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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, October 6, 2008

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT (Not present.)

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 recited and moment of reflection
2 observed.)

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 (Mrs. Gatelli not present.)

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. Let the record
14 reflect that Mrs. Gatelli is not present and
15 she called and said she would not be present
16 at tonight's heating meeting. Dispense with
17 the reading of the minutes.

18 MS. GARVEY: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
19 COLLECTION COMPARISON REPORTS RECEIVED FROM
20 THE SINGLE TAX OFFICE ON OCTOBER 30, 2008.

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

23 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. ZONING BOARD
24 MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2008, HAS
25 BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF BUSINESS.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
2 . If not, received and filed.

3 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. INDEPENDENT
4 AUDITORS REPORT OF THE SCRANTON PARKING
5 AUTHORITY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,
6 2007.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third
10 Order.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just one or
12 two quick announcements before we start.
13 Today I went to the -- we were presented
14 with the check from the University of
15 Scranton, a check in the amount of \$110,000
16 payment in lieu of taxes. We would like to
17 thank the University and Father Pilarz for
18 their I don't want to say gift, for their
19 consideration.

20 Also, in recent weeks some people
21 had some questions about the smoking ban. I
22 would just like to mention that the -- now
23 I'm not going to find the paper, there is a
24 website to which you can go. The
25 Pennsylvania Department of Health has a

1 website that list all of the exceptions to
2 the smoking ban for Lackawanna County, so if
3 you are interested in seeing which
4 establishments in Lackawanna County are
5 exempt from the ban, please go to that
6 website, and if I find the paper I will be
7 more definitive about the name of the site.
8 Anyone else?

9 MS. EVANS: Yes. St. Peter and Paul
10 Church located at 1309 Locust Street is
11 having it's fall festival and bazaar on
12 Sunday, November 9th from 12 to 5 with
13 takeouts from 11:30 to 2:00. There will be
14 raffles, delicious ethnic foods, games and a
15 good time.

16 Also, there will an apple pie sale
17 sponsored by Elm Park United Methodist
18 Church on the corner of Linden Street and
19 Jefferson Avenue. They are selling
20 nine-inch homemade apple pies baked or
21 unbaked, advance orders are recommended.
22 You can pick up your pies on Saturday,
23 November 22 between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. and
24 you can phone in your orders for pies up to
25 and including November 18, and the telephone

1 number for those orders is 342-8263. The
2 cost for an unbaked pie is \$9 and a baked
3 pie \$10.

4 Also, I received a number of he
5 males concerning leaf pickup in the city
6 this fall and I to have some information now
7 from Mr. Brazil. Beginning next Wednesday,
8 November 12, the DPW will eliminate the
9 paper pickup and do the leaf pickup in it's
10 place. In other words, people can put their
11 leaves out for pickup on the same schedule
12 that they would have put their papers out,
13 and both types of collections are
14 acceptable, those being bags at the curb or
15 leaves raked to the curb for the vacuum
16 truck.

17 And I would also ask everyone to
18 please remember in your prayers this week a
19 former student of mine, he graduated from
20 Scranton High School last year, he was
21 shipped out yesterday, he is on his way to
22 Kuwait and, thereafter, Iraq. So, if
23 everyone would just please remember Nick
24 Paddon in your prayers, may God keep him
25 safe.

7

1 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Citizens'

2 participation. Andy Sbaraglia.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
4 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
5 have little story to tell you when I went to
6 vote. As you know, Nader was on the ballot
7 as usual, and somebody asked me if they
8 should vote for Nader and I said, no, you
9 would be wasting your vote if you vote for
10 Nader and for some reason or other I got
11 accused of using the "N" word and that
12 troubled me because I voted for Obama. Why
13 would they accuse me of using the "N" word
14 when I all I said was Nader? I don't know
15 how close Nader sounds to the "N" word, but
16 maybe to another layperson it would, but
17 since it was done in a public forum at this
18 forum I wish to address it, that's all.

19 Now, somewhere along the line they are
20 these little desks like this for the
21 ballots. Maybe it's time now that they put
22 up a little better enclosure around them
23 desks and I'll talk to the people at the
24 election bureau so that wouldn't happen, so
25 that my voice necessarily wouldn't carry and

8

1 them assuming that Nader was the "N" word.

2 I do not use the "N" word. I have never in
3 my life used the "N" word. If I address
4 somebody it will either be black or negro
5 like I was -- we used years and years ago,
6 not even African-American. I use the black
7 term on negro, but, anyway, now that that's
8 over I just wanted to address that. I did
9 not use that word and I never used that
10 word.

11 Okay, Short Avenue here, 5-B, is
12 that the old school that they tore down on
13 Short Avenue that we are selling for \$7,000?
14 You all remember the school?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Absolutely.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: And you did rip it
18 down.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'm wondering if
21 this is the lot they are address now for
22 7,000, it's quite a few acres.

23 MS. EVANS: Then it must be.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: It's hard to say. I
25 could have probably looked at the backup a

1 little more.

2 MS. EVANS: There were a lot of

3 residential homes in this black.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: The only big spot
5 was where the school stood.

6 MS. EVANS: Right.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: So I don't know,
8 anyway, I wish to address that one. Now,
9 the other thing I wish to address is the
10 TANS. They are advertising for TANS, I
11 guess you know that. TAN "A" and TAN "B".
12 The paper for some reason put out TAN "B"
13 and then the next week they put out TAN "A"
14 and "B", so we are talking about 14,
15 probably 14 1/2 million dollars again to
16 borrow. Now, how much is the tax office
17 going to give us? Are we going to get 5,000
18 like they keep saying out of the tax office
19 or are we still in the dark?

20 MS. EVANS: At this point this time I
21 believe we are in the dark, Mr. Sbaraglia.
22 The money is forthcoming I have learned
23 before year end, but I don't know what the
24 exact amount is going to be, but you are
25 also correct on the amount of the TANS.

10

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, wouldn't it
2 make more sense to borrow one and then wait

3 to see how much money we are getting from
4 the other before we again have to borrow
5 both?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Or are we going to
8 use that money from the tax bureau as
9 throw-away money like we usually do in the
10 city?

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Andy, I even sent a
12 letter asking what was going to be done with
13 the money, but we didn't get a response.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't think you
15 will either.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I gave it a shot.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Everything is a
18 throw-away. I mean, as you know the police
19 buy their own cars, we lease everything, we
20 don't own very little and what we did own we
21 sold off. You remember you sold off our
22 good loans.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: Them are gone. I
25 wish he had sold off city hall. Thank you.

11

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
2 Mr. Sbaraglia. Ozzie Quinn.

3 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'

4 Association. First of all, I would like to
5 thank those people who have dropped food
6 into our boxes for the food pantries
7 throughout the city and through the county.
8 I also want to thank those who have given
9 monetary gifts. I want to mention Pantuso
10 Motors, Jaworski Signs, Gary DiBileo, Jerry
11 Notarianni, Virginia and David Chikirus.
12 IAMAW Union Local Lodge 2462, Scranton
13 firefighters and Andy Sbaraglia. We
14 continue to donate food every Wednesday,
15 that's when the deliveries will be.

16 I want to point out something that
17 was in the newspaper on Monday in the
18 classified legal ads, look at this here?
19 That's one ad. It's a bid for specs,
20 31 inches long, okay? And that is for
21 Office of Economic and Community Development
22 legal counsel. Now, to me, to me this is
23 unbelievable. It's a government grant
24 monopoly. There is no competition. It is
25 made up, it wasn't drawn up by the city

12

1 solicitor, it was drawn up by the OECD and
2 who is the OECD lawyer, Attorney Grecco. He
3 drew up his own specs. I looked at the

4 specs and there is no way in heck can
5 anybody ever be able to comply with these.
6 Now, November 1 there were published and you
7 have until November 10 to have the bid
8 opening. Now, how in the heck can anybody
9 meet these specs and you have to have at
10 least the last three years you had to be
11 doing municipal governmental things such as
12 in redevelopment, community development.
13 Nobody is going to be able to actually meet
14 that criteria but one person, and that is
15 Attorney Carl Greco who has been taking
16 hundreds and hundreds of thousands of
17 dollars from the City of Scranton. Last
18 week I complained about the \$600,000 why is
19 that needed for administration. Well, part
20 of it is for this guy, okay? I believe he
21 is also the SRA lawyer.

22 Now, it's a quid pro quo that
23 Doherty is playing. Mayor Doherty is
24 playing that. Here is the campaign
25 financial reports. In here Mr. Greco,

13

1 Attorney Greco has contributed to
2 Mr. Doherty's campaign \$9,675, that's a lot
3 of money, so what he is doing he is getting
4 this here bid, there is no doubt about it.

5 The specs are designed to rehire him. Ten
6 days to put in the bid.

7 Now, another thing, too, is OECD
8 selected a committee to determine. Who --
9 excuse me. Please excuse me, who would be
10 the winner of the bid. It's just
11 unbelievable that you can throw away
12 hundreds of thousands of dollars to this
13 man, okay? And, you know, two years ago you
14 argued about it and he went to Court and he
15 won but nobody appealed it and everybody
16 knew what the game was he was just going
17 through the motions, but you got to stop
18 this kind of corruption. This is terrible.

19 I went over to the school board and I
20 tried to tell them two weeks ago about the
21 school board that are receiving the
22 contributions to hire Hyland Associates and
23 that design team of Palumbo, Aker and
24 Quandel, and I pick up the paper and they
25 are going to do the same for the NEIU. They

14

1 are going to do a study and it's going be
2 the same design team. No RFP on that one.

3 Now, this is getting to a point where
4 it's so obvious it stinks and no wonder the

5 people realize that this part of
6 northeastern Pennsylvania political.

7 Now, you know, coming into the new
8 year and we are looking at my experience
9 with this food drive, okay, and seeing
10 people and how much in need they are and
11 seeing the debt that we are in in the City
12 of Scranton, you know, over a half a million
13 dollars in principle only, okay, and the
14 school board has already said they are going
15 -- they can tax up to 6.4 percent, so,
16 please, we cannot, you know, go ahead and
17 tax our people here in the City of Scranton
18 again. We just can't afford it and we can't
19 afford a contract again for a person to keep
20 on making \$100,000 plus a year, okay?

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

22 MR. QUINN: Because it's quid pro
23 quo. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening. Marie

15

1 Schumacher, resident and member of the
2 Taxpayers' Association. Although it's balmy
3 tonight we all know winter is just around
4 the corner. With winter comes snow and
5 typically an increase in home fires. With

6 home heating costs rising it is possible
7 there may be more fires than in prior years
8 as residents try to stretch their heating
9 budget. Time, of course, is critical in
10 fighting fires. Several times I have stood
11 at this podium to ask the city to help the
12 firefighters by painting the caps of the
13 fire hydrants to indicate available flow.

14 Now, as we face winter and snow even
15 color coating might not help if a hydrant is
16 buried with snow. With many of the hydrants
17 on corners, they tend to get covered as the
18 plowed snow stacks up at the corners. I
19 have seen hydrants in other communities with
20 visibility markers, which are nothing more
21 than poles attached to the hydrants with
22 flags on top. Scranton professes to be a
23 progressive city, but when it comes to aids
24 to help our firefighters protect our lives
25 and property we miss the mark by miles. It

16

1 may be too late for the color coding this
2 season, but it's not too late for visibility
3 markers and I urge you to find the funds to
4 procure and install visibility markers
5 before the snow falls and I beg you to

6 ensure there are funds in the 2009 budget to
7 color code each and every hydrant in the
8 city.

9 And now I would like to switch to a
10 new topic. There are a laws to protect
11 consumers that fall into the general
12 category of truth in advertising. Companies
13 can be sued to fraud if they misrepresent
14 a product or a service. Government, on the
15 other hand, appears to be protected. For
16 instance, there are two loans I recall, one
17 to ECTV and the other to Alexander's Salon,
18 that were presented on the agenda but the
19 devil was in the detail. Each of the loans
20 turned into grants in three years.

21 In February of this year, a contract
22 presentation was made to execute a contract
23 with a Palumbo group to do a study to
24 include historic preservation, environmental
25 reviews and design for the Cedar Avenue

17

1 revitalization area of Scranton, an area I
2 might add that extends from Cedar Avenue
3 bridge back to Brook Street, and what you
4 might wonder was the end result of this
5 contract? Drawing for a new public library.
6 So, I'm asking for consideration of a New

7 Year's resolution, that all presentations
8 for loans or contracts placed on the agenda
9 will be truthful and present all pertinent
10 facts such as loans that morph into grants.

11 On other subject, I would like to
12 know how much longer we are going to have to
13 wait for the 2007 audit now that the parking
14 audit has been received, does anybody know?

15 MS. EVANS: Now or --

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Go ahead.

17 MS. EVANS: It appears that we are to
18 receive the audit by the end of 2008.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's -- something
20 has got to be done about the timing on those
21 agenda, those audits, they really have to --
22 this is ridiculous. I don't know even know
23 why we bother when it's so late.

24 Now, on 3-A onto tonight's agenda
25 can anybody share what the tax collection

18

1 comparison reports received shows, how much
2 ahead are we this year than last --

3 MS. EVANS: I'm going to have a
4 monthly comparison report under motions.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, very good.
6 Okay. And back on the Alexander's loan,

7 Mrs. Fanucci, when that loan was discussed
8 last year you said there was going to be a
9 fitness center and medical spa, but I called
10 down there and there is no fitness and the
11 equipment for that fitness center was
12 supposed to be the collateral for a quarter
13 million dollar loan, so now we have made a
14 loan where we have no collateral; is that
15 correct?

16 MS. FANUCCI: I actually do not know
17 what they put in there, but I will check and
18 see and I'm not sure they ended up putting
19 up there.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: And there is no
21 medical spa and the doctor did not relocate.
22 I asked about that and they said a
23 doctor comes in from Philadelphia once a
24 week presumably to do Botox shots and that
25 kind of thing and you can make an

19

1 appointment directly with him, but there is
2 not a medical spa either.

3 MS. FANUCCI: I'll check on that.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do we know anything
5 more about Fratelli's?

6 MS. FANUCCI: No. No.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think we need to

8 start following up on these loans and what's
9 promised. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.
11 Schumacher. Anyone else? Mr. Morgan?

12 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
13 I don't really have too much tonight, I
14 would just like to say that I hope that we
15 could get a reformed or elected mayor in the
16 City of Scranton like Mr. McCain and
17 Mr. Obama wanted to try to do some very
18 important things for us in Washington and of
19 course, Mr. Obama won the election, but they
20 were both talking about corruption and
21 things that are just not happening quite
22 right where special interest has complete
23 control over everything.

24 And I just would like to say that my
25 opinion is that after coming to these

20

1 council meetings probably for 15 years,
2 maybe more, I really don't know how long, a
3 very long time, I'd have to say that this
4 mayor has done the worst job of
5 administering this city's business in all of
6 the time that I can remember. I remember
7 coming here as a child when Mr. Lynn used to

8 sit here on the end and I was amazed that
9 these people would keep coming those council
10 meetings trying to bring change to this city
11 and the only change we have seen in this
12 city is the very steep decline and it's
13 continuing, and when I get the opportunity
14 to drive through the city for my own
15 personal business I'm amazed at all of the
16 condemned houses and the lack of maintenance
17 in the city and I truthfully can't blame the
18 residents completely because the wage base
19 has been so stagnated by overtaxation and
20 wastes of all types of money including grant
21 money, and I just think that somebody needs
22 to run against this mayor and take him out
23 of this office because it seems that we have
24 appointed people that keep spending his
25 agenda forward and as has happened.

21

1 And this isn't a shot at Mr. McGoff
2 either, I mean, I do understand the mayor
3 came up to break a tie to put you on the
4 seat, Mr. McGoff, but there were many other
5 instances, and I really don't have a lot of
6 arguments with you, Mr. McGoff, because you
7 seem to be somewhat fair minded, and I'm not
8 trying to patronize you either, but just to

9 be honest, you know, I do disagree with many
10 things you do, but some of the people that
11 were appointed were just complete figure
12 heads, and this city suffered so much that
13 really it's time for a change and if we
14 can't even complete audits or we don't know
15 what's going on it's just -- it's beyond
16 belief. And I think it's -- I think we need
17 to pass the burden to this council to stop
18 introducing anything the mayor wants, as I
19 have said many times before, until we have
20 studied what he wants and we have a firm
21 opinion of what's going on in facts.

22 I mean, we are paving streets with
23 no curbs. We have city blocks with no
24 sidewalks. We have an infrastructure in
25 this city that's completely collapsed and we

22

1 have had people who have abandoned their
2 homes and left the city while they are still
3 for sale, that tells you that they are
4 trying to run as fast as they can and I know
5 that everybody on this council can make a
6 change for the better, but do you want to,
7 that's the question. Thank you.

8 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, City of

9 Scranton. I'd like to address a question to
10 Mr. Courtright, Mr. Courtright, for the last
11 couple of weeks could you find out how many
12 policemen have been on duty on Friday nights
13 and on Saturdays nights?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I will try, Friday
15 nights and Saturday nights on what shift?

16 MR. TALIMINI: It would be on the
17 second shift.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure, I'll try.

19 MR. TALIMINI: Because every night I
20 listen to that scanner and every Friday
21 night and every Saturday night they seem to
22 have not enough cars available to send out
23 on a call and there are some pretty serious
24 calls and there is no cars available. Now,
25 I think I counted five cars or six cars

23

1 Friday night when they had several
2 incidents.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: For from 8 to 4
4 there should be more cars coming on because
5 they implement a new shifts. I'll check it
6 though, second shift.

7 MR. TALIMINI: Because it seems to me
8 there is a lack of police available and I
9 think there is a scheduling problem.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll check into it.

11 MR. TALIMINI: And another thing I
12 would like to know is just how many cars we
13 have who have cages in them because when
14 they make arrests, I mean, you got car 18
15 which is on --

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Not enough.

17 MR. TALIMINI: -- Birney Avenue and
18 then you've got something on Greenridge and
19 they got to go down and pick somebody up and
20 here's a cop standing there for 15 minutes
21 waiting for somebody to come down and pick
22 up a transporter for them, that's another
23 vital thing because like it or not we do
24 have an increase in the crime in this town,
25 considerably.

24

1 I'd like to ask why we cannot go
2 back to Thursday night meetings because I
3 think it's very, very important for us. For
4 instance, the last couple of weeks on
5 Tuesday nights when we had meetings, there
6 have been other meetings going on on Tuesday
7 nights which a lot of us would like to
8 attend. We had the choice of either
9 attending the council meeting or attending a

10 debate. We had choice of either attending a
11 council meeting or attending another
12 agency's meeting. Thursday night seems to
13 be the best night for the council meeting.

14 Now, why we can't go back to Thursday
15 nights, I don't know. I don't know why we
16 had to change them to begin with, but for
17 the last few weeks there has been a conflict
18 all the way around, everything happens on
19 Tuesday nights. There is no reason in the
20 world why we cannot have council meetings
21 back on Thursday nights. Now, I see a lot
22 of you snickering, well, I'm sorry about
23 that if it's an inconvenience to you, but
24 the point of it is your schedule is easier
25 to change than it is to change the whole

25

1 community's schedule, and I see no reason
2 whatsoever why we can't go to back to
3 Thursday night meetings. They worked very
4 well before and they should work very well
5 now, but if it's a choice between missing a
6 council meeting or another meeting, I don't
7 think that's fair to the citizenry and
8 that's exactly what's going on. Everything
9 happens on Tuesday nights in Scranton for
10 some reason unless you are out drinking and

11 that happens on Friday and Saturday nights,
12 so thank you very much.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

14 MR. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council,
15 Dan Hubbard, lower Greenridge Neighborhood
16 Association. I was wondering if the flood
17 control office had an answer as to why our
18 neighborhood was not notified of this
19 meeting?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. HUBBARD: And if you could just
22 give me a minute to speak. Also I have a
23 question, as far as I know the foot patrol
24 police officers in the city are paid with
25 grant money for overtime; correct?

26

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Correct.

2 MR. HUBBARD: And that money is
3 federal grant money; correct?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Correct.

5 MR. HUBBARD: Which means that it
6 pretty much has to be used in low income
7 designated neighborhoods?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Correct.

9 MR. HUBBARD: So, when we came to you
10 guys and asked you why we couldn't get some

11 of the Elm Street flood project money to
12 repair the river banks in lower Greenridge
13 we were told that we are considered a low to
14 moderate income neighborhood and Judy had
15 petitioned that we take a petition through
16 the neighborhood to try to have our
17 designation changed versus what the census
18 states because we are connected to
19 Greenridge, so my question is on the
20 election day why was there a foot patrol
21 officer on Gardener Avenue checking license
22 plate registrations on my vehicles, my
23 father's boat trailer, then he proceeded to
24 lift the cover off of the boat bow to check
25 the registration number and the registration

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1 which by, if anybody is aware of, police
2 have absolutely no authority over boat
3 registrations, only the trailer, so if the
4 boat is not registered -- the boat doesn't
5 have to be registered until it's on the
6 water and then it falls --

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: What time of day it
8 was?

9 MR. HUBBARD: Well, I was Weston
10 Field, I went home to vote and grab lunch at
11 12:30, my neighbor grabbed me and said that

12 the officer was just there about ten minutes
13 before I got there, so around noon. The
14 boat registration is the Fish Commission.
15 Boat trailer is obviously DOT or police
16 department. The trailer is up-to-date on
17 the registration, so not that we are turning
18 away any police protection in lower
19 Greenridge, but it leads me to -- my mind to
20 think other things since we have never had a
21 foot patrol in our neighborhood ever.

22 MS. EVANS: Was that parked on the
23 street?

24 MR. HUBBARD: It was parked on the
25 street, but it is legally registered and

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1 insured, so there is no violation of any law
2 with the boat trailer.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Are you sure it was
4 a beat cop?

5 MR. HUBBARD: Yes. So, I would just
6 like to know, I mean, obviously there is
7 other areas in the city where these guys
8 could be well-placed to better protect the
9 citizens. Lower Greenridge is a pretty
10 small neighborhood, we really don't have
11 much of a crime -- the recent spray painting

12 spree, but that's about it. I understand
13 the gentleman that did all of the spray
14 painting in our neighborhood was arrested,
15 so I would just like an answer on that,
16 also.

17 Really that's about it. You know, I
18 did thoroughly enjoy the article in the
19 times on Tuesday that painted us the flood
20 victims out to be a bunch of whiners, that
21 was really nice, and I also enjoyed the
22 sources that the Times went to for their
23 side of the story being Mrs. Maranuchi and,
24 of course, our favorite neighbor Ron Kitlas,
25 so you are really digging deep on sources

29

1 there, so I would like to just make sure
2 everybody understands that we are still
3 flood victims, we are still unprotected and
4 we are at our most vulnerable state that we
5 have ever been at right now and we will be
6 sitting like this for at least another year
7 without any flood sirens or temporary flood
8 protection in place since the first flood in
9 lower Greenridge in 2004. So, I just wanted
10 to make everybody is clear on that that we
11 are still the unprotected link in the chain.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Hubbard.

14 Anyone else?

15 MS. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council.

16 Liz Hubbard, Scranton resident. I just have

17 a couple of questions, can anybody up there

18 tell me who are the members of the

19 Recreation Authority?

20 MS. EVANS: I don't know them.

21 MS. HUBBARD: Can you find out?

22 MS. EVANS: Oh, sure.

23 MS. HUBBARD: Would they have an

24 office that if I call there tomorrow --

25 MS. EVANS: You can call our office

30

1 tomorrow.

2 MS. HUBBARD: That's what I mean.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. HUBBARD: Okay. Now, it seems to

5 me I recall something regarding the Forum

6 Garage that there was a lot of money owed

7 for -- doesn't the city charge a certain

8 amount for each parking space?

9 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

10 MS. HUBBARD: And it was never paid

11 and there was somehow it had ended up in

12 court?

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

14 MS. HUBBARD: Was that ever resolved
15 and did the city ever get their money?

16 MS. EVANS: Not to my knowledge.

17 MS. HUBBARD: Could you find out?

18 MS. EVANS: We can certainly attempt
19 to.

20 MS. HUBBARD: And what you have would
21 have to do to, you know, resurrect it if
22 that the word I want because I think at the
23 time the amount was something in the
24 vicinity of \$68,000 and that's awhile ago,
25 so it must still be --

31

1 MS. EVANS: \$16,000?

2 MS. HUBBARD: I think it's 68.

3 MS. EVANS: Oh, 68 you said.

4 MS. HUBBARD: I'm not sure of that,
5 but it seems to me I remember that number.
6 And another thing about the University of
7 Scranton parking garages, the hospital
8 parking garages, do they pay fees for their
9 parking spaces? I know, and I brought this
10 up before, I know the University charges
11 students for parking.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

13 MS. HUBBARD: So are they paying

14 their fair share of the parking tax?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't think so.

16 MS. EVANS: I don't think so.

17 MS. HUBBARD: You don't think so.

18 MS. EVANS: I could be wrong, but I
19 know council at a previous time had
20 discussed looking into the garage situation.

21 MS. HUBBARD: I think I might have
22 brought it up.

23 MS. EVANS: And receiving money from
24 the University in lieu of taxes or perhaps
25 in the form of an impact fee in order to

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1 cover those parking situations and since
2 nothing ever materialized from that I'm
3 assuming it's because we were not able, in
4 other words, we are not able to obtain any
5 money from the nonprofits for their parking
6 garages.

7 MS. HUBBARD: Well, that doesn't
8 seem quite right because if the CMC has a
9 parking garage and I go to the hospital to
10 visit somebody I have to pay.

11 MS. EVANS: Right.

12 MS. HUBBARD: So, they are getting my
13 money for that garage.

14 MS. EVANS: Oh, I agree.

15 MS. HUBBARD: That should not be
16 nonprofit, that should be taxed or fee'd or
17 whatever you want to call it. I mean, it
18 seems as though we are always looking for
19 ways to get money out of the taxpayers so
20 maybe we should start looking for ways to
21 get money out of the nontaxpayers. Anyone
22 know anything about the skunks?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

24 MS. HUBBARD: I smelled one tonight
25 when I came out to come to the meeting. And

33

1 also somebody told me that they don't
2 hibernate.

3 MS. EVANS: That's true, they don't,
4 and spring is the reproductive season.

5 MS. HUBBARD: Yeah, well, I mean,
6 Judy said that they are going to be taken
7 care of so let's get on that, okay? Thank
8 you. Have a good night and I'll call
9 tomorrow for that list.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, Mrs. Hubbard.

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, City
12 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton
13 resident. Toastmaster's International, the
14 person at the podium is the speaker,

15 everybody else are the listeners. Worldwide
16 renowned organization, it's a good rule, I
17 believe to follow.

18 I see where the metropolitan area of
19 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and Hazelton now has
20 now has the highest unemployment rate in the
21 state, we were second to the highest, but
22 now we overcame Johnstown and now we've got
23 the highest unemployment rate in the state.
24 I realize we are having economic tough times
25 throughout the country, but this area has

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1 had economic times for the last 50 to
2 60 years. I see where another business has
3 moved out of town and I mean, things have to
4 change.

5 We continually hear about how great
6 we are doing economically, how we were
7 spending money on this and spending money on
8 that, but the bottom line is people are not
9 getting jobs that they can live on, and
10 again, I know we got problems throughout the
11 country, but I'm worried about the country,
12 but I'm also worried -- I'm also worried
13 about the community of Scranton. You know,
14 the Chamber of Commerce, the mayor,

15 everybody says how good we are and the city
16 is booming, but there is no proof of that.
17 And, again, now we have the highest
18 unemployment. We actually dropped to
19 6.5 percent unemployment, but we moved up to
20 being the highest in the state, and that's
21 just not right. Spend like this, I have
22 been talking about this for four years,
23 basically been ignored, Austin Burke, I have
24 asked for Austin Burke, Chamber of Commerce
25 president to come to city council and

35

1 perhaps have city council invite him, have
2 the mayor come in and talk about this
3 problem for years and years and years no one
4 has ever acknowledged it, no one has ever
5 invited these people or if they have invited
6 them they have never showed up to talk about
7 it.

8 These are serious issues because the
9 citizens are suffering in this city.
10 Whether you believe is or not the citizens
11 of this city are suffering. Wages, we have
12 the lowest per hour wage rate in the state.
13 We have the lowest medium wage rate in the
14 state and have had over and over and over
15 again. I ask these questions to Congressman

16 Kanjorski and Mayor Lou Barletta, they
17 really don't have any answers either.

18 Well, why do we have a Chamber of
19 Commerce? Why do we have elected officials
20 and why are we continually told over and
21 over and over again how great we are doing.
22 The food pantries are empty.

23 By the way, I would like to
24 congratulate the Scranton Taxpayers'
25 Association on their food drive and

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1 Councilwoman Evans, who I understand was
2 instrumental in all of this, and I
3 understand it went very well.

4 Also, I would like to congratulate
5 Dave Dobson and Mark Migliore from ECTV who
6 had the meetings with Mayor Barletta and
7 Congressman, I keep on wanting to say
8 Councilman, but it's Congressman Kanjorski,
9 because they did play those over and over
10 and over again right before the election and
11 hopefully it was beneficial to all of those
12 or anyone who saw them because I thought
13 that those meetings and were very
14 well-informed and done very professionally
15 and basically that's about it, But again,

16 when is the economy in this area going to
17 improve?

18 You know, from my understanding I
19 believe the Southern Union is still empty.
20 Where is Merrill Lynch? They were supposed
21 to be here in October. Where are they? Is
22 the mayor and Austin Burke working on this
23 project or has it fallen into the cracks
24 like everything else in this city always
25 does? I mean, like I said, and again, my

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1 questions have not been answered that I
2 asked three weeks ago three times in a row,
3 the question is who is responsible for the
4 City of Scranton being distressed for
5 16 years and when is the wage tax going to
6 be reduced like Mayor Doherty promised us in
7 2003? The wage tax has not been reduced,
8 it's still at 3.4 percent and we are
9 distressed for 16 years, 2009 -- or
10 17 years, when is it going to change, who is
11 going to change it and who is responsible
12 for it? I mean, these are simple questions
13 and I really wish they would be answered.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening,
16 Council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky and I'm a member

17 of the Scranton and Lackawanna County
18 Taxpayers'. For the last two weeks our
19 organization has been conducting a food
20 drive. Tomorrow will be the last day that
21 we will be collecting non-perishable food
22 items. As of yesterday, we have delivered
23 box after box to five different food
24 pantries. That was our second delivery. I
25 wish to thank the people who are picking it

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1 up which was Dave Evans, Ozzie Quinn, and
2 Bob Jones. They have been picking up the
3 food and they have been delivering the food.
4 We are now going to start buying the food
5 and we will distribute what we buy over the
6 next few weeks. I wish to thank Janet Evans
7 and Ozzie Quinn for getting this project
8 started. Without them, it wouldn't have
9 been done and I thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
11 Mr. Ungvarsky. Anyone else?

12 MR. DOBSON: Good evening. Dave
13 Dobson, resident of the Scranton and
14 taxpayers' member. Veteran's Day is there
15 going to be any rescheduling of the council
16 meeting? Yes or no?

17 MR. MCGOFF: No.

18 MR. DOBSON: No? Okay. Then it's
19 the answer. Okay, once again I see 5-C
20 where we spent a lot of money and effort on
21 Lackawanna Avenue and I would like to
22 mention once again Buona Pizza is still not
23 included. Please try to find some kind of
24 solution for these people if possible. I
25 think they are pretty reasonable and they

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1 have been a nice business in town for quite
2 awhile.

3 And other than that, our election is
4 over with and we have a whole bunch of new
5 congress people and some old ones and new
6 president, I would like to urge everybody to
7 stay in touch now, don't just forget that
8 they are there for the next four years and
9 let them run off what they want.

10 And, please, in the future try to do
11 some research into possible industrial
12 properties in town or otherwise we can't
13 attract people of any caliber and jobs of
14 any caliber, you know, I don't want to pick
15 on the coffee shops or whatever, but we do
16 need industrial space and a place to work
17 that people don't have to drive 50 miles to

18 every day just to find a job.

19 Furthermore, we also need to attract
20 young families to the city, we have a lot of
21 houses up for sale, so if the city is going
22 to survive without going year in and year
23 out and further and further in debt and so
24 forth the whole country that has to change.
25 Also, contact your representative and

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1 congressmen, please, and ask them to stop
2 with the trade packs. Just put a hiatus on
3 it and start thinking differently because as
4 it stands right now we can't compete with
5 someone that's forced to operate at the
6 business end of the machine. Our society is
7 actually falling apart. We have no consumer
8 base at all left for a consumer economy, we
9 have no manufacturing base left and, of
10 course, you people probably see this every
11 day, but the lynch pin is contact your
12 representative, if you do after awhile maybe
13 they will get the message. Thank you and
14 have a good night.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobson.
16 Anyone other speakers?

17 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, Council.

18 I had something to address with Mrs.
19 Gatelli, but I guess I'll come back next
20 week so I have just two shorts things. The
21 first one is you mentioned before about the
22 tax office, do you know some of the money
23 tax office, does that belong to the county,
24 too?

25 MS. EVANS: It appears so.

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1 MR. NEWCOMB: Their money? I think
2 some of that money is for them, too, because
3 I see in the meeting, last week with the
4 county and I know some people talked to
5 tonight about taxes and our school taxes,
6 and according to what I read would be going
7 up somewhat next year, but what I want to
8 say about that is at the commissioners i
9 heard them say we that we're supposed to
10 have our reassessment put off until 2010 at
11 least or better because of some kind of
12 mapping problem and they were saying that
13 they wanted it to done beforehand because
14 they are in trouble with finances, too, they
15 want to get the mapping problems
16 straightened out, so my point is maybe, you
17 know, they could send a letter or somebody
18 could send a letter and it will save the

19 taxpayers a little bit on their property tax
20 if they get some of that like Mrs. Evans
21 said, maybe it's coming by the end of the
22 year, maybe that will put off the
23 reassessment for a little bit before
24 everybody gets their tax bills.

25 And what I do have to say is every

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1 three years, fortunately, I guess it all
2 depends on where you live, but every three
3 years just from my own well-being I hire a
4 real estate agent to do an appraisals on my
5 home, and I pick a different one every three
6 years so I don't get the same, I just do
7 that for my own good, and in the area where
8 I live, fortunately, I really thought that
9 the homes were going to be down a little bit
10 from '06 I had it done, so what are we in,
11 I'm sorry, '05, so it's three years my went
12 up over a little bit like \$7,000, which it
13 really I thought it would be better than
14 that, but my point is the real estate is
15 holding it's value a little bit and the rule
16 of thumb is what they told me is if you have
17 a good property and a good location every
18 ten years you should double your price.

19 That's real estate rule of thumb. Like, in
20 other words, if you bought it for 40 and you
21 are in a good area maybe in ten years from
22 then it should be worth like higher 70's or
23 early 80's if you live in a good area, so my
24 own vein we'll be there ten years in '09 and
25 we are only about \$4,000 from there, so

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1 there is some parts to this, but they told
2 me the biggest part is when they do an
3 evaluation on a home you got to watch what's
4 around you because if you are in a blighted
5 area or if you're in an area where there is
6 some foreclosures, there is some homes in
7 the City of Scranton right now that this
8 particular person did, I'm not going to tell
9 you who did mine, but he did three of them
10 same week he did mine and some of those
11 properties went down like 6 to 8 percent and
12 the reason for them going down 6 to
13 8 percent he said because there was some
14 blight in that area, so maybe, you know,
15 that's why everybody keeps their property up
16 and hopefully we won't have as big a real
17 estate problem as we could have. Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Newcomb.
19 Anyone else?

20 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hi, Billy.
21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.
22 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Up a little bit?
23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, pick it up a
24 little bit.
25 MR. MCGOFF: Liking that hat, Chris.

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1 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Thank you, Janet, it
2 happened to us down there. It was a good
3 year. They had a good year, didn't they?
4 MS. EVANS: Yes, they did.
5 MR. SLEDZENSKI: I was there, wasn't
6 I?
7 MS. EVANS: Yes, you were, everyday.
8 You did an excellent job, Chris.
9 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Billy, I love you,
10 Billy. Good luck, Billy.
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thanks, Chris.
12 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Mrs.
13 Evans?
14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good evening.
15 I'm pleased to report that our food drive to
16 benefit Scranton food pantries has been very
17 successful as was indicated earlier in
18 evening and I would like to thank all of the
19 Scranton businesses who contributed canned

20 items and monetary donations. I also thank
21 the fire department, DPW, police department
22 and city hall offices for their wonderful
23 donations. I particularly wish to thank
24 Mrs. Nancy Krake and the members of the
25 clerical union for their generous \$500

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1 donation and Dave Shriber and members of the
2 Scranton Fire Department for their \$100
3 donation to help feed Scranton's poor.

4 The Scranton/Lackawanna Taxpayers'
5 Association has opened up bank account for
6 monetary donations so that nonperishable
7 food items will continue to be purchased and
8 delivered to food pantries throughout
9 November, and if these monetary donations
10 continue, with God's help and yours, they
11 can continue to purchase and deliver food
12 throughout the winter months as well.
13 Donations can be made payable to the
14 Scranton/Lackawanna Taxpayers' Association
15 and can be mailed to 116 Masters Street,
16 18510, for the remainder of the fall and
17 winter months.

18 Special thanks to Ozzie Quinn, Tom
19 Ungvarsky, Dave Evans for their tireless
20 dedication, energy time and hard work to

21 make this much needed food drive so
22 successful. Please continue to give as the
23 cold winter months set in.

24 Council also received a response to
25 it's letter to county commissioners

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1 regarding an allocation to stock food
2 pantries and in the response Theresa Osborne
3 explains that the County Human Services Area
4 Agency on Aging and Children and Youth
5 Services Department, strive to annually
6 provide life-sustaining services such a food
7 and shelter to the needy through the
8 Emergency Food and Shelter Program and
9 through a collaborative arrangement with the
10 United State Way Program. Such commitments
11 remain in place in the current fiscal year,
12 and I thank the commissioners for this
13 timely response.

14 And before I move on with some
15 financial information, I did want to comment
16 on speaker's presentation tonight regarding
17 the advertisement for council for OECD. I
18 know that the same gentleman has received
19 this appointment for seven years.
20 Initially, I would say perhaps the first two

21 or three years, there was no bidding system
22 in place and when finally that occurred it
23 appeared that the specifications of the
24 requests for proposals, let us say, was
25 tailor made to one individual. However, one

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1 year there was another applicant for the
2 position who was not chosen. I do not know
3 if since that time these advertisements
4 appear in newspaper outside of the City of
5 Scranton, but Mr. Quinn's assessment of the
6 situation is, indeed, correct.

7 November 15, the deadline for
8 submission of the mayor's 2009 proposed
9 budget, fast approaches. There are five
10 developments to report which will impact
11 this budget. First, proposals will be
12 opened on November 24 for two tax
13 anticipation notes. TANS Series "A" in the
14 amount of five million and TANS Series "B"
15 for 9.5 million.

16 Second, if contract negotiations
17 with the police and fire are successful
18 before the budget submission date, those new
19 dollar amounts will be included in the 2009
20 budget. If an agreement is reached
21 following the budget's submission the budget

22 would have to be amended to include new
23 figures.

24 Third, it seems that the first part
25 of the forensic audit of the Single Tax

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1 Office should be completed by the year end
2 and the city anticipates some distribution
3 of funds by year end. The forensic audit is
4 to be accomplished in two phases, phase one,
5 determines the amount and source of funds to
6 be distributed, and phase two will recommend
7 potential solutions to avoid such problems
8 in the future. It appears that these monies
9 will arrive just in time to save the 2009
10 budget and very likely save the mayor from
11 increasing taxes during an election year.

12 Fourth, it seems the 2007 independent
13 audit of city council will be completed by
14 the end of 2008, therefore, the question
15 arises how accurate are the figures
16 contained in the 2009 proposed budget
17 without a firm accounting of the finances
18 contained in the independent audit.

19 Through no fault of the auditor
20 Rossi & Sons, the 2007 audit has languished
21 for longer than the audits of 2003, 2004,

22 and 2005. Only the audit of 2006 required
23 extra time because it was initiated several
24 months later than the normal starting date.
25 In a typical municipality such occurrences

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1 and coincidence would raise a red flag, but
2 Scranton has been anything but typical in
3 the last few years.

4 Fifth, the Single Tax Office has
5 submitted it's monthly comparisons for
6 year-to-date tax collections. The city real
7 estate tax collections decreased by nearly 2
8 percent while the wage tax collections
9 increased by over \$3.1 million or 20.4
10 percent. The business privilege and
11 mercantile tax collections also increased by
12 3.8 percent while EMS tax collections
13 declined by 46.7 percent.

14 I'm very pleased to finally see the
15 wage tax collections return to what they
16 should be in 2008. After several years of
17 negligence under Mr. McDowell, I recognize
18 that wage tax figures were down as finance
19 chair council and after all of this time I
20 have been validated through aggressive tax
21 collections and the discovery of banked tax
22 dollars.

23 Next, I received a response from
24 Attorney Penetar to my concerns and efforts
25 to protect residents of lower Greenridge

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1 from a potential new business similar to
2 Daron Northeast. Unfortunately, Attorney
3 Penetar offers no relief for these
4 homeowners and taxpayers. Noise levels are
5 addressed by ordinance and by the zoning
6 enforcement officer, Mr. Wallace. If he
7 determines a violation the hiring of a
8 professional noise engineer to run tests is
9 usually required according to Attorney
10 Penetar. The cost of hiring an expert
11 appears to fall onto the complainant or the
12 city.

13 As to air quality issues, he states
14 the city has not the authority to conduct a
15 study and such issues must be referred to
16 federal and state agencies. What puzzles
17 me, however, is the fact that an appropriate
18 government agency already conducted a study
19 and recommended that change in zoning to
20 protect the residents. Obviously, this
21 seems to be of no consequence to the zoning
22 board solicitor. Attorney Penetar ends by

23 stating, "Unless a specific violation of
24 these regulations can be proven in Court,
25 allegations remain just allegation."

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1 I'd like to add that I do not find
2 the comparison of Daron Northeast to
3 Marywood construction vehicles made by
4 Attorney Penetar to be equivalent, sound or
5 appropriate. Zoning laws are designed not
6 only to provide a coexistence of industrial,
7 commercial and residential uses, but also to
8 protect human beings from the adverse
9 quality of live effects of businesses which
10 encroach on residential neighborhoods. If
11 any zoning department guards the rights of
12 business to the detriment of homeowners and
13 residents, then it has lost sight of it's
14 balance mission.

15 And in response to a question posed
16 by a speaker earlier this evening regarding
17 the flood meeting, Mr. O'Hora from the flood
18 office called to respond to the letter we
19 sent out last week regarding the meeting
20 that took place at Weston Field with Barbara
21 Maranuchi and the Bullshead Neighborhood
22 Association. He said the flood office had
23 nothing to do with setting this meeting up.

24 Mr. Williams from Congressman Kanjorski's
25 office set it up and notified the flood

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1 office of the date and time. Mr. O'Hora
2 said he couldn't even attend due to a prior
3 commitment that he had that day and that
4 Congressman Kanjorski's office had someone
5 from the Army Corp there. What
6 Mrs. Maranuchi had to do with it Mr. O'Hora
7 does not know.

8 And, finally, a few citizens'
9 requests. If Mr. Brazil could provide,
10 please, in writing the city's snow removal
11 citywide policy because numerous city
12 residents have requested the information as
13 winter fast approaches.

14 Also, I'm not certain to whom we
15 want to address this, Kay, if it would be
16 the parking authority, perhaps Mr. Renda as
17 well, was the city ever paid for the alleged
18 approximate \$68,000 for parking spaces at
19 the Forum Parking Garage? We would like a
20 written update on that situation, please.
21 And, in addition, to the same individuals,
22 do the nonprofits such as city hospitals and
23 post secondary institutions pay fees to the

24 city for spaces in their parking garages?
25 And that's it.

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1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Evans.
2 Mr. Fanucci?

3 MS. FANUCCI: I don't have anything
4 at this time. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Courtright?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Two things. I have
7 a letter here I'd like to read, "On behalf
8 of Village Park Apartments management and
9 residents, I just want to thank you along
10 with Car 22, Rescue 1, Engine 9, Engine 7
11 and Truck four for their service
12 extinguishing and securing 109 Townhouse
13 Boulevard during the fire on November 19th
14 at 6:00 p.m. Their quick response in
15 combination with the assessment of the
16 situation, respect for the property and
17 caring shown to the residents was very much
18 appreciated. I would like to extend our
19 best wishes for all of those involved."

20 And that's signed, "Sincerely Carrie
21 Yackovozi, site manager for the Village Park
22 Apartments."

23 And just one other thing, as we are
24 all aware, the gas company is digging up

25

quite a few streets in Scranton and after

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1 they dig them up they have to repair them,
2 on Fellow Street near the West Scranton
3 Middle School they dug up a portion of the
4 street they were going to pave it and the
5 city was going to pave an intersection and
6 that left approximately 100 feet of the road
7 that would not be paved and it would kind of
8 look ridiculous being paved to a certain
9 extent and not paved a little further, and
10 so I would like to thank the gas company and
11 also John Hazzouri for getting together and
12 they are going to pave that 100 feet in
13 front there so that it doesn't look
14 ridiculous, so I just want to thank those
15 two individuals for the help and I'm sure
16 that the residents of Fellow Street are the
17 ones that have called me were very pleased,
18 an that's all I have. Thank you.

19

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,

20

Mr. Courtright. First thing, I would be

21

remiss if I did not wish a happy birthday,

22

happy 30 something birthday to my twins, Pat

23

and Megan, on this day, so happy birthday to

24

them.

1 but I might as well do it now, we were going
2 to vote on some legislation that we voted on
3 last week dealing with Coney Island, I would
4 just like to make note that there is a
5 permit waiting on the desks upstairs to
6 begin work on Coney Island, the work that
7 was proposed and it is in the proposal and
8 it's just waiting pending our approval and
9 that they will begin work on that project,
10 so I think that's a very positive sign for
11 Lackawanna Avenue and the entire Lackawanna
12 Avenue project.

13 Also, someone asked me the other day
14 about a property at 701 Crown Avenue and I
15 have not had a chance to respond to them.
16 They were asking about the condition of the
17 property and so on and I would just like to
18 inform them that it has been looked at by
19 the inspectors and I believe that notices
20 are being -- were posted on the property for
21 the property owners who are nonresidents of
22 Scranton.

23 And also, last thing, there will not
24 be a meeting next week as was asked. The
25 next council meeting will be held on

1 November 18.

2 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B.
3 FOR INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF
4 TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN
5 AS SHORT AVENUE, TAX MAP NO. 13420-020-027,
6 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO CARMEN SAITA, 517
7 GREENBUSH STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
8 18508, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$7,000.00.

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

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
22 A RESOLUTION - APPROVING THE MODIFICATION OF
23 THE EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE
24 INTERSECTION OF MOOSIC STREET AND FRONT
25 STREET TO IMPROVE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC FOR

1 THE PISANO COMMERCIAL PROJECT ON MOOSIC
2 STREET.

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

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
16 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 45,
17 2008 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
18 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE
19 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE
20 GRANT FUNDS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT
21 OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
22 ("DCED") THROUGH THE ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT
23 PROGRAM.

24 MR. MCGOFF: You have heard Reading
25 by Title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-A
2 pass reading by title.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

11 MS. GARVEY: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
12 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 46, 2008 - AN ORDINANCE
13 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
14 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS
16 FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
17 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED")
18 THROUGH THE ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.

19 MR. MCGOFF: You have heard Reading
20 by Title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that Item 6-B
22 pass Reading by Title.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: 6-C. READING BY TITLE
7 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 47, 2008 - AN ORDINANCE
8 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 92, 1991,
9 ENTITLED "CREATING A SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR THE
10 CITY OF SCRANTON IN THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC &
11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO BE ENTITLED AS
12 "REPAYMENTS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION
13 GRANTS (UDAGS) #91-400" FOR THE PURPOSE OF
14 RECEIVING, DISBURSING, OR TRANSFERRING OF
15 UDAG REPAYMENTS."

16 MR. MCGOFF: You have heard Reading
17 by Title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I move that item
19 6-C pass Reading by Title.

20 MS. FANUCCI: 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 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
4 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
5 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 77, 2008 -
6 RE-APPOINTMENT OF FRANK J. TUNIS, JR., 101
7 KELLY WAY, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A
8 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING
9 AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS. MR.
10 TUNIS' TERM EXPIRED ON JUNE 1, 2007 AND HIS
11 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2012.

12 MR. MCGOFF: As chairperson for the
13 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-A.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

17 MS. EVANS: Yes. This is just a
18 related topic, but we had discussed briefly
19 earlier about the Forum Garage can that
20 letter go on behalf of council and also can
21 we include the Adams, I don't know that this
22 is the correct name, the Adams garage in
23 that as well?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Fine.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?
2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.
3 MS. EVANS: Yes.
4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.
5 (Mrs. Gatelli not present.)
6 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.
7 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.
8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.
9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.
11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
12 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.
13 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION -
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
15 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 78, 2008 -
16 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
17 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
18 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN
19 FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
20 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.19 IN AN AMOUNT NOT
21 TO EXCEED \$86,000.00 TO JAY'S COMMONS, LP TO
22 ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.
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, please?

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

10 (Mrs. Gatelli not present.)

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: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION -
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
20 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 79, 2008 -
21 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
22 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
23 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
24 APPROPRIATENESS FOR SDA ARCHITECTS, 321
25 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA FOR

2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA TO INCLUDE: PARTY
3 WALL TO RECEIVE RESTRUCTURED STEPPED PARAPET
4 WITH ALUMINUM CAP AND STUCCO FINISH TO BE
5 PAINTED TO MATCH ADJACENT BUILDING;
6 LACKAWANNA AVENUE FAÇADE TO RECEIVE STUCCO
7 TREATMENT, NEW ALUMINUM WINDOWS, DOORS AND
8 MOLDINGS; THE ADAMS AVENUE FAÇADE BASE AND
9 HISTORIC CONEY ISLAND SIGN TO BE REPAINTED
10 AS ORIGINAL; UPPER WALL TO RECEIVE NEW
11 ALUMINUM FRAMES, WINDOWS AND MOLDINGS AND
12 STUCCO FINISH; NEWLY STRUCTURED ROOF TO
13 RECEIVE EPDM SURFACE AND NEW ROOF DRAINS;
14 BOGART COURT ELEVATION TO BE STABILIZED WITH
15 FILLED-IN WINDOW AREAS AND NEW PAINT.

16 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Community Development.

19 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the
20 Committee on Community Development, I
21 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

24 MS. EVANS: I'm very pleased that
25 there will finally be progress on that end

1 of the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue. I

2 believe work may begin as soon as tomorrow
3 morning. We are looking forward to an
4 opening by Coney Island, a grand opening in
5 the very near future, and I'm thrilled that
6 that project is going to include at least
7 that one business. Now we have work to see
8 what happens with Buona Pizza.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Roll call,
10 please?

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

14 (Mrs. Gatelli not present.)

15 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

22 MS. GARVEY: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION -
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
24 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 80, 2008 -
25 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE

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1 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
2 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF

3 APPROPRIATENESS FOR JOHN ANDREJACK
4 CONTRACTORS, 802 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,
5 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA FOR INSTALLATION OF A
6 NEW ROOF WITH ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES,
7 POINTING OF BRICKS, REPLACEMENT OF WINDOW
8 OPENING FILLERS AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING
9 SIGNS AT 225 VINE STREET, SCRANTON,
10 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

14 MS. FANUCCI: As Chair for the
15 Committee on Community Development, I
16 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes.

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

23 (Ms. Gatelli not present.)

24 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

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1 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
7 - BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
8 - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 81, 2008 -
9 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
10 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
11 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
12 APPROPRIATENESS FOR ELECTRIC CITY SIGNS, RR
13 2, BOX 2069 NICHOLSON, PENNSYLVANIA FOR
14 INSTALLATION OF A SINGLE-FACED, NON-LIT
15 2X5X1 SIGN MOUNTED TO BRICK FAÇADE AND A
16 1X2½ TWO-SIDED ALUMINUM SIGN ATTACHED TO
17 ENTRANCE GATE AT 302 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON,
18 PENNSYLVANIA.

19 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
20 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
21 Committee on Community Development?

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

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
2 call, please.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.
5 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.
6 (Mrs. Gatelli not present.)
7 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.
8 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.
9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.
10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.
12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
13 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

14 MS. GARVEY: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
16 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 82, 2008 -
17 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
18 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
19 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
20 UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY AT CANAAN ("USP
21 CANAAN") AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE
22 CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA ("SCRANTON
23 POLICE DEPARTMENT") FOR USE OF ITS FIRING
24 RANGE.

25 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

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1 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Public Safety?

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: As Chairperson for

4 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
5 final passage of Item 7-F.

6 MS. EVANS: Second.

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

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

12 (Ms. Gatelli not present.)

13 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

20 Motion for adjournment?

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you for your
23 participation.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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