
15 pass reading by title.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Second. On the
17 question?

18 MS. EVANS: Once again there is no
19 supporting evidence as to the necessity for
20 all improvements contained in the capital
21 budget, there are no time schedules for
22 projects, and no estimated annual costs of
23 operating and maintaining facilities to be
24 constructed. This information applies to
25 capital improvements still pending or in the

1 process of construction or acquisition
2 according to Section 904 of the Home Rule
3 Charter.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those
5 in favor signify by saying aye.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

10 MS. EVANS: No.

11 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
12 moved.

13 MS. GARVEY: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
14 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 38, 2008 - AUTHORIZING
15 THE CONVEYANCE BY SEALED BID OR AUCTION OF
16 THREE PARCELS OF LAND ACQUIRED PURSUANT TO
17 THE LACKAWANNA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT,
18 AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON THE
19 ATTACHED MAPS.

20 MR. MCGOFF: You have heard reading
21 by title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-C
23 pass reading by title.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
9 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
10 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 51, 2008 -
11 ACCEPTING A ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR
12 CONTRIBUTION FROM SANOFI PASTEUR PRESENTED
13 TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

14 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
15 recommendation of the chairperson for the
16 Committee on Finance?

17 MS. GATELLI: As chair for the
18 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
19 passage of 7-A.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

21 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
22 call, please.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

1 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION

10 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -

11 FOR ADOPTION - A RESOLUTION NO. 52, 2008 -

12 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE

13 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD

14 ("HARB") AND APPROVING ISSUANCE OF THE

15 CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR A+ SIGNS,

16 INC., 825 SCRANTON CARBONDALE HIGHWAY,

17 DICKSON CITY, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE

18 INSTALLATION OF ONE SET OF ILLUMINATED LOGO

19 CHANNEL LETTERS AND RULE LINE IN WHITE LED

20 LIGHTING, MOUNTED ON THE REAR FACADE OF THE

21 RADISSON-LACKAWANNA STATION HOTEL, 700

22 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA.

23 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

24 recommendation of the chairperson for the

25 Committee on Community Development?

1 MS. FANUCCI: As chairperson for the
2 Committee on Community Development, I
3 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
6 call.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

10 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
17 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. GARVEY:

19 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
20 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION -
21 RESOLUTION NO. 53, 2008 - AUTHORIZING THE
22 MAYOR ANT OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
23 CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO
24 AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
25 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1 ("PENNDOT") TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN ITS
2 AGILITY PROGRAM TO SHARE RESOURCES FOR THE
3 MORE EFFICIENT USE OF STATE AND LOCAL
4 GOVERNMENT FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT.

5 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
6 recommendation of the chairperson for the
7 Committee on Public Works?

8 MS. EVANS: As chair for the
9 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
10 passage of item 7-C.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
13 call.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

17 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

25 MS. GARVEY: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION

2 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 54, 2008 -
3 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
4 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT ENTER INTO AND
5 EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S.
6 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
7 (HUD) USING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
8 (EDI) FUNDS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED
9 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF NEPA. THE GRANT
10 FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR A PROJECT TO BE NAMED
11 "HARRIET BEECHER STOWE".

12 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
13 recommendation of the chairperson for the
14 Committee on Community Development?

15 MS. FANUCCI: As chairperson for the
16 Committee on Community Development, I
17 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

24 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

1 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
6 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

7 MS. GARVEY: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
9 FOR ADOPTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR ANT
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
11 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR HOUSING AND
12 REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (HRA) THROUGH THE
13 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
14 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED);
15 AND IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL TO
16 COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS FOR
17 THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED AS THE "CONNELL
18 BUILDING" WITH "JEFFERSON-WERNER, LLC", THE
19 DEVELOPER, OR ITS DESIGNEE.

20 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
21 recommendation for the chairperson for the
22 Committee on Community Development?

23 MS. FANUCCI: As chairperson for the
24 Committee on Community Development, I
25 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll

3 call, please?

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

14 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

15 MS. GARVEY: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION

16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -

17 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 56, 2008 -

18 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

19 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A

20 GRANT APPLICATION FOR MIXED USE FACILITY

21 FINANCING INITIATIVE (MUFFI) IN THE AMOUNT

22 OF ONE MILLION \$1,000,000.00 DOLLARS THROUGH

23 THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

24 (PHFA); ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE GRANT

25 IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL; AND TO

122

1 COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH

2 "JEFFERSON-WERNER, LLC", THE DEVELOPER, OR

3 ITS DESIGNEE FOR THE PROJECT NAMED AS "THE
4 CONNELL BUILDING."

5 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
6 recommendation of the chairperson for the
7 Committee on Community Development?

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

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
13 call.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

17 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

25 MS. GARVEY: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION

123

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
2 RESOLUTION NO. 57, 2008 - AUTHORIZING THE
3 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE

4 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A
5 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE LAW
6 FIRM OF HOURIGAN, KLUGER & QUINN, P.C. FOR
7 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LEGAL SERVICES.

8 MR. MCGOFF: As chairperson for the
9 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-G.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: No.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

17 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

25 MS. GATELLI: Motion to adjourn.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you for your time
3 and participation.

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

2

3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

5 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the
6 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true
7 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my
8 ability.

9

10

11

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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