

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT
- MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT
- MS. JANET E. EVANS (Not Present)
- 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 (Mrs. Evans not present.)

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. Let the minutes  
14 reflect that Mrs. Evans informed council  
15 that she would not be any attending  
16 tonight's meeting. Dispense with the  
17 reading off the minutes, Third Order.

18 MS. GARVEY: 3-A. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
19 FOR THE MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2008.

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

22 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
23 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON  
24 SEPTEMBER 24, 2008.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

1 If note, received and filed.

2 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
3 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON  
4 OCTOBER 22, 2008.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
6 In not, received and filed.

7 MS. GARVEY: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
8 VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING  
9 HELD ON JULY 15, 2008.

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

12 MS. GARVEY: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE  
13 VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING  
14 HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2008.

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

17 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third  
18 Order.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Garvey.  
20 Any announcements from council?

21 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I have few. In  
22 the past week I have received several  
23 e-mails from people asking to send Christmas  
24 cards again this year to the Walter Reed  
25 Hospital. I don't know if you recall, but

1 last year we were notified not to send them  
2 to Walter Reed because if you send them to a  
3 recovering soldier they cannot be delivered  
4 because it's a security breach of the  
5 Pentagon, so anyone who receives these  
6 e-mails sending a card to a recovering  
7 soldier at Walter Reed please tell the  
8 people sending you that they will not  
9 deliver these cards.

10 However, if you go onto  
11 [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) they have a website on  
12 there that tells you where to send cards to  
13 soldiers. It's called the "Holiday Mail for  
14 Heroes Program." You can send a card to the  
15 troops, address it to, "A service member,"  
16 and mail it to: Holiday Mail for Heroes,  
17 Post Office Box 5456, Capital Heights,  
18 Maryland, 20791. And I will give this to  
19 ECTV to put on the website, so just so you  
20 know the cards for Walter Reed will not be  
21 delivered.

22 This next week on Wednesday,  
23 December 3, there will be a meeting of the  
24 Elm Street Program in South Scranton. It  
25 will held at United States Neighborhood

1 Centers, 425 Alder Street at 6:00 p.m.

2 Starting November 28, on a Friday,  
3 through January 7, is the Nay Aug Christmas  
4 light show and it will start at dusk each  
5 night.

6 I got a complaint last week that the  
7 flag in front of city hall was very  
8 tattered, so I called Representative Ken  
9 Smith and I brought the new flag this  
10 evening from Representative Smith and  
11 Mrs. Garvey is going to give it to the  
12 janitor tomorrow morning to hang in front of  
13 city hall. So we would like to say thank  
14 you to Representative Smith.

15 The Scranton Public Theatre is  
16 having their 30th anniversary and Agnus  
17 Cummings will be doing some of the skits.  
18 It will be November 28, 29, and 30 at 8:15  
19 at the Old Brick Theatre on West Market  
20 Street next to Stirna's and the cost is \$10.

21 There will be a World Aids  
22 celebration at the University of Scranton  
23 and the Aids quilt will be on display.  
24 Monday, December 1 from 2 to 8, Tuesday,  
25 December 2 from 12 to 8, and Wednesday,

7

1 December 3 from 12 to 8, and I'll also give

2 this to ECTV to put on the website. And  
3 that's all I have. Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I would  
5 like to mention that tomorrow the dedication  
6 of the Heroes' memorial at Nay Aug will take  
7 place. That's 10:00 at Nay Aug in the area  
8 of the old greenhouse near the Davis Trail,  
9 the Heroes' memorial dedication 10:00 at Nay  
10 Aug.

11 Also, sale of buttons for First  
12 Night, which you probably heard will be the  
13 last one sponsored by Scranton Tomorrow, the  
14 sale of buttons for First Night begins on  
15 Friday, this Friday. The buttons can be  
16 purchased I believe at the Scranton Tomorrow  
17 offices, also. It used to be at the federal  
18 building, but I will check. No?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, it's in that  
20 building just before Lee Swartz's.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Right, that's the  
22 Scranton Tomorrow offices, but I know that  
23 they had in the past sold them in the lobby  
24 of the Nealon building, but they do go on  
25 sale Friday and the event's schedule map

1 there is a copy in the clerk's office if

2 anyone is interested in looking at it, and  
3 thank you. Fourth Order. Citizens'  
4 participation. Andy Sbaraglia.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
6 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians. I  
7 have a little quote from the mayor, "The  
8 mall produces --" this is on Boscov's, "The  
9 mall produces more than 1 million a year in  
10 property taxes alone Mayor Chris Doherty  
11 said."

12 As you know, the property taxes for  
13 all of Scranton is 14 million and they are  
14 trying to tell you the mall pays 1/14 of all  
15 of the city taxes when I happen to know the  
16 mall is on the tax rolls for -- the mall  
17 itself, I'm not counting Sampter's, the Dry  
18 or the theatre, but the mall itself is only  
19 on the tax rolls for \$400,000, so how he can  
20 come up with a figure like 1 million is  
21 beyond me, but I guess you can say anything.

22 Now, real estate probably would be over  
23 a million. If you said he was at over  
24 \$1 million worth of real estate in Scranton  
25 I would say, yes. The question is most of

9

1 that real estate was brought for \$1 a piece,  
2 that's what the Sampter's was sold for and



3 so was the Dry.

4 Okay, let's do a little more with  
5 Boscov's, as you know the paper also pointed  
6 out very pointedly that Governor Rendell  
7 gets contributions from Mr. Boscov or  
8 somebody in his family or so forth and so  
9 on, but they did not include that the mayor  
10 also does and I think they should have.  
11 It's in here. If you look back you will  
12 find it the money he got, okay, it's in  
13 there.

14 Now another factor with the mall,  
15 when Mr. Boscov's sold his leases inside of  
16 the mall for \$22 million, they'd write up in  
17 the paper how much more money we were going  
18 to get, and when it came down to it we got  
19 peanuts. I wish somebody in the tax office  
20 now that we got a new administration in  
21 there would look into that deal even if they  
22 can't do nothing, we could finally get it  
23 straightened out why we got so little from  
24 the sale of the transfer of the leases.

25 I won't say anything about the

10

1 merits of the situation because it's -- I  
2 think he has something like 50 or 60 stores,

3 there is lot of people involved so forth and  
4 so on, and a lot of jobs at stake so as far  
5 as the merits go I will not comment on it  
6 because there is too much at stake.

7 Okay, let's get down into something  
8 we are going to do here, 5-B, introduction  
9 of an ordinance looking for \$250,000 again  
10 for the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue.  
11 There was a movie one time when Michelangelo  
12 was painting the Sistine Chapel and the Pope  
13 asked, "When is it going to end," well, I'm  
14 going to ask the same question now, when is  
15 it going to end? I told you before all of  
16 the taxes of Scranton in the end will  
17 probably not make up what you are pouring  
18 into Lackawanna Avenue for that one block  
19 and the worst part about it, Buona's and my  
20 favorite Coney Island is not even included  
21 plus the fact that he didn't even fix their  
22 sidewalks and that is city property. Why he  
23 would delete that as beyond me, but we all  
24 know how the mayor is when it comes to  
25 people who say no to him and he is getting

11

1 worse and worse I guess, but somewhere it  
2 has to end.

3 Now, we already got more grants for

4 this. We got old grants, new grants,  
5 everything else, we are over 30 million and  
6 climbing and when they get up on top of the  
7 wall there I don't know what they plan there  
8 maybe even another park there who knows, but  
9 they were planning to put an elevator to  
10 take those people up to that.

11 Like I said before, you can't just  
12 do that. This man, I don't even know, I  
13 would probably have to look into SR records,  
14 SRA records to see if he acquired the  
15 buildings that he did acquire there from the  
16 SRA, probably will look into it eventually  
17 to see if he got to build them for a buck  
18 like some of the buildings are sold and then  
19 we are spending 30 million, maybe 35 million  
20 to fix them. When does it end? And plus  
21 they probably got all kinds of antiquity  
22 stipulations that when you fix it you can't  
23 raise the taxes, just like in the Connell  
24 building. They got learned, when you fix an  
25 old building up you can't raise tax on it.

12

1 It will take 1,000 years to get our money  
2 back. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.

4 Sbaraglia. Ozzie Quinn.

5 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'  
6 Association. Dave Dobson brought this up  
7 last week and it was regarding all of the  
8 authorities and commissions, you know, the  
9 they are spread out all throughout the city  
10 at different times, different places and if  
11 you don't read it, you know, it's difficult  
12 and I recall a long time ago there was an  
13 ordinance passed and actually it was called  
14 the Traman guidelines that brought all of  
15 the authorities that have to be in city  
16 hall, so I'd ask you to consider looking  
17 into that, okay?

18 The other thing is I got a call from  
19 a woman who owed \$500 in 2007 taxes and she  
20 also owed a garbage fee for 2006 of \$178,  
21 and 2007, \$178, so she went down to the  
22 Single Tax Office to pay \$856 in taxes,  
23 okay, in the garbage fee and they wouldn't  
24 accept it, they sent her over to NCC and NCC  
25 charged her \$1,765.98 or \$910 above what she

13

1 owed in taxes. Now, that was passed by you  
2 people, all of those penalties. It says  
3 Councilperson Fanucci, McGoff and Gatelli.

4 Now, you are killing these people. How

5 can you -- this lady is on social security.  
6 She makes \$1,200 a year -- or \$12,000 a year  
7 and she has to pay these penalties. It's  
8 crazy. So it's disgusting to tell you the  
9 truth. You got to do something about  
10 repealing that. The lady is so shook up,  
11 and she is not the only one, you know that.

12 Okay. Now, in the first week of  
13 November around there I was here with that  
14 31 inches long of print in regards to the  
15 specs for hiring Attorney Greco for OECD and  
16 I looked at those specs again and you know  
17 what, how much is that contract for?

18 MS. FANUCCI: For \$1,100,000.

19 MR. QUINN: Okay. Now, you know  
20 what, a contract of that much amount of  
21 money, that amount of money there should  
22 have been a prebid conference whereby all of  
23 the law firms --

24 MS. FANUCCI: There was.

25 MR. QUINN: -- should have been --

14

1 there was no prebid conference.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Well, they put it out  
3 to bid and he was the only one.

4 MR. QUINN: There was no prebid

5 conference to explain though what the specs  
6 are all about. It's a requirement.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Well, to you.

8 MR. QUINN: And I looked. No, it  
9 wasn't to me.

10 MS. FANUCCI: You said to us, so I  
11 was assuming you meant --

12 MR. QUINN: No, a law firm should  
13 have a right, any law firm should have a  
14 right to come in here and if I was lawyer or  
15 the Lackawanna Bar Association they should  
16 file a complaint about that. Now, I want to  
17 go about --

18 MS. GATELLI: Actually, Mr. Quinn --

19 MR. QUINN: I got my five minutes.

20 MS. GATELLI: -- that's professional  
21 services and it doesn't even have to be bid.

22 MR. QUINN: Yeah, but there should  
23 be a prebid conference for --

24 MS. GATELLI: It's been bid since  
25 I'm here and --

15

1 MR. QUINN: Any lawyer who deals with  
2 -- let me finish, okay, or he'll ring the  
3 bell on me.

4 MS. GATELLI: No, because you are  
5 saying something that's not true so I just

6 want to clarify it.

7 MR. QUINN: Any lawyer who has to  
8 deal with real estate should have a right to  
9 come in here.

10 MS. GATELLI: They do have a right.  
11 It was put out to bid.

12 MR. QUINN: I'm not going to argue,  
13 okay? The other thing is this year, so  
14 Greco is going to get \$100,000 contract  
15 under 5-C if it's approved, and it will be  
16 approved, okay, he has given \$20,000 in cash  
17 and in kind donations to the Doherty  
18 campaign election and he has also donated to  
19 Mrs. Fanucci, all right?

20 MS. FANUCCI: He bought tickets.

21 MR. QUINN: So I feel that her vote  
22 is tainted and should not -- she should not  
23 be allowed to vote. I mean, this is no  
24 doubt in my mind --

25 MS. FANUCCI: We went through that.

16

1 That's not going to happen.

2 MR. QUINN: -- is again, as I said,  
3 quid pro quo, pay to play. Now, look it, it  
4 surely has the appearance of impropriety,  
5 there is no doubt about it. When somebody

6 is getting money from somebody and they are  
7 getting a contract that appearance of  
8 impropriety is there and I don't know if  
9 this should be allowed when you're done,  
10 okay, and, you know, if it is passed, you  
11 know, actually it's corruption. That's all  
12 you can say. Thank you.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Before he goes back can  
14 I say one thing? Amil, we went through this  
15 before, do you remember the ruling on that  
16 because I certainly don't want the public to  
17 believe what is being said is actually like  
18 true, so can you explain?

19 MR. MINORA: There is no restriction  
20 on your voting simply because of campaign  
21 contribution. We have gone through this  
22 before. There was a request put to the  
23 Ethic's Bureau and they found no impositions  
24 of --

25 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, Mr. Quinn.

17

1 MR. QUINN: She answered me.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Quinn.

3 MR. QUINN: There is an appearance of  
4 impropriety.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

6 MR. MINORA: That may be somebody's



7 opinion, but you are not ethically precluded  
8 from voting on a contract simply because of  
9 a campaign contribution.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you. I also want  
11 to state that Mr. Greco's contract this  
12 year, \$25,000 has been used of taxpayers'  
13 money from two people who frequent our  
14 council meetings for Right to Know. You  
15 have spent \$25,000 out of this man's  
16 contract for just Right to Know for OECD, so  
17 that to me is a major problem, so I am  
18 actually thinking that he might need more  
19 money in this contract if we are going to be  
20 chewing up all of his money that should be  
21 going toward economic development and money  
22 that we should be spending in other places  
23 for people to get lots of paperwork just to,  
24 you know, amuse themselves, so I do want to  
25 put that on the record. Thank you.

18

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

2 Mr. Spindler.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Les Spindler, city  
4 resident, taxpayer and homeowner. The city  
5 is bailing out Al Boscov giving him \$3  
6 million, I'm totally in favor of that. What

7 I'm not in favor of is the mayor insulting  
8 our intelligence by saying it's not taxpayer  
9 money. Where did the money come from? Did  
10 it fall from the sky? All money that's  
11 being used is taxpayer money. People pay  
12 taxes to the state, to the federal  
13 government, it's taxpayer money. So by him  
14 saying it's not it's an out and out lie and  
15 I hope the people get smart, when it comes  
16 to election time next year.

17 Oh, a few weeks ago I was here and I  
18 was saying about on CDTV they were talking  
19 about the Chicago White Sox's winning the  
20 World Series in 2005. Last week a coworker  
21 came up to me and said they put CDTV on and  
22 there was a Betty Boop cartoon on there.  
23 That's the kind of programming we are  
24 supposed to get is Betty Boop cartoons? We  
25 already have a cartoon network do we need

19

1 another one? This station is an insult.  
2 It's ridiculous and Scranton Tomorrow should  
3 take over, but the mayor got just what he  
4 wants, he doesn't want anything watching the  
5 station anymore and that's what he is  
6 getting. This is an outrage. Betty Boop  
7 cartoons on 61. And it's funny,

8 Mrs. Fanucci, it's really funny.

9 MS. FANUCCI: It sure is.

10 MR. SPINDLER: It's disgusting.

11 MS. FANUCCI: You just laughed now,  
12 come on, Les, it's Thanksgiving.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Next thing, Mrs.  
14 Gatelli, is there any progress on possibly  
15 banning cell phones in the cars?

16 MS. GATELLI: I have Mr. Minora  
17 checking into it.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, thank you.  
19 Next thing, I asked this a few weeks ago,  
20 the fire department not receiving that  
21 equipment to check the live wires did  
22 anybody look into it that?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: I looked into it. I  
24 think they called them hot sticks, they have  
25 them.

20

1 MR. SPINDLER: They do have them?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: From my  
3 understanding.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, great. Thank  
5 you. Southern Union building that was  
6 supposed to be fully filled by the end of  
7 the summer, are there any tenants in there

8 at all, does anybody know?

9 MS. FANUCCI: There are. There are  
10 some.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Some, but it's not  
12 filled.

13 MS. GATELLI: Merrill Lynch is  
14 there.

15 MR. SPINDLER: According to Mr.  
16 Doherty it was supposed to be filled by the  
17 end of the summer. Next thing, last week  
18 Mrs. Fanucci you are speaking about economic  
19 development, the Connell building, the 500  
20 block of Lackawanna, first of all, the  
21 Connell building, how much tax forgiveness  
22 did the buyers of that get? Lots.

23 Secondly, how many family sustaining  
24 jobs are going to come out of those  
25 projects? Can you tell me, Mrs. Fanucci?

21

1 MS. FANUCCI: Actually, first you  
2 are incorrect, there was no tax forgiving  
3 for the Connell building, the first people  
4 who were going to buy it in the beginning  
5 were people who were looking for a tax  
6 break. These people did not look for one  
7 and certainly are not getting one, so that's  
8 incorrect.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, well, how many  
10 family sustaining jobs are going to come out  
11 of there?

12 MS. FANUCCI: Will come out of  
13 there? Well, there is going to be  
14 boutiques, there is going to be office  
15 buildings, there is going to be -- so I  
16 would imagine a lot, so if you work there --

17 MR. SPINDLER: That's what I call  
18 family sustaining jobs, boutiques.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Well, you know what,  
20 you're wrong. There's a lot of people that  
21 make a lot of money and work very hard and  
22 take money home to their families who work  
23 in jobs like you. I mean, you work in the  
24 mail room, you make good money.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Let's get industry

22

1 in. No, I don't make good money.

2 MS. FANUCCI: You make enough for  
3 your family.

4 MR. SPINDLER: I don't get \$10,000  
5 raises a year.

6 MS. FANUCCI: You make enough for  
7 your family, Les.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Hardly. In today's

9 Doherty's Newsletter, are the --

10 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me a minute, but  
11 somebody is playing a radio or something.

12 MS. FANUCCI: It's the officer.

13 MS. GATELLI: I'm sorry, Les, I  
14 couldn't hear you.

15 MS. SPINDLER: In today's Doherty's  
16 newsletter on page three, "Arbitrator backs  
17 firefighters. City to appeal."

18 Once again the city lost an appeal  
19 and Mayor Doherty is appealing again. How  
20 many times is this going to happen? It's  
21 costing taxpayers' dollars all of the time,  
22 he has lot arbitration after arbitration and  
23 he keeps appealing. When are people going  
24 to wise up? This is outrageous. These  
25 people deserve this money. As Mr. Jackowitz

23

1 said before that they save people's lives,  
2 they don't get the respect that's needed and  
3 now the mayor keeps appealing arbitrations.  
4 When is it going to stop? The taxpayers pay  
5 money for to go to these people and the  
6 mayor is just using it on appeals. Like I  
7 said, I hope the people wise up and vote  
8 this man out next year. Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.

10 Mrs. Schumacher.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.

12 On the 14th of December 2006 Mrs. Gatelli  
13 said, "I'm also working next year on another  
14 revenue item that we think can bring in  
15 \$1.5 million. It's a new rental  
16 registration program. We will add  
17 inspectors and clerks that will be strictly  
18 assigned to this program. They will not be  
19 allowed to do anything but the rental  
20 registration. When we went to Bethlehem we  
21 learned about this program and Rob Farrell  
22 is getting the ordinance ready as we speak.  
23 All properties will be registered including  
24 single family homes that are not owner  
25 occupied."

24

1 The legislation passed in July 2007,  
2 but the 2008 budget was only \$29,281 not  
3 \$1.5 million. In 2009 it's forecast in the  
4 budget to be a paltry \$18,967. Perhaps this  
5 is because the ordinance is a paper tiger  
6 but resources were never allocated as  
7 promised to enforce the rental registration  
8 fee. It would be good to do that for 2009  
9 or withdraw the ineffective legislation.

10 Speaking of Bethlehem, which is a  
11 city comparable to Scranton, Bethlehem has  
12 about the same population but less square  
13 miles. Scranton lost the coal and textile  
14 industry, Bethlehem lost the huge steel  
15 company. Bethlehem's 2009 operating budget  
16 totals \$66 million and that's a 3.1 percent  
17 increase without raising taxes. The  
18 \$66 million spending plan includes or  
19 reduces over 1.5 million in cuts and reduces  
20 a \$13 million bond issue to 7.5 million.  
21 The budget includes salaries for three  
22 additional police officers and four other  
23 positions. I wish there was someone in the  
24 administration or council who can explain  
25 why Scranton can't operate as efficiently as

25

1 Bethlehem. Bethlehem also leverages their  
2 community development block grants using  
3 private funds which provides for more  
4 development and less risk.

5 Risk is a good segway into the  
6 federal tax dollars we are putting at risk  
7 with the Boscov's bailout. Do we not have a  
8 substantial amount of risk with the prior  
9 loan to the Steamtown Partnership which will  
10 require a balloon payment in just a few



11 years? Not all of the Boscov's stores are  
12 in Pennsylvania. What are these other  
13 states contributing to the bailout? The  
14 Scranton store is new and the Wilkes-Barre  
15 store is reported to be in sad shape. Will  
16 Scranton's \$3 million be used in Luzerne  
17 County? Should Boscov's end up once again  
18 in bankruptcy where does our loan stand in  
19 the liquidation hierarchy? Is there any  
20 collateral? Does city council by the Home  
21 Rule Charter have to approve this loan?

22 Lots of questions, but few answers.  
23 It seems sadly ironic hat we will bail out a  
24 private businessman and punish our own  
25 property tax owners with onerous fees on top

26

1 of their taxes when they go delinquent.

2 Next, there is a matter of the  
3 procurement of the Penn Security Bank  
4 building in South Scranton. This is a  
5 capital item and should have been in the  
6 capital budget along with other capital  
7 items such as the Nay Aug greenhouse and  
8 memorial. When are you going to revise the  
9 capital budget to reflect these expenditures  
10 as is proper? The library system is paid

11 for by the county. The majority  
12 commissioners have indicated they are not  
13 interested in the South side library and are  
14 facing serious revenue short falls for next  
15 year. Why do we want to exacerbate their  
16 challenges? As one Doherty deceit message  
17 board poster pointed out, the second floor  
18 of the Albright library could be made  
19 handicap accessible by building a bridge  
20 from the children's library across the  
21 court. It is time to look for the least  
22 expensive solution instead of the most  
23 expensive.

24 Mrs. Fanucci, any word on what  
25 happened to the more than one-quarter of

27

1 million dollar building that Fratelli's  
2 needed the OECD loan to buy or the Alexander  
3 Fitness Center and medical complex, what  
4 happened to that doctor who was moving back  
5 to Scranton to run this facility? The last  
6 time I checked a doctor commutes from the  
7 Philadelphia area once a week? Any answers,  
8 Mrs. Fanucci?

9 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, no. No.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Swell.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.

12 Schumacher. Bill Jackowitz.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South  
14 Scranton resident, member of the Taxpayers'  
15 Association. Toastmaster's International,  
16 the person at the podium is the speaker,  
17 everybody else are the listeners.

18 Apparently last week I said  
19 something that upset council. First of all,  
20 no council member's name was mentioned or  
21 singled out. No family members of council  
22 were mentioned or singled out by me last  
23 week. The fact is not one Scranton council  
24 member attended the Veteran's ceremony held  
25 on 7 of November 2008, although council

28

1 meeting was canceled. That was my point.  
2 If anything that was just said is not  
3 accurate or not true please correct the  
4 facts during motions. I have always  
5 acknowledged elected officials and gave  
6 credit when credit was due. Mayor Doherty  
7 was the only city elected official at the  
8 ceremony.

9 Furthermore, I also stated last week  
10 that council members were in attendance at  
11 the opening of the dog park, at Connell Park

12 and the opening of the Connor's Park in  
13 South Side. Again, another example of  
14 council members not paying attention.

15 I would also like a recognize  
16 Councilwoman Gatelli tonight for mentioning  
17 about sending the letters to the injured  
18 soldiers at Walter Reed because I was going  
19 to do that but now I don't have to do it.  
20 Thank you, Councilwoman Gatelli.

21 MS. GATELLI: You're welcome.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, I will not be  
23 told what I can and cannot say at Scranton  
24 council meetings. I speak only for myself  
25 and will continue to speak on issues that

29

1 concern veterans and taxpayers of Scranton.  
2 The past is the past, the present is the  
3 present and like Mayor Doherty said, "It is  
4 what it is."

5 If you had a prior commitment then a  
6 representative should have been selected to  
7 represent council at the Veteran's ceremony.  
8 Actions do have consequences. Since when  
9 do taxpayers not have the right to challenge  
10 an elected official on how they spend  
11 taxpayers money? Every citizen has that  
12 right and hopefully more citizens start

13 challenging. How can any elected official  
14 commit millions of taxpayers' dollars  
15 without having a public hearing. The  
16 governor and the mayors of local communities  
17 are wrong spending the people's money  
18 without asking the people, but then again,  
19 this Pennsylvania and campaign contributors  
20 must be paid back.

21 Thirty-five million of taxpayers'  
22 money going to one family for a business  
23 that failed not because of taxpayers, but  
24 because they had a poor business plan. Now,  
25 I am part owner of a retail store, banks,

30

1 mortgage companies, insurance companies and  
2 so forth, soon the convenience store owners  
3 will be asking for taxpayer bailouts.

4 Now, on the economy and the fact  
5 that Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and Hazelton  
6 metropolitan area has the highest employment  
7 rate, lowest hourly wage rate and lowest  
8 median income in the state. Also, Scranton  
9 has a 20 percent poverty rate, highest in  
10 the state. Sixty-three percent of the  
11 school students receive assistance. These  
12 are facts not visions or dreams.

13 Furthermore, new buildings and landscapings  
14 and parks will not improve the local  
15 economy. You want proof, just look at all  
16 of the new buildings Wall Street has,  
17 insurance companies have, banks have, and  
18 the big three auto makers have, did it help?  
19 No. So it will not work in Scranton either.

20 Wages. Workers must make money  
21 then go out and spend that money buying  
22 appliances, cars, food, clothing and so on.  
23 This is how you build an economy. For  
24 example, Pennsylvania and Scranton just  
25 recently bailed out Boscov's department

31

1 store. According to the State Department of  
2 Labor and Industry there are 111,000  
3 Pennsylvanians who work in general  
4 merchandise stores such as Boscov's.  
5 Average weekly salary, \$338. That equals to  
6 \$17,576 annually, gross income. After taxes  
7 net income of approximately \$12,300  
8 annually. How can you stimulate the economy  
9 on that income? Answer? You cannot.

10 Just take the time to look at the  
11 lines at the food pantries, the number of  
12 people using food stamps and access cards,  
13 collecting unemployment checks and the

14 number of students receiving free lunches at  
15 schools. These are indicators that the  
16 economy in Scranton is not good, but yet our  
17 government continues to give away taxpayers'  
18 money to developers, business owners and  
19 campaign contributors. Then the leaders add  
20 insult by allowing the same people not to  
21 pay the taxes, but more importantly they are  
22 allowing them to pay their workers low wages  
23 who, by the way, didn't have to pay so that  
24 the city, state and federal governments can  
25 give away more money.

32

1 Remember, people, you milk cows not  
2 taxpayers. The 2009 budget is the best the  
3 mayor has offered, I hope when the mayor  
4 tries to cut 38 firefighters and close fire  
5 stations in the City of Scranton I hope you  
6 lobby and argue as much for the firemen and  
7 police officers not losing their jobs as you  
8 are lobbying for the raises.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

10 MR. ELLMAN: Ronnie Ellman again.

11 Mr. Courtright?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

13 MR. ELLMAN: I was with one of your

14 friends and mine last week.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Who is that?

16 MR. ELLMAN: A very entertaining and  
17 exciting person to spend a few hours with,  
18 Johnny Superstar.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: A wonderful man.

20 MR. ELLMAN: That man loves this  
21 city though. He is good to have --

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: He got several  
23 thousand votes when he ran for mayor.

24 MR. ELLMAN: He told me he had 3,000  
25 votes. Well, I didn't come to bad mouth

33

1 anybody tonight, I have to eat some words, I  
2 don't have my words written backwards like I  
3 usually do. I've had six, eight people in  
4 the last few months or year or so tell me  
5 what a good job Mr. Seitzinger has been  
6 doing and Mr. Liptai. I was very critical  
7 of Mr. Seitzinger, I even said he ought to  
8 be fired once, but I have to eat my words  
9 because I have read some positive things  
10 about him and I have heard a lot of positive  
11 things and I think -- I'm glad I have to eat  
12 my words that he is turning out to be a  
13 bright spot of this administration. I don't  
14 know him, you know, he didn't ask me to say



15                   this.

16                   You know, I listened last night at a  
17                   meeting and today everybody talking about  
18                   Boscov's, they are a dinosaur. Department  
19                   stores are dinosaurs. This is such a waste.  
20                   I had a fellow during the summer that was  
21                   working on my house, a young man, you know,  
22                   everybody is not brain surgeons and  
23                   electrical engineers and all, there is  
24                   worker bees. I was a worker bee and I was  
25                   very fortunate that I had someone help me

34

1                   buy a home. These people if we could save  
2                   some of this property that's being torn down  
3                   and abandoned and all somehow with a  
4                   rent-to-own or some kind of program you can  
5                   keep these young people in the city. I have  
6                   talked to a couple of them.

7                   I talked to a lady yesterday, told  
8                   me her mother lost a house that was paid for  
9                   not because of anything expect she just  
10                   couldn't afford the insurance and the taxes  
11                   and so on anymore so they had to sell it, I  
12                   didn't mean they lost it. She said that,  
13                   you know, the senior citizen was planning to  
14                   live here the rest of her life. Now she is

15 across the street or down the street, she  
16 told me where she was. This is sad.

17 You know, you read about the  
18 government wanting to help people that live  
19 two and three times outside of their income  
20 that have 2008 cars and trucks and  
21 everything, thousands of dollars outside of  
22 their income and here is people that can't  
23 keep their houses they are paying for  
24 because it's gotten so expensive for the  
25 state to -- well, I guess anywhere to keep

35

1 going, but that's not right for America and  
2 I think rather than waste or throw away  
3 \$3 million on Mr. Boscov, and I'm not mad at  
4 him, I never met him or anything, this is an  
5 absolute waste of funds when we need streets  
6 and everything else in the city is going to  
7 pot. There is just better things to do with  
8 the money. You know, why did we borrow  
9 \$241,000 from Friendship House if we can  
10 give \$3 million away for another Globe Store  
11 scenario. This is poor planning, it's just  
12 like Mr. Quinn said, it seems like one hands  
13 feeds another here. It's just not a  
14 straight deal for the people, it's a bad  
15 deal for the people. Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

17 Mr. Stucker.

18 MR. STUCKER: How you doing? Happy  
19 Thanksgiving to the bunch of yous. Happy  
20 Thanksgiving.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you, Jim.

22 MR. STUCKER: Okay. What's  
23 happening at the Globe Store again,  
24 especially in front of Oppenheim's, they are  
25 parking cars there again. The buses can't

36

1 get to the sidewalk?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Jim. We  
3 know. Every so often we have to send the  
4 police over there to try to straighten it  
5 out. We'll send them over again.

6 MR. STUCKER: And I was just talked  
7 to a guy just now, he fixed Parrot Avenue,  
8 the holes.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I was on there.  
10 You're right, they did fix it. It's nice  
11 now right? You are happy.

12 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm happy to.

14 MR. STUCKER: I went to a dinner  
15 tonight, Sister Adrian's.

16 MS. FANUCCI: That was tonight.  
17 MR. STUCKER: That's why I couldn't  
18 make it. I just made it now.  
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's good, Jim.  
20 MR. STUCKER: She gave me three  
21 dinners.  
22 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, that was nice.  
23 MR. STUCKER: I had an operation. I  
24 fell off the bike, so Dr. Rich from Dickson  
25 City operated on me.

37

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: He helped you with  
2 your thumb? Good, Jim.  
3 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.  
4 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're okay now;  
5 right?  
6 MR. STUCKER: I'm in pain right now.  
7 MR. COURTRIGHT: You are in pain  
8 right now?  
9 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. I took  
10 four Vicodins last night.  
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, God. Okay.  
12 MR. STUCKER: To get rid of my pain.  
13 The pain was killing me. And the guy who  
14 fixed that light, I didn't go down that  
15 way --  
16 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's fixed; right?

17 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, I didn't go down  
18 that way.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think they fixed  
20 it.

21 MR. STUCKER: Okay. My garbage is  
22 getting picked up and that, so -- and there  
23 is a bar, maybe you can straighten them out.  
24 Right around the corner is a new bar, right  
25 next to Tink's with the ship on top outside

38

1 of the roof outside, the wall. They had a  
2 bar there and Mayor Doherty was there and  
3 it's not right because they are still a  
4 \$1.75 or \$2.75 for a draft beer. Now, come  
5 on.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: You know, we can't  
7 control what they sell beer for, Buddy.

8 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Because you  
9 have to close it down.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: No, you can't close  
11 it down. Just go somewhere cheaper than.  
12 Yeah, we can't control the beer price.

13 MR. STUCKER: I'm selling my snow  
14 blower and getting a scooter.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: You what?

16 MR. STUCKER: I'm getting another

17 scooter. Pat is going to get me one.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jim, Jim, you can't  
19 get the scooter, remember, because you can't  
20 ride it on the street? Remember that's why  
21 the cops made you get rid of the last one.

22 MR. STUCKER: I had it last year and  
23 they let me go.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: They let you go?

25 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

39

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just don't want  
2 to go through the same scenario we went  
3 through before where they made you take it  
4 off the street; right?

5 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. You can't  
7 ride it on the street, Jim.

8 MR. STUCKER: Okay.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. Happy  
10 Thanksgiving.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Happy Thanksgiving.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Jim. Anyone  
13 else?

14 MR. DOBSON: Good evening, Council,  
15 Dave Dobson. Once again I'd like to discuss  
16 the public access TV and I'd also like to  
17 note that these are not the opinions of

18 anyone currently connected with it or  
19 previously other than myself.

20 Now, under the current procedure  
21 with our various authorities spread all over  
22 town the current procedures for taping of  
23 public meetings would be to acquire and  
24 transport portable equipment, find a place  
25 to park, spend money on a place to park,

40

1 hopefully it would be close enough to the  
2 site where it wouldn't make things even  
3 worse, toting all of this equipment. You  
4 have to tote this equipment to the site of  
5 the hearing and you have to set it up,  
6 finish the taping and return the equipment  
7 to and find parking and tote it back into  
8 the public access TV facility.

9 And under what I have in mind is use  
10 city council chambers, the equipment to be  
11 installed in the future, in the near future,  
12 negate two hours of unnecessary work with an  
13 all volunteer force, and the advantages  
14 would be to eliminate time and expense,  
15 eliminate redundant expenditures, especially  
16 for equipment and minimizes the risk of  
17 transient damage, someone could always run

18 into your car and wreck a camera or  
19 something like that or you could just trip  
20 and fall toting it around. These things  
21 cost several thousand dollars from what I  
22 understand. It makes use of city hall space  
23 and if we started to call in some of these  
24 authorities it would also eliminate rental  
25 space and with the space available and

41

1 underused or unused in city hall.

2 So other than the budget to try and  
3 do your best on that and keep it in line  
4 that's what I wanted to say tonight, so  
5 thank you and have a good night and please  
6 consider this because it's very important.  
7 There is a lot of work goes into this and  
8 it's very difficult and time consuming and  
9 it probably eliminates a lot of people,  
10 potential people that could volunteer due to  
11 transportation situations of their own.  
12 Thank you and have a good night.

13 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Dobson.

14 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

15 I would just like it say that, you know,  
16 sitting back here listening to the comments  
17 of the individuals who came up here and  
18 spoke, the one thing that I don't understand



19 at this point is, Mrs. Fanucci, you came to  
20 a conclusion that 25 percent of Mr. Greco's  
21 salary is being spent for Right to Know?

22 MS. FANUCCI: No, I didn't come it a  
23 conclusion, and it wasn't 25 percent, his  
24 salary, well, he spent \$25,000 right now on  
25 just two people in our -- well, that's

42

1 25 percent, but I was trying to say that we  
2 will give him more money, two people in this  
3 chambers who filed Right-to-Know constantly,  
4 serial Right-to-Know filers, yes, have spent  
5 \$25,000 out of taxpayers' money just for  
6 their own information constantly, yes.

7 MR. MORGAN: Yes. Now --

8 MS. FANUCCI: I'm not just trying to  
9 say that's a fact.

10 MR. MORGAN: No, no, that's fine, but  
11 I think that everybody in this city and  
12 throughout this country needs to know that  
13 the citizens have a Right-to-Know everything  
14 about their government.

15 MS. FANUCCI: No doubt and I'm right  
16 with you on that, but you know what, I don't  
17 want to pay \$25,000 for people to come here  
18 week after week to badger people and to do

19 that just to create their own, you know,  
20 dynamic. That's what it's about.

21 MR. MORGAN: I don't think an  
22 individual ever has the ability to create  
23 their own dynamic because they live in a  
24 society that's ruled in some general fashion  
25 by politicians who try to constrain

43

1 information and what we found here in this  
2 city is that this mayor had a new vision for  
3 this city that was backed up by previous  
4 councils and what this mayor has done is he  
5 has scattered the authorities across the  
6 city to make it almost impossible to know  
7 exactly what's going on with these  
8 authorities.

9 MS. FANUCCI: This is just OECD.  
10 This isn't authorities, this is just OECD so  
11 you know what we are talking about.

12 MR. MORGAN: It may be OECD, but  
13 what's happened in this community is we have  
14 wasted millions and millions and millions of  
15 dollars and what we have done to the general  
16 public is we have forced them into poverty,  
17 and then what we did is we turned around and  
18 we said, "If you can't pay your taxes we are  
19 going to put fees on top of them and we're

20 going to sell the right to collect them to  
21 NCC."

22 We have done the most horrendous  
23 things to our citizens politically that you  
24 can ever imagine and it's definitely wrong  
25 and anybody who has a real vision for the

44

1 city has to start over. We needed a mayor  
2 in this city that has a real vision of  
3 change.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Let me ask you a  
5 question, can I ask you a question?

6 MR. MORGAN: Go ahead.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Do you believe that  
8 people that come here week after week  
9 talking about being fiscally responsible,  
10 talking about how money is frivolously spent  
11 and just one department of our city, doesn't  
12 count all over the place, if I pulled the  
13 number from the state that they have done,  
14 the numbers from other departments that they  
15 have done, the money we have spent on just  
16 keep filing these things for their own  
17 benefit, do you believe that that's fiscally  
18 responsible?

19 MR. MORGAN: I believe that --

20 MS. FANUCCI: And as a city  
21 councilwoman do you think I should sit here  
22 and believe that that's a good idea and good  
23 for the taxpayers of this city who can't put  
24 food on their plates at night and who work  
25 three different jobs to try to keep their --

45

1 is that okay and then listen to them week  
2 after week telling me I'm not doing my job.

3 MR. MORGAN: I think that people  
4 have an ability to have a knowledge of the  
5 environment they are in and since they live  
6 in the City of Scranton they have a  
7 knowledge of the things that occur here.  
8 They may not have knowledge of the things  
9 that occur in the state because it's too  
10 broad of a picture, they may not have  
11 knowledge of what happens in the federal  
12 government, but here they are a ground.  
13 They know their own community and I think  
14 that they are aware of some things that may  
15 be limited in scope because they only know  
16 the things they know and they ask questions  
17 about the things that they would like to  
18 know about the things they assume they know.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Well you know and I  
20 know I answer all -- you and I have worked

21 very well together in the past, you have  
22 asked me questions I have done that. That  
23 is not the issue. The issue is when you  
24 want a question and you are finding it and  
25 you digging for a certain thing and you find

46

1 the answer, then you have your answer, but  
2 these things are not coming out. They  
3 are conspiracy theories, they are a trying  
4 to look for dirt, they are trying to -- but  
5 guess what, at the end of the day they still  
6 find nothing and they are costing me a  
7 fortune.

8 MR. MORGAN: I think that people who  
9 have grown up here have a pretty good idea  
10 of what's caused this city to go into  
11 decline as it has for generations, but I  
12 would like to say that we need to find a new  
13 direction here. We need a new mayor. We  
14 need people who care about the people. We  
15 need people that aren't going to waste  
16 money. Mr. Obama was elected as the  
17 president of this country, president elect  
18 of this country, people thought race was an  
19 issue and it wasn't. People want change.  
20 They want change here. They want change

21 across this whole nation. We have gone to  
22 being number one in the world in almost  
23 everything to 50th in education, okay, and  
24 other things, 23rd in infant mortality.

25 Our country is a major decline even

47

1 we look to elected officials that we elect  
2 to be leaders, but we don't have that, what  
3 we have is one hand washing the other, okay,  
4 and that's the problem here. We have  
5 politics on every single level. Why are  
6 20 percent of the residents in this city in  
7 poverty? Think about that.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.  
9 Mr. Ancherani.

10 MS. GATELLI: Here's the caboose.

11 MS. FANUCCI: There it is.

12 MR. ANCHERANI: Here we go again.

13 MS. FANUCCI: It's like Groundhog  
14 Day, isn't it?

15 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, Groundhog Day.

16 MR. ANCHERANI: We all come up and  
17 we listen to everybody else. Good evening,  
18 Nelson Ancherani. I just have some  
19 observations and some questions about the  
20 budget before you vote on it. Again, I'm  
21 glad there is no tax hike like the

22 25 percent tax hike in 2007 approved and  
23 voted on by Mrs. Gatelli, Ms. Fanucci -- -

24 MS. FANUCCI: Here we are --

25 MR. ANCHERANI: -- and Mr. McGoff.

48

1 Ms. Fanucci doesn't like when her named is  
2 mentioned. It wasn't the taxpayers who  
3 voted for the 25 percent increase, it was  
4 the three I mentioned. It's been said up  
5 there on council that the council speakers  
6 have an agenda when we come to the podium to  
7 speak. You are right. But there are  
8 council persons up there on council with  
9 agendas. In fact, they vote for every  
10 controversial agenda item that the mayor  
11 wants. In fact, three of the council  
12 persons voted for the 2007-2008 budgets that  
13 granted pay raises to certain and favored  
14 city employees and up to the end of 2008  
15 that will be 15 million cumulatively.

16 The 2008 budget was a record budget.  
17 Whose agenda was it to vote for the  
18 \$6.1 million loan a little over a month ago?  
19 We have revenues, that's loans, sales of  
20 assets totaling over \$600 million the last  
21 seven years and we are going to default on a

22 \$5.5 million loan that was going to be  
23 coming due next month? All of that money in  
24 revenues and we are going to default plus we  
25 have well over six million sitting in the

49

1 Single Tax Office plus interest and I would  
2 be willing to bet it's closer to  
3 \$10 million.

4 Like I said, you are right, the  
5 speakers do have agendas. Our agendas are  
6 to be as informed as we can about city  
7 business, to be informed how are elected  
8 officials are spending our hard-earned tax  
9 dollars, to object to the politics as usual  
10 that the politicians don't want us to know  
11 about. Some politicians like it when their  
12 to know is a don't know what's going on.  
13 There is no one to question whether are  
14 hard-earned tax dollars are spent wisely and  
15 we are getting our money's worth. Times  
16 have changed. We want to be an informed  
17 public.

18 Now, the fire department award, and  
19 maybe I shouldn't speak on that, but I'm  
20 going to. Stu Renda said it's going to cost  
21 the city 2.6 million between 2008 and 2014.  
22 Where was Stu Renda stating that since 2002



23 when 15 million cumulatively was spent on  
24 raises and new hires. That amount could be  
25 the 20 million mark by the end of 2009.

50

1 Cumulatively we are looking at a lot of  
2 money by 2014, so 2.6 million in the fire  
3 department doesn't sound too bad. That's  
4 going to be appealed according to the city.  
5 Ms. Fanucci, millions are going to be spent  
6 on attorneys to appeal that.

7 MS. FANUCCI: More.

8 MR. ANCHERANI: More than the money  
9 that's spent for Mr. Greco so we are going  
10 to find out whose wasting whose money.

11 MS. FANUCCI: And I'm all about  
12 settling the contracts, Mr. Ancherani, trust  
13 me.

14 MR. ANCHERANI: Understand. The  
15 budget, one fast question and you can all  
16 answer yes or no so I can continue, Mrs.  
17 Gatelli, did you look through the budget?

18 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I did.

19 MR. ANCHERANI: Mr. McGoff, did you  
20 go through the budget?

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MR. ANCHERANI: Mr. Courtright?

23

MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

24

MR. ANCHERANI: Ms. Fanucci?

25

MS. FANUCCI: Okay. Because

51

1

Mr. McGoff said he was going to do his

2

homework so I'm glad he did. Anyway, I went

3

through the budget. I didn't go through it

4

all yet, I'm still going through it. The

5

pie chart again I'm going to mention, we've

6

got, it says, 24 percent is for the police

7

department, so 24 percent of the 78 million,

8

that would be \$18,835,286; 25 percent for

9

the fire department that would be

10

\$19,620,194. All of the pie charts, all of

11

the different items if you add up the

12

percentages it comes out to 101 percent. I

13

don't know who is doing the addition, but

14

when you look at the pie chart and you go

15

through all of those numbers it comes out to

16

10 percent.

17

A hundred and one percent of the

18

budget amount, if you go through that, it

19

comes out to 79,265,000, that's more than

20

the budget, and everyone of the pie charts

21

when you go through the budget, when you go

22

through the actual budget for every one of

23

the departments is less than what the budget

24 with the percentages on the pie chart. It's  
25 less, much less. I have more, but I'll

52

1 finish next time. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Mrs.  
3 Gatelli?

4 MS. GATELLI: I'll start with  
5 Boscov's. I'm in favor of the city loaning  
6 \$3 million to Boscov's Department Store. I  
7 was involved with Boscov's, as you know,  
8 with Mayor Connors and you've read Mayor  
9 Connors comments in the paper recently  
10 concerning Boscov's. We have had some  
11 similar problems back then when we were  
12 doing the Steamtown Mall on Lackawanna  
13 Avenue. I read some letters to the editor  
14 saying, you know, there were stores there  
15 and they would have survived, well, no, they  
16 wouldn't survive. Those stores that were  
17 there were in bad shape financially and the  
18 mall was the only way out. It was a  
19 wonderful project and I was glad to have  
20 participated in it.

21 The problem now is if you don't have  
22 Boscov's as the anchor there's a chance that  
23 the whole mall could be in trouble. I'm not

24 willing to take that chance, maybe you are.  
25 The federal government just agreed for I

53

1 think 700 billion to bail out Wall Street.  
2 We can't help our mall for three million?  
3 Something is wrong with this picture in  
4 Scranton.

5           You talk about Scranton, don't you  
6 see what's happening from the top down?  
7 Everybody is in trouble. Everybody is in  
8 trouble across the whole country. I think  
9 we needed to help Boscov's and if comes  
10 before this council I surely am voting yes,  
11 to loan Al Boscov the money for his  
12 department stores. He hires a lot of  
13 people, there is wage tax, he is an icon in  
14 this community and it's certainly will not  
15 be lost revenue in my opinion.

16           Mrs. Schumacher, she seems to have  
17 all of the quotes about me, I don't know  
18 where you get them all, Mrs. Schumacher, she  
19 always quotes me. The rental registration,  
20 yes, I agree with you that was one of my  
21 ideas. Wayne Evans and I wanted to do that  
22 a long time ago. As a matter of fact, we  
23 started doing it when I still worked in  
24 OECD, but it never came to fruition.

25

Hopefully it's going to come to fruition

54

1 this year because I have told Mr. Renda that  
2 one of my amendments will be to put in two  
3 health inspectors, two additional health  
4 inspectors to help with the rental  
5 registration program, and we are going to  
6 have someone, a company, do the registration  
7 part. That seems to be what was holding it  
8 up. It's quite a big piece to chew and I  
9 think we need to put that out for someone  
10 private to do that part. Once we get them  
11 all registered then I think the department  
12 would have a better handle on it, so that's  
13 what I'm anticipating to do in this  
14 particular budget and to housing two housing  
15 inspectors for the rental registration  
16 program.

17 As far as the City of Bethlehem, I  
18 do admire them. They have their own health  
19 department, they have their own utility  
20 company, they have their own ambulance  
21 service, when I went down there it's more an  
22 of county than a city, they control a lot  
23 things that are a county would do up in  
24 Lackawanna County and having their own

1 they can charge, you know, for the utilities  
2 and that helps with their budget. Their  
3 budget is this thick (indicating). I have  
4 an old copy of one at home. They have a lot  
5 more revenue producing items than we have  
6 and basically because of their owning  
7 utility companies and the health department  
8 and the ambulance and they do have a very  
9 successful rental registration program.

10 As far as the rest of the budget, I  
11 told Mr. Renda I was not in favor of the  
12 salary increases for Mr. Hayes or  
13 Mrs. Moran. Last year I was in favor of the  
14 police chief and the fire chief getting a  
15 raise because I was under the impression  
16 that the contracts were going to be settled.  
17 As of yet, contracts have not been settled.  
18 The money is in the budget, we have been  
19 very close to having the contracts settled,  
20 or so I was informed by several sources  
21 including the mayor, and that does not seem  
22 like it's going to happen now.

23 I told the mayor, oh, maybe a month  
24 ago that it would be nice, I approved, you  
25 know, he discussed with me some of the

1 raises, I said absolutely, that's not a  
2 problem as far as I was concerned and I said  
3 I would really like you to include it all in  
4 the budget and let's just do it all in one  
5 fail swoop.

6 And I said and if the taxes have to  
7 be raised I don't have a problem with doing  
8 that either as I have said many times up  
9 here, I would not have a problem raising  
10 taxes to pay the police and firemen. I'm  
11 not uncomfortable doing that. There are  
12 taxing bodies that raise the taxes every  
13 year. It's a fact of life. Look at your  
14 utility bill. Mine in 2002, my electric  
15 bill was \$30. This month it's 160, so look  
16 at how much that went up since 2002. It's a  
17 fact of life, cost of living, everything  
18 goes up.

19 The health care is up to, oh, let me  
20 see what I wrote down here, 11 million just  
21 for health care. I mean, that's ludicrous  
22 that we have to pay that much in health  
23 care. The costs have gone through the  
24 ceiling for everyone. So I would not have  
25 trouble raising the taxes again to pay

1 people that deserve it, and absolutely they  
2 do deserve it, but we didn't have to do that  
3 because we got a windfall from the tax  
4 office that was up there hidden somewhere 12  
5 1/2 million and besides that another  
6 3 million was increased in this, you know,  
7 that we got this year in addition to what we  
8 are supposed to get from the missing money.

9 So, no, I did approve those salaries  
10 last year because I thought contracts were  
11 settled and they are not settled and I'm not  
12 happy about it. I expressed that to the  
13 mayor this afternoon and I believe that my  
14 colleagues are in agreement about the  
15 contracts.

16 Another thing I said was I wanted to  
17 put in another part-time animal control  
18 officer that would handle the skunks and I  
19 wanted to put in another part-time zoning  
20 officer. We only have one zoning officer  
21 and there are so many problems in reference  
22 to zoning that he doesn't have time to do a  
23 lot of the things that have to be done  
24 especially the follow-up and the  
25 enforcement. They may be denied a zoning



1 variance and a week later they are doing it  
2 and then there is nobody to follow-up on  
3 those discrepancies.

4 And the capital, there was capital  
5 costs in parks and recreation and I just  
6 asked that \$100,000 go to the Billy Barrett  
7 Park in Minooka that's in deplorable  
8 condition. I have been back there with  
9 Dr. Georgetti who lives across the street  
10 and so far the mayor has tried to clean it  
11 up a little bit. They got rid of the  
12 basketball court where people were hanging  
13 around at night and causing a lot of  
14 trouble, but it really needs some upgrading.  
15 So, I wanted to \$100,000 of that capital  
16 money in recreation to go to that particular  
17 park.

18 Let's see if I have anything else.  
19 I think that's all I have and I would just  
20 like to wish everyone a very happy and a  
21 blessed Thanksgiving. We should all be  
22 very, very thankful for our blessings. Even  
23 though we come here and we don't agree with  
24 each other, I think we are all graceful  
25 enough to be friends when we walk out the

1 door and say Happy Thanksgiving to everyone  
2 and I really hope you have an enjoyable one.  
3 Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Gatelli.  
5 Mrs. Fanucci?

6 MS. FANUCCI: You know, I want say a  
7 few things on Boscov's, also. Mr. Boscov  
8 put so much into this community and has done  
9 so much for this community I'm not sure the  
10 citizens are even aware. His contributions  
11 to charities and to people in this city is  
12 more than we can repay, quite frankly. I  
13 know when people sound -- we here that type  
14 of money and we hear what's going on and the  
15 man I think he is coming up with what, 50  
16 million? Can you imagine being able to  
17 raise \$50 million from people of your own  
18 money? This is his belief and at his age  
19 it's an undertaking that is amazing to me  
20 and he is not doing it for just him, he is  
21 doing it for us. I don't think you realize  
22 the mall is 1,500 employees, that's shuts  
23 down gone. Can you imagine? Just that  
24 building, and that doesn't include the  
25 people who make deliveries there and, you

1 know, the food service and all of that goes  
2 on inside of the mall, and not to mention  
3 what it does for our community. You know,  
4 we have our seniors being able to take a bus  
5 downtown and go to the mall. This would not  
6 happen, so it is worth us putting in  
7 everything we can do to help and paying back  
8 to someone who has done so much more us is a  
9 very easy task, at least for me.

10 I'm not sure we understand that type  
11 of situation or that type and people come  
12 here and they are mad about economic  
13 development, they are mad, oh, look what  
14 they got, but look what they give. These  
15 people have to come up with millions of  
16 dollars out of their own pocket because they  
17 believe in us. So they make money doing it,  
18 guess what, do you know how long it takes  
19 and how hard it is to do? None us could do  
20 it. I certainly couldn't do it. But, we  
21 should be thankful for that. We should be  
22 grateful that people are putting that type  
23 of faith in our city and be grateful. So,  
24 yes, I certainly will vote yes for Mr.  
25 Boscov and I certainly will go down there

1 and spend money and do what I can to help  
2 him and all of the employees that are there.  
3 In fact, I was there today and a woman  
4 walked up to me and I said, "How do you  
5 feel?"

6 And she said, "I am so thankful."  
7 She said, "I have four kids at home, this is  
8 my job, this has been my family."

9 And I thought, "Oh."

10 I mean, how do you stop that? You  
11 don't? So I just wanted to say that.

12 Also, I want to discuss about  
13 something that is really good. Look at me.  
14 Look at me going for the good. Business  
15 Week Today, huge survey they did. They  
16 announced the best places to raise your  
17 children and here is how they did it, they  
18 got a team of people from Manhattan, base  
19 provider real estate analysis leaders, and  
20 they came up with a list of each state best  
21 affordable towns for raising children. The  
22 important factors, school performance,  
23 affordability, safety, cost of living, air  
24 quality, job growth, racial diversity, local  
25 parks, baseball fields, zoos, recreation

1 centers, museums and theaters. Now, what  
2 they did is they did it with populations  
3 they had to have fewer than 50,000 for a  
4 median household and you couldn't make more  
5 than \$100,000, so their criteria was pretty,  
6 you know, diverse but also in a medium.  
7 They didn't go to the high rent places, they  
8 wanted to see. Well, I'm very happy to say  
9 that Pittsburgh was one in Pennsylvania,  
10 they were first, Scranton was second. We  
11 came out second. I am sorry, but that to me  
12 is the best goal we've had. You tell me  
13 it's the best place to raise my children and  
14 everyone's children we have been doing  
15 something right, and I know you don't like  
16 to hear it, but the parks and the rec and  
17 the movie theatres and all of that stuff  
18 actually has been doing great things for our  
19 city. Can you imagine wanting to come here  
20 and live here?

21 And you know what I was thinking  
22 today I thought, wow, this is amazing. Here  
23 I am reading this article, very reputable  
24 magazine, I mean, I'm sure you are going to  
25 argue with it, but it's very reputable and I

1 thought, wow, here we are, we are in this

2 place and out of all Pennsylvania second to  
3 be and I thought, you know, I do love it  
4 here and I know people get angry with me  
5 even saying that but I do love it here. I  
6 think, well, what's the problem? If you  
7 don't like it there is so many options, so  
8 many other options, but don't come here and  
9 bring it down because, obviously, somebody  
10 thinks we are pretty good and it's not just  
11 me, which is nice. I actually have proof  
12 now and all of that joking about, oh, it  
13 doesn't mean anything to have economic  
14 development, parks and recs it's just a  
15 waste of money and why are we putting our  
16 money here when we should just paving our  
17 streets, because we want people to drive on  
18 our streets.

19 We need to make money so that people  
20 stay here and come here. It's not just  
21 about filling the potholes because guess  
22 what if the potholes got filled and there is  
23 three people who cares? It's about bringing  
24 more people here and more jobs and more  
25 opportunities and I'm thankful for our

1 children that they are in the safe place and

2 have a lot to do while they are here and  
3 that is my Thanksgiving wish. Be thankful  
4 for living in Scranton, and that's all I  
5 have.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.  
7 Mr. Courtright?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Somebody, I think it  
9 might have been Mr. Spindler, spoke about  
10 arbitration and as I'm sitting here I was  
11 thinking if it's okay with the rest of  
12 council, over the years that I have been  
13 here Mr. Gervasi has been at the podium a  
14 lot, and Mrs. Krake, Mrs. Stulgis has been a  
15 lot, but with all of this going there is a  
16 lot of speculation and a lot of rumor about  
17 what's going on with the contracts and  
18 what's not going on with the contracts and  
19 the police unit has a new president and I  
20 was wondering if was all right if we just  
21 send him a letter, Bob Martin his name is,  
22 he is a sergeant in the detective bureau,  
23 and ask him if he would come here next week  
24 say, for instance, maybe 6:00 and I think he  
25 would be acceptable to all -- I will just

65

1 ask him some questions at the podium there.  
2 I know there a lot of things he can't talk

3 about, but there are a lot of things that he  
4 could talk about, so that we don't have all  
5 of the rumor and the speculation that's  
6 going on because obviously I think we all  
7 realize that the contract negotiations have  
8 kind of broken down and if he could shed  
9 some light on it so that we don't have the  
10 rumors and speculation I think that would be  
11 a good thing and give us an opportunity to  
12 talk to him. He has never been to the  
13 podium since I have been here and if that's  
14 all right with everyone we'll send a letter  
15 and ask him if he would be willing to come  
16 next week, is that okay with everybody?

17 MS. FANUCCI: Sure.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: So, Kay, if you  
19 could do that. Again, I'm sure there is  
20 things he cannot talk about and I think we  
21 are all smart enough not to ask him  
22 questions that he can't answer, but just a  
23 little bit of information from him I think  
24 might help an awful lot of rumors,  
25 especially after that arbitration thing went

66

1 down.

2 I think it might have been Les





4                   One last thing I want to speak on.  
5                   Mrs. Schumacher e-mailed me on this and  
6                   Mr. Hubbard brought it up, I spoke to Linda  
7                   Aebli from OECD about the beat cop in  
8                   Greenridge. The beat cop is allowed to be  
9                   down there in Greenridge, but they don't  
10                  qualify for the money and the explanation on  
11                  it, I didn't feel that I would do it justice  
12                  to explain why that happened, she explained  
13                  it to me and I asked her if she would put  
14                  something in writing that I could read here  
15                  so that I did do it justice, but she hasn't  
16                  gotten that to me yet, but according to her  
17                  when we have the maps in our office that  
18                  beat officer is allowed down in that area,  
19                  but they are not entitled to funding.

20                  I didn't believe that was so in the  
21                  beginning and I am kind of doubtful now, but  
22                  the way she explains it, and maybe she can  
23                  come in and explain it to all of us because  
24                  I know, I'm looking at Mrs. Gatelli over  
25                  there and she is look like that's

68

1                  farfetched, right? But that's the way she  
2                  explained it to me and that's why I asked  
3                  her if she would be put in this writing to

4 me because the explanation she gave me, I  
5 don't think I understand it fully, and I  
6 don't think I would do it any justice and  
7 Kay is looking like she wants to say  
8 something. Do you want to say something  
9 over there, Kay?

10 MS. GARVEY: Linda did stop by the  
11 office, Mrs. Aebli stopped in the office,  
12 looked at our map because we do have that  
13 map in there, however, we don't have the  
14 block or the tracks marked on ours, so she  
15 tried to explain that the best way that she  
16 could, if I understood her correctly, it's a  
17 2000 census track by track and block groups.  
18 Gardener Avenue is located in the track, and  
19 it's the number, block two. Block 2 is not  
20 located in a low to moderate income area,  
21 however, the service area for both Block 1  
22 and 2 averaged together you will get a low  
23 to moderate income area of over 51 percent,  
24 so by putting those two together it allows  
25 the police to go into that service area,

69

1 however, they are not eligible for low to  
2 moderate income funding on their own.

3 MS. GATELLI: I see.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: You did a wonderful

5 job, Kay, better than I could do.  
6 Mrs. Schumacher, do you -- if you could just  
7 nod, I know I can't speak back and forth to  
8 you, do you understand that explanation?  
9 Okay. I didn't think I would do it justice.

10 MS. GATELLI: I see what she is  
11 saying.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: So, I tried to do a  
13 little bit of my homework as Mr. McGoff said  
14 he was going to do his homework because I  
15 figured that it was odd that you would have  
16 a police officer and you can't get funding.

17 And I spoke with some of the  
18 members of the council just very briefly  
19 before the meeting and in particular Mrs.  
20 Gatelli, we are going to look into for those  
21 of you who have been asking me about  
22 reduction the beat officers we are going to  
23 look into that and I truly think we will get  
24 that rectified, so those of you who have  
25 been asking about it know what I'm talking

70

1 about and I think we are all in agreement on  
2 what we want done there, so I think you will  
3 see that happening. And just a Happy  
4 Thanksgiving to everybody and that's all I

5 have. Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Courtright. I didn't think we are going to  
8 speak about the mall bailout this evening,  
9 but since it has been brought up, I'm not a  
10 fan of the idea of trickle down economics,  
11 historically it hasn't worked. Giving money  
12 to corporate entities with the hope that it  
13 will eventually get somehow to the people  
14 has simply not worked in any major way. The  
15 problem is that the opposite has not been  
16 overly effective either. You know, there  
17 are critics of the new deal with the idea of  
18 giving money to the workers and hopefully  
19 that will bolster the economy, there is  
20 disagreement about that idea as well.

21 I guess what it comes down to is  
22 that if you are going to give money  
23 somewhere there has to be the trust that  
24 that money will be used wisely, and I guess  
25 in the case of the mall and Boscov's I guess

71

1 it comes down to trusting the man to do the  
2 right thing with the money that is going to  
3 be given. From what people are saying,  
4 Mr. Boscov has been mentioned here,  
5 Mr. Boscov is very civic minded and has done

6 a great deal for all of the communities in  
7 which the stores have been, his stores have  
8 been placed. I'm hoping that that fiscal  
9 responsibility and civic responsibility  
10 continues because it is a great deal of  
11 money to be given in this type of situation.  
12 Hopefully at the national level it works  
13 equally as, you know, or it will work in the  
14 same way that the people that are being  
15 given these large sums of money can be  
16 trusted to use it to benefit of the  
17 community and not to the corporation itself.

18 Just a quick mention of some things  
19 that were brought up, I know Mr. Spindler is  
20 not happy with the Betty Boop cartoon, but I  
21 have had people come to me and tell me that  
22 they are pleased with the extent of the  
23 programming that is being placed on ECTV,  
24 the quality of the programming as well.  
25 Hopefully that will continue to progress and

72

1 that it becomes a very viable entity for us.

2 Also, the request to have meetings  
3 of other government entities be held in  
4 council chambers, as far as I know we cannot  
5 legislate where people meet, specifically

6 autonomous authorities can meet wherever  
7 they wish to meet I would assume. We can  
8 request that, you know, people meet here to  
9 facilitate public access TV being available  
10 to televise these meetings, but we cannot  
11 legislate and I agree with Mr. Dobson it  
12 would be a great idea if everyone were to  
13 meet here so that it could be placed on  
14 public access TV, but I don't think that  
15 that's going to happen. I would ask that we  
16 do make the request, you know, all of the  
17 authorities and other governmental agencies  
18 to hold meetings here, but we will have to  
19 wait and see what their response is.

20 Also, a mention of Bethlehem, it  
21 comes up, I do know that one of the things  
22 that allows Bethlehem to somewhat I'll say  
23 thrive is the large number of urban programs  
24 that are conducted in the City of Bethlehem.  
25 Two that I have been or three that -- music

73

1 fest that they have, the Celtic festival  
2 that they have and downtown Bethlehem and  
3 also the Christmas light show that they have  
4 in Bethlehem attract people from all over  
5 and is a great revenue maker for the city.  
6 There are constantly events being held in

7 downtown Bethlehem that attract people that  
8 spend money and it's been to the great  
9 benefit of Bethlehem so that they do not  
10 have to get into raising taxes and so on and  
11 maybe allow for the greater revenue source.

12 Perhaps that's something that the City  
13 of Scranton needs to look into doing things  
14 that attract people to the city through  
15 these types of programs and maybe we can  
16 also benefit from that type of revenue  
17 source. And that is all that I have. Thank  
18 you.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. McGoff, could I  
20 just say one thing, you reminded me, I had  
21 two calls today and, Kay, maybe you can send  
22 a letter or call ECTV, they are under the  
23 impression that we were supposed to go live  
24 today because it was the end of the month  
25 and I told them I didn't know and I do not

74

1 know when we will, can you ask them when  
2 that is going to happen. That's it. Thank  
3 you.

4 MS. GATELLI: May I, Mr. McGoff?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely.

6 MS. GATELLI: I forget to mention one



7 thing very important that will probably be  
8 the headline tomorrow morning, when we were  
9 in caucus I inquired as to how we would  
10 raise the mayor's salary. Now, you might be  
11 shocked and say how dare her say such a  
12 thing, but I do think that the salary of the  
13 mayor is much rather ludicrous. There is no  
14 other governmental agency that the CEO quote  
15 is paid so little. The mayor of  
16 Wilkes-Barre they said makes \$82,000, our  
17 mayor makes 50 and he has since at least  
18 Wenzel, the salary hasn't been increased. I  
19 think that sometimes when the salary is so  
20 low you don't get somebody of a good quality  
21 to run for mayor. I think that if the  
22 salary is raised possibly people would show  
23 some interest in it that had, you know, a  
24 great knowledge and didn't want to leave a  
25 job to come and make \$50,000, so I asked

75

1 Amil to look into when you would raise the  
2 salary of a mayor and you would have to  
3 raise it before the election, so that it  
4 would not be for a particular person, it  
5 would be for whomever won the election, not  
6 for the city mayor, so just not to shock you  
7 tomorrow when you read that in the paper.

8 It wasn't intended to be solely for Chris  
9 Doherty, it would have to be done before an  
10 election and hopefully if it was done more  
11 people maybe would be interested in serving  
12 as the mayor of the City of Scranton. Thank  
13 you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: I'll just add to that,  
15 we did look that up in the Home Rule Charter  
16 there is provision, there are provisions for  
17 when and how the mayor, the controller, and  
18 city council --

19 MR. MINORA: All the elected  
20 officials.

21 MR. MCGOFF: -- salaries can be  
22 raised or altered and there is a procedure  
23 that's there and that's what we have to do.

24 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

76

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
2 AND APPLY FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE  
3 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
4 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)  
5 FOR A GROWING GREENER II MAIN STREET AND  
6 DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT  
7 OF \$250,000.00. IF THE GRANT APPLICATION IS

8 SUCCESSFUL, THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE  
9 DISTRIBUTED TO THE 500 LACKAWANNA  
10 DEVELOPMENT COMPANY FOR THE PROJECT TO BE  
11 NAMED AS "500 LACKAWANNA AVENUE  
12 REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT" TO BE USED FOR  
13 BUILDING RENOVATIONS.

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

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

21 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
25 ayes have it and so moved.

77

1 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
2 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
3 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
4 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL  
5 SERVICES WITH THE LAW FIRM OF CARL J. GRECO,  
6 P.C. FOR LEGAL SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT  
7 LIMITED TO GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE OFFICE OF  
8 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD"),

9 URBAN RENEWAL PROCESS AND PROCEDURE, EMINENT  
10 DOMAIN AND RELATED LITIGATION, DISPOSITION  
11 OF SURPLUS URBAN RENEWAL LANDS, TITLE  
12 SEARCHES AND DEED PREPARATION.

13 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I will  
14 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be  
15 introduced into it's proper committee.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Does  
19 this represent an increase --

20 MS. FANUCCI: No, this is just  
21 the -- yeah, that would be coming back down  
22 right after.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Doesn't that come down  
25 after?

78

1 MR. MCGOFF: That's the one --

2 MS. GARVEY: I believe in the  
3 legislation, if that's what you are speaking  
4 on, I think it's for \$150,000.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Thank you. All  
6 those in favor --

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's \$150,00?

8 MS. GATELLI: What's \$150,000?

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

MR. MCGOFF: This.

MS. GARVEY: Carl Greco's contract.

MS. GATELLI: Why is it \$150,000?

MS. GARVEY: I believe that's what's  
in the red line, in the legislation.

MS. FANUCCI: Because it costs  
\$25,000 for Right-to-Know this year.

MS. GARVEY: It was 100 the previous  
years I believe they are looking for the  
150.

MS. FANUCCI: Plus the development  
stuff because they said it was going to be  
more because of what we are doing with  
development.

MS. GATELLI: Well, I'll vote to move  
it ahead, but, I'm sorry, I wasn't aware of  
that.

79

MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,  
also, neither was I. Shame on us. I  
thought \$100,000 was a fair price, I was  
willing to vote, yes, even though there was  
some controversy over it I thought \$100,000  
was fair. I will vote to move it ahead, but  
I will certainly do my homework next week  
\$150,000 sounds a little bit high to me.

MS. FANUCCI: There's some taxpayers

10 you can try to collect from.

11 MS. GATELLI: Well, I know, I  
12 understand that part of it, but the other  
13 part of it is that his contract usually  
14 didn't come until February and it's only  
15 November.

16 MS. FANUCCI: They ran out. That's  
17 why when I looked into it they ran out of  
18 money because of how the ridiculous amounts  
19 of Right-to-Know that's been filed just for  
20 OECD it's obscene.

21 MS. GATELLI: Well, I'd have to see  
22 all of those bills. I'm not voting for  
23 \$150,000.

24 MS. FANUCCI: I did, so I can help  
25 you with that.

80

1 MR. MCGOFF: That's why I asked. I  
2 feel the same way that --

3 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, that's a bit  
4 much.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Well, the 25 --

6 MR. MCGOFF: If there are excesses  
7 then we can vote on that at a later time,  
8 but --

9 MS. FANUCCI: That's true.

10 MR. MCGOFF: -- we'll move this  
11 forward and discuss it next week.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. McGoff, one  
13 more thing and maybe I can ask Mr. Minora,  
14 Mrs. Fanucci is saying that there is  
15 excesses and he went over what it costs, we  
16 have several solicitors on the payroll,  
17 part-time solicitors, are they allowed to  
18 give, for lack of a better term, to give him  
19 a hand, Mr. Greco, if there is an exorbitant  
20 amount of work coming his way?

21 MR. MINORA: I think the reason OECD  
22 has a separate solicitor is because there is  
23 conflicts. As a general principle there is  
24 a conflict between the city and the federal  
25 government's money, so I guess that's the

81

1 answer, you know, you have separate counsel  
2 for that reason.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. It's not  
4 advisable. Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor  
6 signify by saying aye.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.  
13 READING BY TITLE FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49,  
14 2008 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
15 FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR  
16 THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF  
17 JANUARY 2009 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,  
18 2009 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY  
19 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2009.

20 MR. MCGOFF: You have heard Reading  
21 by Title of Item 6-A what is your pleasure.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Mr. Chairman, I move  
23 that Item 6-A pass Reading by Title.

24 MR. MCGOFF: I'll second it. On the  
25 question?

82

1 MS. GARVEY: That's Mrs. Gatelli's  
2 committee. I believe the committee on  
3 finance, the budget.

4 MS. GATELLI: Yes. What are we on  
5 6-A?

6 MS. FANUCCI: Sorry.

7 MS. GATELLI: Are you trying to take  
8 my finance committee?

9 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah, I want it so bad.

10 MS. GATELLI: Come on. Everybody



11 wanted it.

12 MR. MCGOFF: This is only Sixth  
13 Order.

14 MS. FANUCCI: It's only Sixth Order.

15 MS. GARVEY: I'm sorry.

16 MS. GATELLI: When do we make the  
17 amendments, next week?

18 MS. FANUCCI: So you can second and  
19 we are done.

20 MS. GATELLI: Second.

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

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

83

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

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

4 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
5 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
6 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 48, 2008  
7 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE  
8 COMMONLY KNOWN AS SHORT AVENUE, TAX MAP NO.  
9 13420-020-027, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO  
10 CARMEN SAITA, 517 GREENBUSH STREET,  
11 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, FOR THE

12 CONSIDERATION OF \$7,000.00.

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

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

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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

22 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

23 (Mrs. Evans not present.)

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

25 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

84

1 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

8 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION -  
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
10 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 84, 2008 -  
11 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 80, 2008 ENTITLED

12 "ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
13 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
14 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
15 APPROPRIATENESS FOR JOHN ANDREJACK  
16 CONTRACTORS, 802 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,  
17 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA FOR INSTALLATION OF A  
18 NEW ROOF WITH ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES,  
19 POINTING OF BRICKS, REPLACEMENT OF WINDOW  
20 OPENING FILLERS AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING  
21 SIGNS AT 225 VINE STREET, SCRANTON,  
22 PENNSYLVANIA" TO REFLECT THE CORRECT ADDRESS  
23 AS 802 NORTH WEBSTER AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
24 PENNSYLVANIA.

25 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

85

1 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Community Development?

3 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
4 Committee on Community development, I  
5 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

10 (Mrs. Evans not present.)

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

12 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

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-B legally and lawfully adopted.  
20 Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and thank you  
21 for your participation and motion to  
22 adjourn.  
23 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

24  
25

86

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

12

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25