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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 41, 2008 - AUTHORIZING
THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY
OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT
THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT
(ESG) PROGRAM.

HELD:

Tuesday, September 23, 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

MS. SUE MAGNOTTA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. JOHN MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to call this
2 public hearing to order. Roll call.

3 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: (Not present.)

5 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

6 MS. GATELLI. Here.

7 MS. MAGNOTTA: Ms. Fanucci.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

9 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: (Not present.)

11 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Notice of public
13 hearing: Notice is hereby given that
14 Scranton City Council will hold public
15 hearing on Tuesday, September 23, at 5:45 in
16 council chambers.

17 The purpose of said public hearing
18 is to hear testimony and discuss the
19 following:

20 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 41, 2008 -
21 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
22 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE
23 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
24 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY
25 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE

1 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
2 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
3 PARTNERSHIP, (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
4 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM.

5 I would like to, for the record,
6 state that Mrs. Evans is now in attendance.
7 Also, attorney John Minora is acting the
8 solicitor for this evening, and also in
9 attendance are Mr. Kevin Mitchell and
10 Mrs. Linda Aebli, from OECD.

11 Are there any speakers this evening?
12 Mr. Sbaraglia.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy, Sbaraglia,
14 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scranton, I'm
15 going to read off some of the block grants
16 and hope that the people in the City of
17 Scranton that don't have the ability to come
18 down here and get them at least have some
19 idea where the money went.

20 They have one here for Connell
21 Little League park, 5,0000. West Side
22 Neighborhood Association, \$5,000. Friends
23 of the Poor, \$20,000. City of Scranton DPW,
24 I guess that's for paving, \$75,000. City of
25 Scranton, DPW, bridge reconstruction,

1 75,000. Boys and Girls Club, 26,000. West
2 Scranton Little League, 5,000. Helping
3 Northeastern Pennsylvania Initiative,
4 20,000. I guess it has to do with mental
5 health. Friendship House, 25,000.
6 Friendship House again, 125,000. Deutsch
7 Institute, 50,000. United Neighborhood
8 Centers, 67,500. Hyde Park baseball, 5,000.
9 City of Scranton, Department of Public Works
10 and Recreation, 5,000. Scranton Police
11 Department, 350,000. North Scranton Little
12 League, 5,000. City of Scranton Parks and
13 Recreation, 5,000. Weston Park Senior
14 Little League, 5,000. City of Scranton
15 Licensing, Inspection and Writs, 200,000.
16 Community Association of Scranton, 5,000.
17 Scranton Redevelopment Authority 625,000,
18 that's, too, for blight. Common Medical
19 Education Corporation, 100,000. City of
20 Scranton OECD, 300,000. City of Scranton,
21 Section 108 repayment, I assume they were
22 bad loans, a half a million dollars. The
23 City of Scranton --

24 MS. FANUCCI: That's incorrect.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- 600,000. I'm

1 reading them off on here. What it is --

2 MS. FANUCCI: Well, then don't make
3 comments. That is not true.

4 MS. SBARAGLIA: I don't want any
5 comments from you. You did enough last
6 time.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Excuse me, don't make
8 comments that aren't true.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'm reading right
10 from here. Are the figures wrong? Maybe
11 my assumptions --

12 MS. FANUCCI: No, your personal
13 comments and personal commentary is
14 incorrect. That's what I'm stating.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, what's it for?

16 MS. FANUCCI: Keep going. You keep
17 reading your loans, we will talk about it at
18 the end. Bad loans.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Catherine McCauley
20 Center, 28,000. Women's Resource Center,
21 30,000. United Neighborhood Centers of
22 Northeastern Pennsylvania, 16,000. Bethel
23 AME, 9,500. Community Intervention Center,
24 20,000. Catholic Social Service of
25 Lackawanna County, 20,000. Catholic Social

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1 Service of Lackawanna County, 5,000.

2 Catholic Social Service of Lackawanna
3 County, 5,000. Catholic Social Service of
4 Lackawanna County, 10,000, and somewhere
5 Community Housing Development Organization,
6 93,750. Home Administration, 62,500.
7 Homebuyer's program, a quarter of a million.
8 Housing Rehab Program, 218,750.

9 And that's basically all of the
10 figures that were in there, whether my
11 assumption is wrong, yours is right, I have
12 no way of knowing, but I don't like to be
13 interrupted, I don't interrupt you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Sbaraglia, I just
15 want to say something, that is what was
16 submitted to us and we have all intentions
17 of amending and changing some of that.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: I was informed of
19 that.

20 MS. GATELLI: We appreciate your
21 input.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: I was informed on
23 that, that you may change this or that, but
24 I wanted people to actually know --

25 MS. GATELLI: The last several years

1 we have amended the Block Grant funds, so we

2 intend to do so with this one also.

3 MS. EVANS: Actually, if after the
4 speakers have finished I could ask
5 Mr. Mitchell and Mrs. Aebli a question, I
6 was going to send a memo about it, but since
7 they are here because they can just answer.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely. Any other
9 speakers? Ask away?

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The only
11 question I had was with regard to the
12 Section 108 repayment loan, and as
13 Mr. Sbaraglia indicated, that is in the
14 amount of \$500,000. I know that it was
15 included last year as well. It was noted
16 last year, however, that the payments were
17 for, I believe it was done singularly, but
18 the payments were for the Hilton Hotel and
19 for the Steamtown Mall. Is that still the
20 case?

21 MS. AEBLI: Yes.

22 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.

23 MS. EVANS: Both --

24 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. There is two
25 payments a year, there is one in February

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1 and one in this August, so I just thought to
2 make it easier we would just make it a flat

3 number. Last year it was 330,000 and
4 170,000.

5 MS. EVANS: Which is the greater
6 amount, the hotel or the mall?

7 MR. MITCHELL: The mall.

8 MS. EVANS: The mall. And can you
9 tell me, also, for how many more years, in
10 other words, what's the term of that
11 agreement on each of those structures?

12 MR. MITCHELL: I can't tell you off
13 the top of my head, but I could find out for
14 you.

15 MS. EVANS: I'd appreciate that if
16 you could send that along. That's all I
17 had.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I now
19 declare this public hearing closed.

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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