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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

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

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MR. SUE MAGNOTTA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

10 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. MAGNOTTA: Ms. Gatelli.

13 MS. GATELLI: Here.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Dispense with the  
15 reading of the minutes. Third Order.

16 MS. GARVEY: 3-A. TAX COLLECTION  
17 COMPARISON REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE SINGLE  
18 TAX OFFICE ON MAY 11, 2009.

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

21 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. APPLICATIONS AND  
22 DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING HEARING  
23 BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 13, 2009.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
25 If not, received and filed.

1 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
2 FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2009.

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

5 MS. GARVEY: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
6 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
7 APRIL 22, 2009.

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

10 MS. GARVEY: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE  
11 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD JUNE  
12 10, 2009.

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

15 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third  
16 Order.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Any  
18 announcements from anyone?

19 MS. GATELLI: Just two things. First  
20 of all, I would like to congratulate Mrs.  
21 Evans on her win for city council, and I  
22 would like to congratulate Mr. Courtright  
23 who is our new tax collector.

24 Please remember in your prayers for  
25 Mr. Sam Cali, I don't think if any of you

1 knew him, but he certainly was a  
2 philanthropist in the community for many,  
3 many years and if you had the pleasure of  
4 knowing him or meeting him you would have  
5 known his kindness and his love for his  
6 community, and I'm sure you read his  
7 obituary, which was several columns long.  
8 He is a certainly a tribute and we should  
9 recognize him here at this council meeting.

10 Also, I would like you to keep in  
11 your prayers my former priest at St.  
12 Francis, Monsignor Anthony Marra. He was at  
13 our church for 25 years and then went to St.  
14 Anthony's in Dunmore and I'd like you to  
15 please remember him in your prayers. He was  
16 truly a wonderful man and did very good  
17 things for St. Francis of Assisi and for St.  
18 Anthony's in Dunmore, and that's all I have.  
19 Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: I'd like to welcome a new  
21 business, Sharon's Restaurant, to Scranton.  
22 It opened a few days ago and is located at  
23 411 South Washington Avenue across from CB  
24 Scott, and I learned their hours are 6:30 to  
25 2:30 and I do wish Sharon's Restaurant good

1 luck and great successes in the future.

2 The Upper Hill Ecumenical Committee  
3 will conduct one additional Friendly's fun  
4 night on Wednesday, June 10, from 5 to 8  
5 p.m. at Friendly's in Dunmore. This will be  
6 the last fun night until the fall and will  
7 salute Monsignor Sicanolfi and St. Francis  
8 of Assisi food kitchen. Please remember  
9 there is no summer vacation at the food  
10 kitchen. Your support would be greatly  
11 appreciated.

12 MR. MCGOFF: My apologies, I had  
13 something for the Relay for Life, the dates  
14 at home, and in my haste to get here I left  
15 it. Please take a look in the newspaper.  
16 Relay for Life is something that's held  
17 every year and it's a great benefit to the  
18 community and it's a wonderful cause and if  
19 I haven't missed the date I will try and  
20 have it for next week.

21 I'd like to also announce that on  
22 June 21, Father's Day, there is going to be  
23 the initial -- hopefully, initial Father's  
24 Day five-mile run conducted by the Prostate  
25 Cancer Awareness Alliance. The proceeds of

7

1 the event will benefit prostate cancer

2 awareness. The race director is a prostate  
3 cancer survivor, Bob Reslin, and many of the  
4 people working on the event are also  
5 prostate cancer survivors. We are hoping to  
6 have a great race and we put some work into  
7 it and just keep it in mind and maybe  
8 runners can go to Active.com or NEPA  
9 Runners.com or also PCAANEPA.org and there's  
10 a link to the race. We would welcome any  
11 support, any participants or volunteers for  
12 the race, and thank you. Fourth order,  
13 citizens' participation. Mike Dudek.

14 MR. DUDEK: Mike Dudek, 608 Depot  
15 Street, I live here in the Plot. Again,  
16 congratulations to Mrs. Evans on her  
17 victory, Mr. Courtright on your victory and  
18 you will have our best wishes that you will  
19 be able to bring some stability to the  
20 office that you will be entering into and we  
21 know that it needs help. Good luck to you,  
22 Mr. Courtright.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

24 MR. DUDEK: Now, the last time that  
25 I spoke on the topic similar to this was in

2 first sworn in, and I pointed out to the new  
3 members at the time that when you take an  
4 office like this a council person gets more  
5 heat, more flack and more problems than any  
6 other elected official because you are where  
7 the rubber meets the road. You have the  
8 most obvious direct contact with the  
9 citizens that come to address you about any  
10 issue, and that in a sense you have to  
11 surrender some of your own First Amendment  
12 Rights of freedom of speech and take the  
13 brick bats that are coming your way because  
14 95 percent of the people that come to use  
15 this, this mic, have a problem, and people  
16 who have a problem usually have some sort of  
17 pain attached to it.

18 And even if the assaults on you as  
19 council people are unfair, it was up to you  
20 to suck it up on take it, and I honestly  
21 think that the election results showed that  
22 some of you were not able to take the heat  
23 and that's the only reason why you did lose.  
24 I hate to say it, but it's true. Two good  
25 people just didn't do the job the right way

9

1 and this is a result of it. You should have  
2 paid attention when I mentioned this to you.



3                   Nevertheless, we now have a council  
4                   that's a lame duck council because come  
5                   December two of you are gone, but we still  
6                   have city business between now and December  
7                   when the changeover comes to keep a breast  
8                   of, and I'm going to ask on behalf of  
9                   everybody in this city to please work  
10                  together.

11                  And I'm going to give you one issue  
12                  to think about where you can all work  
13                  together with the mayor because I found one  
14                  issue where believe it or not Mayor Doherty  
15                  is right on target. How many of you here  
16                  who ever heard of the town of Renton,  
17                  Washington? Anybody on council? Did you  
18                  ever hear of the town of Renton,  
19                  R-E-N-T-O-N? Anybody here? One person.  
20                  Renton, Washington, has a bigger library  
21                  than Scranton does and Renton, Washington,  
22                  is probably no bigger than Dunmore. If you  
23                  go to the library in Renton, Washington,  
24                  it's a remarkable building because a river  
25                  runs under it. The building was

10

1                  architecturally designed to straddle a  
2                  river, it's an architectural gem in the town

3 of Renton and they have a brand new library.

4 We have Mayor Doherty dragging our  
5 two county commissioners along with him on  
6 the idea of building a library and this is  
7 the absolute optimum time to strike. The  
8 reason is because of stimulus money.  
9 Because of that, we have a very unique  
10 opportunity, a very small window of time to  
11 get the library. We get this library by  
12 doing a couple of things:

13 Number one, we get Lackawanna Junior  
14 College on board by promising them that if  
15 we get a library built in South Side,  
16 Lackawanna County College, will be given the  
17 Albright Memorial Library for it's college  
18 library.

19 MS. FANUCCI: They can't.

20 MR. DUDEK: Why not?

21 MS. FANUCCI: Because it's -- we  
22 can't deed that to anyone else.

23 MR. DUDEK: Pardon?

24 MS. FANUCCI: That library cannot be  
25 given to anyone else.

11

1 MR. DUDEK: Which one, the Albright?

2 MS. FANUCCI: Yes. Yes.

3 MR. DUDEK: Okay. So even if that

4 can't be done this library could be built  
5 with federal money with very little or no  
6 money from the state or the City of Scranton  
7 and for the naysayers here who don't believe  
8 me, I brought \$23 million worth of flood  
9 money in here along with Tom Preambo and not  
10 one penny of it came from the city and not  
11 one penny of it came from the state and Tom  
12 and I were both honored by the state  
13 assembly, by the general assembly for doing  
14 it.

15 What I am telling you is that this  
16 library could be built without any pain to  
17 the taxpayers because stimulus money is out  
18 there for the project and I think that if  
19 people work together when the mayor and the  
20 county commissioners to go after it you can  
21 still build it. I think that this is  
22 something that should be pursued, okay?

23 As to the Albright library, even if  
24 you can't deed it to the school I think it's  
25 possible to give that college maximum access

12

1 to it so that they can work together with  
2 it. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Andy Sbaraglia.

4 MR. SBARAGALI: Andy Sbaraglia,  
5 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
6 wish you would read some of the money coming  
7 in from the tax collection comparison  
8 report. You would find out if that holds  
9 true for the end of the year there will be  
10 no hole in the budget. In fact, there will  
11 be a surplus, and it's true. The figures  
12 coming in or astronomical over what they  
13 were a year ago. I wish you would read that  
14 out to the people so they know what that  
15 office is doing no matter who is going to be  
16 in charge of it. It has to continue  
17 somewhat like it's doing now to generate  
18 money coming into this place. In fact, if  
19 we had all of the money that we were  
20 supposed to be getting there wouldn't have  
21 been no taxes raised.

22 Okay, let's go to -- I'm not going  
23 to get into that too much and that's your  
24 5-C, the places and business, I just was  
25 laughing about what I read in it. It said

13

1 they have to give one more job, but 51  
2 percent of that job has to low interest. If  
3 I could figure out how to cut a person in  
4 half so we got 51 percent there and

5 49 percent the other side, it's sounds like  
6 a solid deal that you would come in. She  
7 knows how to do the cut that way.

8 Okay, let's go onto 6-A, Reading by  
9 Title, this is the money coming in: We got  
10 \$1,401,886 for -- I assume -- from what I  
11 read in this thing it's supposed to be for  
12 the homeless and for people who are going to  
13 lose their homes. It is it right or wrong?  
14 I haven't looked at how that money was  
15 divided? All I know is that's what it said  
16 in the backup, and the other \$916,485 we can  
17 lend out to whoever we want to lend it out  
18 to because as long as it complies with HUD's  
19 regulations, from what I read.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Now, I don't know how  
22 the money is being divided out, but I wish  
23 you people would find out how it would be  
24 divided out and come here and speak to the  
25 people, come and tell them how it's being

14

1 divided because we are all in the dark about  
2 what happens in the backup. I read the  
3 backup, but 99 percent of the people in  
4 Scranton do not read the backup. It's too

5 bad it's not on the internet and getting in  
6 there where you can draw it all over. It's  
7 quite cumbersome in some places. There is  
8 like 100 pages there almost -- I shouldn't  
9 say that, but at least 30 pages just for  
10 that \$20,000. It's just standard logistics  
11 I guess, so it has to be in there and it's  
12 very, very redundant, but the basic was,  
13 like I said before, 25,000 to this  
14 restaurant that's open now, but the one  
15 employee. I don't know, it's just sort of  
16 funny.

17 Okay, let's go on now. He mentioned  
18 the library. I wouldn't mention the library  
19 too much because right now it's something  
20 that may or may not be in the works, but  
21 what gets me is when we built our new high  
22 school or we built any schools, why isn't  
23 the library put on the first floor able to  
24 be sealed off from the rest of the building  
25 and open at night? We would have so many

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1 more libraries available at night. Why  
2 don't they do that? But, people don't think  
3 when they do things. That's the problem  
4 with any organization that seems to be in  
5 this city. They don't go farther than their

6 nose. I don't know why they do that, but  
7 they do do that, and we could have one -- we  
8 could have a library down there at the new  
9 school. We are building a school I think up  
10 there in West Side again, that could have  
11 been designed with a small library and so  
12 forth and so on, but we don't do that. We  
13 like to keep building new stuff, but like I  
14 said before, the political parties exist for  
15 one purpose and not necessarily to help us.

16 Patronage and contracts, so that's  
17 why we get these buildings being built all  
18 over creation not because it's really going  
19 to help the people, that's only something  
20 that may happen. I don't know what we going  
21 to do, where -- that 16 million has to come  
22 from somewhere. It's nice to see somebody  
23 comes up and say there is 16 million, go and  
24 do what you want to do, but it's not a fact.  
25 The location is not necessarily the best,

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1 I'm sorry, Judy. South Side is not  
2 necessarily the best, it should be down in  
3 the central city somewhere where the whole  
4 city can come to it because really -- I  
5 thank you.

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MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler.

MR. SPINDLER: Les Spindler,  
resident and homeowner and taxpayer. I,  
too, would like to congratulate  
Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans on their  
wonderful victories and, Mr. Courtright,  
good luck in your new position, you got your  
work cut out for you.

First of all, I want to talk about  
something we were supposed to a long time.  
The Friday before the election, Attorney  
Chris Cullen called Steve Corbett of WILK  
talk radio and was talking about the stolen  
political signs of Gary DiBileo. He said  
the police have finished their  
investigation, they have identified two  
people who stole the signs, they have two  
videotapes of the people, they have  
identified the two people, Mr. Cullen said  
they are connected to the Scranton Police

17

Department, the report was given to Ray  
Hayes, to Chief Elliott and the mayor, the  
report has been sitting on their desks for  
weeks, nothing has been done. This is a  
crime that's been committed and these people  
covered it up because these people that were



7 in the video are also connected to Chris  
8 Doherty, and they covered it up because they  
9 didn't want Chris Doherty's name smeared.

10 And the Chief and Ray Hayes should  
11 resign because they are covering up a crime  
12 and not doing their job, they should be  
13 fired or resign and they should be arrested  
14 for covering up a crime, and the mayor  
15 should resign also because he knows about  
16 it, and this is fact because Steve Corbett  
17 has a copy of the report and WNEP has a copy  
18 of the report, and I know this for a fact,  
19 so I think council should send a letter to  
20 those involved here asking that charges be  
21 pressed against these people that stole the  
22 signs.

23 Moving on, that same week a woman, I  
24 won't say her name, but she said she lives  
25 on the corner of Greenridge Street and

18

1 Washington Avenue, I'll make this quick  
2 because it's a long story, she and her  
3 husband were called to put Doherty signs in  
4 their yard, they said, "No, we are not  
5 putting anybody's signs in our yard."

6 Two days later on a Sunday morning

7 the woman went out to get her Sunday paper,  
8 there were approximately 68 stickers she  
9 said, Doherty stickers, on her front porch,  
10 on her fence, and this is not me saying it,  
11 it's her, a police report was filed. Her  
12 husband was out of town, two days later the  
13 husband came home, the wife heard him  
14 arguing outside with somebody, she comes  
15 running out and the person with the stickers  
16 was back again in their driveway, they  
17 caught him red-handed and I'm not going to  
18 mention names, but this person is a very,  
19 very close relative of the mayor. It just  
20 shows this mayor will do anything to win a  
21 campaign. It's unbelievable. He is so  
22 underhanded, so corrupt, it's just  
23 unbelievable.

24 And here is another example of his  
25 corruption, on election day the Aroma Cafe

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1 on Mulberry Street was giving out flyers,  
2 "Vote for Chris Doherty, we'll give you a  
3 ride to the polls and a free panini."

4 This was stopped by a judge. A  
5 judge told them to stop it because it's  
6 illegal. This is many things that Chris  
7 Doherty has done illegal in his whole career

8 as mayor and nothing has been done. Charges  
9 should be brought against him for running a  
10 campaign like this and whoever else is  
11 involved, and this is all fact because a  
12 copy of that flyer was faxed to Steve  
13 Corbett and he read it on the air.

14 Next thing, I have to talk about the  
15 library, also. I have to disagree with  
16 Mr. Dudek, with today's technology we do not  
17 need a new library. How many people go to  
18 the library to study? Almost every  
19 household has a computer in it. You can get  
20 more on the computer than you can with a  
21 library. I totally disagree. We don't a  
22 need a new library, our Albright library is  
23 just fine, and where are we going to get  
24 \$16 million anyway? I guess that's all I  
25 have. Thank you.

20

1 MR. MCGOFF: Jim Stucker.

2 MR. STUCKER: I'm glad I voted for  
3 Janet and Courtright. I voted for the other  
4 two guys, so I feel sorry about Gary  
5 DiBileo, he lost, but I hope he got another  
6 chance, I'd be happy. Now back to our  
7 holes, Mayor Doherty has got to do something

8 for the city now. I heard he got back in to  
9 be a mayor now he's got to do something. We  
10 got to get these roads fixed. Where is the  
11 money going where these holes can be fixed?  
12 Like, I was over at Greenridge the other day  
13 and I was riding the side roads and the  
14 roads were full of holes. They got to --  
15 Mayor Doherty he's -- -where is this money  
16 going? That's what I'd like to know? Where  
17 is the money going? He should do something  
18 for these roads.

19 Now, if Gary DiBileo he would have  
20 gotten something done for the city. He  
21 would. No if's about it. You got to work  
22 with the man now. If you are don't work  
23 with him he's not going to do nothing, get  
24 the lights fixed, gets the roads, don't  
25 worry about Nay Aug Park, that should be out

21

1 of his mind now. The garbage has got to be  
2 picked up. I have been riding around with  
3 my buddy Pat today, the garbage ain't picked  
4 up like it's supposed to be. And they are  
5 complaining about the dogs, about building  
6 the thing up at the park, the dog cage or  
7 something like that, he's got to do  
8 something I don't know care. And that red

9 house on Greenridge never got tore down.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I know, Jim, it  
11 should be torn town. They boarded it up,  
12 though.

13 MR. STUCKER: He's got to tear it  
14 down. The other thing is right there by the  
15 corner of Greenridge Street there is two big  
16 houses there. They should be tore down,  
17 too, because it's abandoned houses. So you  
18 got to do something. I don't care what.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Jim.

20 MR. STUCKER: Pat told me he said for  
21 both of you he is glad both of you won.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Tell him we said  
23 thanks, all right.

24 MR. STUCKER: I had a good time at  
25 the party, at Gary's. Yeah. Yeah. I

22

1 didn't see Janet there. I wish she was  
2 there.

3 MS. EVANS: Where?

4 MR. STUCKER: At DiBileo's party at  
5 the Taurus Club.

6 MS. EVANS: At the Taurus Club.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: She was sick, Jim.

8 MR. STUCKER: I know. Yeah. All

9 right.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Jim.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Stephanie Gawel.

13 MS. GAWEL: Good evening, Council.

14 First, I'd like to say what an Honor and  
15 privilege it was working for Gary DiBileo's  
16 campaign, I worked a lot. I met a lot of  
17 nice, nice people out there, it was -- it  
18 really very educational.

19 Second, I'd like to congratulate  
20 Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright, and I would  
21 like to wish Mrs. Gatelli and Mr. Fanucci  
22 well in their future endeavors.

23 All right, now the nice part is  
24 over. Mayor Doherty continues to sell the  
25 Irish charm and lie to the city and

23

1 continues to divide the city. Again, I  
2 encourage the people of Scranton to call the  
3 Times Leader, start getting the Saturday  
4 paper which will eventually maybe cause --  
5 get a second paper in the City of Scranton  
6 because as far as I'm concerned the only one  
7 that was pathetic and obstructionist,  
8 etcetera, was the Scranton Times. Again, I  
9 had cancelled the paper, they continue to

10 deliver it, I believe that editorial page is  
11 their for their opinions not the whole  
12 paper.

13 I would like to address some  
14 comments that were made two weeks ago. I  
15 write my own thoughts. I do not speak -- I  
16 do speak with other speakers. They are  
17 nice, but as it was said, the same people.  
18 That's why I continually encourage other  
19 people to come and speak. I also, again,  
20 believe that Mrs. Williams is entitled to  
21 her opinion, but she comes in with such hate  
22 and disgust that it's hard to listen to her.

23 I would also like to address former  
24 mayor Dave Wenzel. I want to say that I and  
25 a lot of other people have lost a lot of

24

1 respect for you. For you to endorse a man  
2 who is does not support the men and women  
3 who put their lives on the line keeping the  
4 citizens of the Scranton safe from crime and  
5 fires and etcetera, is appalling to me.

6 He put his life on the line and he  
7 paid the price and yet he doesn't seem to  
8 think that it's necessary to either look  
9 after our firemen or our policemen when you

10 are endorsing Mayor Doherty, and that's  
11 ashame, and they are not scare tactics when  
12 you know what's going on in South Side,  
13 etcetera and when you know that it's just  
14 nonsense and I can't believe that he ever  
15 did that.

16 And that's it for tonight. I just  
17 needed to vent tonight and wish everybody  
18 well and I will see you next week.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

20 MS. ELLMAN: Ronnie Ellman,  
21 homeowner, member of the Taxpayers'  
22 Association. Well, isn't a great mystery  
23 how some things turned out, I'm talking  
24 about the election. I have had several  
25 people ask me what it's like to have to eat

25

1 my words. I don't think, you know, I don't  
2 think I have to eat my words. Mayor Doherty  
3 won the battle and lost the war. He is like  
4 a lame duck mayor for the next four years,  
5 so he is useless. He has no -- nothing to  
6 offer his supporters anymore. To me, I'm  
7 going to read this: Doherty ran a  
8 deplorable, despicable, disgusting, filthy  
9 dirty campaign against two very good and  
10 honorable men that out to be proud of the



11 way they ran theirs. These two men only  
12 offered the city hope and inspiration, not  
13 no 30 or 40 years of continuous debt.

14 You know, tomorrow morning I look in  
15 the mirror and I see this old face that's  
16 wore out two or three bodies, but when I  
17 leave if i goes someplace I have the warmth  
18 and friendship and shake hands with people  
19 and give some guys a hug that Doherty would  
20 never sincerely have, did just won't have it  
21 like that. When he looked in that mirror, I  
22 don't know, he is just going to see a cold,  
23 unfriendly, just the atmosphere he gives  
24 out.

25 I read in the paper where he wants

26

1 to run against Kanjorski and has  
2 aspirations, it seems like one of the  
3 prerequisites in this state to run for  
4 governor you have to be the worst absolute  
5 mayor the city ever had like Philadelphia,  
6 you know, and that's -- he sure fills the  
7 shoes there, but if he runs against  
8 Kanjorski, who I didn't vote and I don't  
9 like, that man will eat him up and spit him  
10 out in little piece, and it won't be like

11 running against Mr. DiBileo, and I believe  
12 that we'll see a lot of Mr. DiBileo when  
13 Chris Doherty is gone and forgotten.

14 And about the library, I'm in favor  
15 of it, but not in no wore out old bank  
16 building and not in South Side. The library  
17 should be where everybody could get to it  
18 and get so many people and the children  
19 especially come to the library in buses.  
20 It's a lot easier to go downtown than it is  
21 to ride all over the place and there is only  
22 going to be "X" amount of stimulus dollars.  
23 I keep reading and hearing we have stimulus  
24 dollars coming for this, that and the other  
25 thing. It's limited for crying out loud.

27

1 How much do you think we are going to get?

2 I would like to see Mr. Doherty  
3 promote a library, and I wish we could do  
4 something about a zoo, but that's further  
5 down the road, but I would rather see money  
6 given for the zoo than the trains out there,  
7 and I went to the trains once, I don't know,  
8 10, 15 years ago and it was very enjoyable,  
9 but I have never had any desire to go back,  
10 but like I said, a zoo for is for children  
11 and families and they will come and come and

12                   come and never quit coming because I grew up  
13                   in Memphis and that's how it was for  
14                   families, it was just a family thing you  
15                   went to and it was always different, and  
16                   it's just sad that we couldn't, you know, we  
17                   couldn't keep the little one we had. I  
18                   understand both sides of the argument, but I  
19                   wish Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright the best.  
20                   Can I come to your office and show you my  
21                   paperwork? Nobody else paid in attention to  
22                   me.

23                   MR. COURTRIGHT: You are not going to  
24                   end up on the floor, are you?

25                   MS. FANUCCI: Ronnie, what does your

28

1                   shirt say?

2                   MR. ELLMAN: Pardon?

3                   MS. FANUCCI: Pull your shirt down,  
4                   we can't see what it says. Your shirt. We  
5                   need to know what your shirt says.

6                   MS. ELLMAN: I don't know what it  
7                   says.

8                   MS. FANUCCI: "I'm smiling because I  
9                   have no idea what's going on."

10                   MR. ELLMAN: Miss Rosie puts things  
11                   out for me.

12 MS. FANUCCI: That's so cute.

13 MR. ELLMAN: If I come in here I will  
14 put two socks out or anything, purple with  
15 stripes. And let me tell you something  
16 embarrassing real quick, when I took my Army  
17 physical all of these big guys are standing  
18 there with little briefs on, my momma used  
19 to buy me these boxer shorts in all  
20 different colors and stripes and everything  
21 and I looked like a fool. I did. I looked  
22 like a fool standing there, but what are you  
23 going to do. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Brett McCloe.

25 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening. My name

29

1 is Brett McCloe, Scranton, Pennsylvania  
2 taxpayer. First off, I would like to say  
3 congratulations to Mrs. Evans and  
4 Mr. Courtright for their victories in last  
5 week's primary, but I also want to  
6 congratulate Mr. DiBileo for running a  
7 campaign based on the hope of returning to  
8 fiscally responsible city government and  
9 restoring faith in the universal time-tested  
10 methods it takes to achieve that goal, but  
11 unfortunately 52 percent of the voters of  
12 this city, including strangely enough some

13                   Republicans, who voted more like opportunist  
14                   than those with conservative principals,  
15                   they along with a lot of Democrats didn't,  
16                   couldn't or wouldn't consider the merits of  
17                   progress through fiscal responsibility as  
18                   fixed on shiny things associated with the  
19                   perception of progress. They couldn't see  
20                   the forest for the trees.

21                   Two weeks ago Miss Fanucci said  
22                   something I sort of agreed with. She said  
23                   something very compelling that helped me  
24                   understand and realize even more that our  
25                   city is a living, breathing organism that

30

1                   mimics our actions and is not unlike the  
2                   humans that are charged with this operation.

3                   A study and comparison was made  
4                   between how she saw herself and the City of  
5                   Scranton, not word for word, but in the  
6                   sense she said everyone wishes for something  
7                   different and has their own opinions about  
8                   the progress of this city and how this city  
9                   should be run.

10                   Next she said every morning when she  
11                   gets up she wishes she was a size six, but  
12                   when she looks in the mirror it just isn't

13 so. This statement really has nothing to do  
14 with her or anyone's weight problems and  
15 neither do my comments. To me, it's about  
16 the fiscal health of a living, breathing  
17 organism called Scranton. It made we think,  
18 what would it be like to be a size six city  
19 in comparison to our present fiscal health?  
20 What is a size six city? How do we get  
21 there and do we fully understand the  
22 sacrifices and hard work it would take to  
23 turn a wish into a dream then turn that  
24 dream into a reality.

25 Over the past seven years this city

31

1 has looked in the mirror and developed a new  
2 model, let's fake it until we make it, and  
3 learn to surround and cloak itself with  
4 expensive tax exempt buildings, businesses  
5 and institutions of higher learning that  
6 gobbled up the city like a virus because of  
7 a belief in the trickle down theory that in  
8 reality evaporates up as much tax dollars as  
9 Mr. Doherty can provide under the guise of  
10 economic development and what trickles down  
11 is not enough to develop a stable economy.

12 This poverty sustaining policy  
13 forges visions of economic prosperity that

14                   may or may not do the body good. I fear a  
15                   six-month scorched earth spending and  
16                   borrowing campaign that will further bloat  
17                   our city and force us into even more debt,  
18                   perhaps downtown will get a Ferris wheel and  
19                   cotton candy street lamps to show the world  
20                   that Scranton is a great place to live and  
21                   they will ooh and ah as the citizens of this  
22                   city watch our tax dollars explode and  
23                   disintegrate in the air like fireworks. At  
24                   any rate, there is a new day coming and the  
25                   good news is the people of this city have

32

1                   voted to get on the treadmill to economic  
2                   recovery through fiscal responsibility even  
3                   though we elected to do so with a doughnut  
4                   in our hand. Thank you.

5                   MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher.

6                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening. Marie  
7                   Schumacher, resident and member of the  
8                   Taxpayers' Association. I'd like to start  
9                   with some good news, unlike last year, the  
10                  Scranton High School did participate in the  
11                  Armed Services parade this year and I was  
12                  very happy to see that as did a number of  
13                  other high schools, however, what was

14                   disappointing was that for Memorial Day the  
15                   city website, the parks and recreation page,  
16                   chose to feature and promote a wrestling  
17                   match to be held sometime in the future and  
18                   not the Nay Aug services, and to add insult  
19                   to injury, they provided an incorrect time  
20                   for the service. They were only off by an  
21                   hour and a half. I think the IT needs to do  
22                   a whole lot better than what they have been  
23                   doing.

24                                   And now to my favorite subject, the  
25                   Ice Box deal. To refresh, back six years

33

1                   ago in January we were told that this was  
2                   the Ice Box deal: \$600,000 for 99 years at  
3                   \$1 a year until the city moved the DPW at  
4                   which time Mr. Burke is obligated to buy the  
5                   land for whatever balance is left on the  
6                   lease. So six from \$600,000 you can do the  
7                   math, that's what Mr. Burke owes us.

8                                   I have been asking why back in,  
9                   again, three years ago in 2006 city council  
10                   never even introduced the resolution that  
11                   was sent to them, and I'm glad they did  
12                   because it would have extended these  
13                   payments out forever and it had no interest,  
14                   but that aside, apparently, when it was sent



15 back there were no instructions on what  
16 council liked or disliked about it and any  
17 instructions to return it apparently.

18 You have had Mr. Minora on the 28th  
19 of last month almost a whole month ago, Mr.  
20 Minora said, "I spoke to Mr. Greco twice and  
21 the last conversation he had with me was  
22 that he did not believe --" did not believe,  
23 not did not know, "but did not believe the  
24 prerequisites triggering payment had  
25 occurred yet. All of them hadn't occurred,

34

1 at least that's what he felt, and there was  
2 one portion of it that he wanted to look and  
3 he was going to get back to me."

4 I did a Right-to-Know to the open  
5 records officer for the Scranton  
6 Redevelopment Authority who subsequent to  
7 his response told me that it was either  
8 prepared or cleared with Mr. Greco and it  
9 says: "Based on my review of our records to  
10 the best of my knowledge our office does not  
11 have any documents concerning an agreement  
12 with BRT Ice, LP, in it's possession."

13 So, I mean, what's going on? I  
14 really resent being jerked around like this

15 and told things that are obviously not true.  
16 Which was the lie or are all they lies? Was  
17 that not the agreement that \$600,000 was  
18 going to be paid?

19 MS. FANUCCI: No, it wasn't.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: When the DPW moved--

21 MS. FANUCCI: It wasn't --

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's my time.

23 MS. FANUCCI: So you don't want the  
24 answers again.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: In motions. Thank

35

1 you. Okay, well, awaiting my answers in  
2 motions, the next thing and I hope it's  
3 honest and truthful and I hope we can  
4 proceed because I think the city certainly  
5 needs the money. I'm still waiting for the  
6 proof of the \$600,000 or -- yeah, \$600,000,  
7 the 6,000 jobs that the mayor claims that he  
8 created because his own budget, as I gave  
9 you the figures last time, his own budget  
10 does not support, but rather shows a decline  
11 in the numbers -- either in the numbers of  
12 people working or the numbers of people who  
13 are working but have slipped below the  
14 \$12,000 threshold at which point you would  
15 no longer have to pay the \$52 local services

16 tax, so I hope that we are going to get some  
17 either support or admission that that was an  
18 outright lie again.

19 As far as the library, I couldn't  
20 disagree more with Mr. Dudek. I remember  
21 back in the mid 90's we got a lot of  
22 policemen and it was one of those things the  
23 politics -- there was politics behind it  
24 because it was meant to assuage the people  
25 who were going to lose their jobs, but -- if

36

1 I may complete this one? Thank you. But  
2 that money expired and when this money  
3 expired you either let the police officers  
4 go or the city had to pick up the funds.  
5 This is a the exact same thing. If you get  
6 the stimulus money it has to be spent in two  
7 years and then you are stuck, the city is  
8 once again and the county, is stuck for  
9 keeping the collections up-to-date and  
10 paying the employees and it does belong  
11 downtown. Thank you very much.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South  
14 Scranton resident and member of the  
15 Taxpayers' Association. The election:

16                   Congratulations to Doherty, Evans, Rogan,  
17                   Joyce, Morgan and Miller. My hope, the  
18                   making of a better government. Four years  
19                   ago after the election, I stated that we  
20                   would have two new council persons and my  
21                   hope was that they would work together and  
22                   work with the people to improve Scranton.  
23                   That did not happen. Again, I will say  
24                   welcome to new council members, whomever  
25                   they may be. I hope again is they will work

37

1                   together to improve Scranton and make  
2                   Scranton a better place for all residents,  
3                   not just the chosen few.

4                                 Single Tax Office, Mr. Courtright,  
5                   the law has been violated and it's continued  
6                   to be broken, Single Tax Law 1929. What are  
7                   you going to do about that? Where is the  
8                   district attorney? Hopefully, the FBI will  
9                   reopen the investigation? How about the  
10                  audit of the Single Tax Office? When and  
11                  where and by whom? Special privileges  
12                  should not be granted because of friendships  
13                  or organizations that you belong in. We  
14                  need an investigation in this office, laws  
15                  have been broken and it needs to be done.  
16                  The law is just that, the law.

17 City council, new majority,  
18 hopefully the mayor and council will work  
19 together. Voting "yes" all the time is not  
20 the answer. Voting "no" all the time is not  
21 the answer either. Each vote should be  
22 thoroughly researched and talked about  
23 before you cast that vote. Remember, every  
24 vote that is taken by city council affects  
25 every citizen and residence of Scranton, not

38

1 just the few chosen citizens.

2 Voting turnout was low. The  
3 residents of the City of Scranton need to  
4 really take a more active role in the  
5 governing of the city. Remember, you as  
6 citizens live here, play here and sometimes  
7 actually work in the city. Poor and  
8 dishonest government is the result of lack  
9 of voters' participation. Councilwoman  
10 Evans again proved that the voters are  
11 paying attention. The highest number of  
12 votes in the election on the Democratic and  
13 Republican side.

14 March 2009 unemployment rate, 9.2  
15 percent. Someone really needs to look into  
16 this serious matter. All of the new

17 projects and developments will amount to  
18 very little if citizens are not capable of  
19 enjoying them because they have no money.  
20 Remember, a new building does not bring  
21 prosperity or happiness to the residents.  
22 Liveable wage jobs will. Just because you  
23 have a job does not mean that you are  
24 capable of maintaining your household  
25 expenses.

39

1 Mayor Doherty and city council needs  
2 to work together with the Scranton Chamber  
3 of Commerce and that needs to start tonight.  
4 I feel the first step should be to invite  
5 the Chamber to a city council meeting and  
6 discuss the matter openly and freely with  
7 the residents. Listen and watch. No more  
8 back door meetings. Open up city  
9 government. Remember, fair, honest and open  
10 government works. Behind the door closed  
11 door government does not work.

12 President McGoff, put the gavel down  
13 and start gaveling council members when they  
14 are out of order. What is fair is fair and  
15 rules are for everybody to follow.  
16 Campaigning at council meetings did not  
17 work. The voters seen right through the

18 smoke and mirrors.

19 I would like to offer a suggestion,  
20 city council, mayor and his administration,  
21 schedule a townhall meeting where residents  
22 can approach their elected official with  
23 questions, possibly in a high school  
24 auditorium. The city of Scranton is divided  
25 and must work hard at becoming one again.

40

1 Without new ideas, discussions and working  
2 together, the city will not recover from the  
3 distressed status.

4 By the way, when asked a question,  
5 an elected officials should take the time to  
6 answer the question. If you are not capable  
7 of answering the question, then take the  
8 time to do the research. A phone call or an  
9 e-mail does not constitute research. If you  
10 want to represent the people then do that.  
11 Words mean nothing until they are put into  
12 action. Voting records are your actions.  
13 The voters looked at the voting records on  
14 19th of May. Good job, voters, I commend  
15 you.

16 Okay, we got the Kids Swim Free  
17 Program starting again for the third year.

18 You can make checks payable to: Kids Swim  
19 Free. Mail the checks to 1416 South Webster  
20 Avenue, Scranton, Pa., 18505. This is the  
21 third year that the Taxpayers' Association  
22 is sponsoring this. So far we have  
23 sponsored over 4,000 kids swimming in two  
24 years. We want to continue it so, please,  
25 make a check out to "Kids Swim Free." Mail

41

1 that check to 1416 South Webster Avenue,  
2 Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18505.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Braddick.

4 MR. BRADDICK: Good evening,  
5 Council. Thank you for the opportunity to  
6 speak. My name is William Braddick and I am  
7 a proud citizen of the great City of  
8 Scranton and I'd like to congratulate Mrs.  
9 Evans on her victory, well done.  
10 Mr. Courtright on his victory and look  
11 forward to the things that he will do in  
12 that office. Congratulate our mayor, Chris  
13 Doherty, on his victory, and more  
14 importantly and more to the point,  
15 congratulate Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci  
16 on their victory, the victory that is their  
17 accomplishment of the time that they served  
18 here and the good deeds that they helped get



19 done with the help of the rest of council in  
20 some tough circumstances, the opposition  
21 that they faced during it, that they  
22 continue to face during it, and the future  
23 that's in front of both of them as well as  
24 the future that's in front of you, Mrs.  
25 Evans, as you take the reigns of this

42

1 council and hopefully spread your wings and  
2 let your abilities take us where we need to  
3 go.

4 I am the founding and presently sole  
5 member of the Legion of Hope, looking  
6 forward to what this city is possible of  
7 accomplishing through the correct  
8 leadership, seeing these groups that were  
9 opposed working together. I think we have a  
10 great opportunity in front of us, and I  
11 think we may have the right people there to  
12 do it, so I am hopeful, and I am a legion of  
13 one right now and we will see how many join  
14 me, but I am a legion.

15 I would like to just take one second  
16 and remind everybody that ICC in the Hill  
17 Section still has a food pantry running and  
18 they are a little low. The good Monsignor

19                   Essef and his whole gang up there and do  
20                   wonderful things. Anyone that has the  
21                   opportunity to drop off anything extra that  
22                   you have and other than that, I thank you  
23                   for your time.

24                                 MR. MCGOFF: Other speakers?

25                                 MS. O'MALLEY: Hello, Barbara

43

1                   O'Malley, city resident. Today's Scranton  
2                   Times article, "ECTV moving downtown" is yet  
3                   another twist in the sordid tail of ECTV. I  
4                   am dizzy trying to follow the statements of  
5                   John Darcy, ECTV president, and Mark  
6                   Migliore, ECTV executive director, as they  
7                   attempt to rationalize the financial  
8                   benefits to the taxpayers of ECTV's latest  
9                   move.

10                                 Although, ECTV received \$100,000  
11                   from the City of Scranton, it has fallen  
12                   short on fulfilling it's supporter's  
13                   promises. Council persons Gatelli, Fanucci  
14                   and McGoff approved ECTV's funding over the  
15                   objections of many citizens who pointed out  
16                   the flaws in ECTV's business plan and it's  
17                   shaky management structure.

18                                 Citizens also warn that operating a  
19                   TV studio at 933 Prescott Avenue was a

20 violation of the city's zoning code and it  
21 was fool hearty to invest money in the  
22 building. Unfortunately, they too were  
23 ignored and we are paying for the results.

24 According to Mr. Darcy, \$19,000 of  
25 taxpayers' money was used for improvements

44

1 at the studio at 933 Prescott Avenue which  
2 is now being vacated. Mr. Migliore, ECTV  
3 executive director, called criticism of  
4 these expenditures, and I quote, "Complete  
5 nonsense."

6 No matter how hard John Darcy, Mark  
7 Migliore and Tom Welby of the Committee that  
8 selected ECTV try to convince us that the  
9 new downtown location is terrific, it is yet  
10 another ill-conceived step by ECTV on the  
11 taxpayers' dime.

12 According to reports, ECTV is said  
13 to sign a lease with Scranton Mall  
14 Associates for 3,600 square feet of studio  
15 space at 114 Wyoming Avenue in downtown  
16 Scranton. Office space in downtown Scranton  
17 ranges from \$12 to \$20 a square foot  
18 depending on services. Where is ECTV  
19 getting roughly \$4,000 to pay the rent at

20 114 Wyoming Avenue? Is this a viable plan  
21 fort the longrun or will the taxpayers'  
22 money again be wasted on a short-term fix?

23 Today's newspaper article also  
24 states with the exception of the \$19,000 to  
25 improve the now vacated studio, most of the

45

1 money ECTV received from the city was spent  
2 on equipment. What about money budgeted for  
3 salaries?

4 As a condition of the loan between  
5 the city and the ECTV, ECTV had to create  
6 three full-time permanent paid jobs.  
7 According to a letter from Lori Reed, Deputy  
8 Director of OECT -- excuse me, OECD, ECTV  
9 did fulfill that requirement and the loan  
10 has been forgiven. Where did the funds come  
11 for three full-time salaries if most of the  
12 money was spent on the equipment and  
13 improvements?

14 Is ECTV playing a shell game with  
15 public funds? Something just doesn't add up  
16 unless this \$100,000 is like manna from  
17 heaven. Even Mr. Welby, ECTV's faithful  
18 cheerleader said in today's paper that he  
19 was, and I quote, "curious about the costs."

20 I would hope that the members of

21 this body would share Mr. Welby's curiosity  
22 and be very, very wary of any attempts to  
23 funnel additional monies to ECTV. Thank  
24 you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

46

1 MS. WARDELL: Good evening, Council.  
2 My name is Mary Ann Wardell.  
3 Congratulations, Janet and Bill.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 MS. WARDELL: I am here to question  
6 about the library. Stimulus money would be  
7 used to build that library. Who is  
8 responsible for maintaining it? The county,  
9 currently taxes property owners a library  
10 tax to take care of that library. The  
11 county is not interested in building another  
12 library, so where does the financial burden  
13 fall if this new library is built? Who was  
14 going to pay for this new library, to  
15 maintain this library? And anybody can  
16 answer who knows the answer?

17 MS. EVANS: I don't have an answer  
18 that's set in stone, but I would agree with  
19 you that the libraries fall under the county  
20 library system, and as you mentioned, the

21 three commissioners have unanimously agreed  
22 that at this time the county cannot afford  
23 to maintain a new library within the City of  
24 Scranton. I would assume that if the  
25 library is built that we very likely may see

47

1 a tax increase in terms of the library taxes  
2 that we pay in order to foot the bills for  
3 the employee's salaries and the maintenance  
4 and equipment necessary to keep such an  
5 endeavor running daily.

6 MS. WARDELL: So that you are looking  
7 at adding more taxes or more cost to the  
8 residents of the city to put a library over  
9 in South Side, which is not centrally  
10 located, and we have a beautiful library  
11 here in town which anybody can get at to,  
12 all they have to do is hop on a bus, where  
13 does anybody get the idea that the residents  
14 of this city in Scranton can afford to pay  
15 for another library? I personally can't  
16 afford it. I'm on a fixed income. There is  
17 no way I can afford anymore library taxes or  
18 any more property taxes or anymore wage  
19 taxes. We are taxed out here. We are  
20 absolutely taxed out.

21 And it's a question of priority.

22 The money is coming from a stimulus package,  
23 and that's great, that's to create jobs, but  
24 I would think that if you look at your  
25 priorities especially in this city that

48

1 there would be other priorities that would  
2 come ahead of a library when we have a  
3 magnificent one here in Scranton.

4 And really I just have one more  
5 thing to say, I'm very glad that come  
6 January you, Mrs. Fanucci, will not be here.  
7 You have been an embarrassment to this city  
8 tore four years with your sarcastic remarks  
9 and --

10 MR. MCGOFF: That's out of you order.

11 MS. WARDELL -- and your treatment  
12 of -- yes, you know what, Mr. McGoff -

13 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, Mrs. Wardell,  
14 that is out of order.

15 MS. WARDELL: No. I agree, I am out  
16 of order and you know what, she has been out  
17 of order for four years.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

19 MS. WARDELL: Thank you.

20 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, resident  
21 of Scranton. The issue I have to bring up

22 is a little more tangible than what we have  
23 heard tonight. All this fantastic paving  
24 that's going on in this city, I'd like to  
25 know where it is, because our senior

49

1 citizens up there, and especially those who  
2 are handicapped and in wheelchairs, still  
3 can't get across the city streets and, I  
4 mean, you know, there are five members up  
5 there on that council and if you can't walk  
6 out that front door and see the condition of  
7 those streets and the sidewalks and the  
8 crosswalks you are totally blind.

9 MS. GATELLI: That's true. It's  
10 terrible.

11 MR. TALIMINI: Because we had one of  
12 our gentleman come down here and speak to  
13 our public safety director who didn't even  
14 know that these conditions existed. He  
15 actually took him on a walking tour. Of  
16 course, this is pretty bad because this guy  
17 is on a fixed income, he is in a power  
18 chair, etcetera. Unfortunately, he does  
19 have to get downtown to the stores when they  
20 are open and he has to go to the banks when  
21 he gets his money. But, you know, I cannot  
22 believe that the people in this building who



23 are overpaid, most of them, and those of you  
24 who are elected do not know that you cannot  
25 even get across that street out there in a

50

1 wheelchair. I mean, are you totally dense  
2 or just don't you look and see what's going  
3 on out there?

4 It's sad. Now, you also have an  
5 item on here with funding for homeless,  
6 etcetera. Did they give the money last  
7 year? Did they ever get the money that they  
8 were promised, the homeless shelter?

9 MS. GATELLI: I think this is  
10 additional money.

11 MR. TALIMINI: I know, but did they  
12 ever get the money they were promised last  
13 year?

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes, the homeless gets  
15 the money.

16 MR. TALIMINI: Because they are in  
17 need of again and I was asked by one of the  
18 people who is down there, he can't come here  
19 because he is also handicapped, if they are  
20 going to get any money this year at all and  
21 I told them if they didn't please let me  
22 know because we will see that they do.

23                   Another thing, has anybody ever  
24                   looked at the top of this particular  
25                   building? This sunny tower we have up

51

1                   there? It's in deplorable condition. There  
2                   is a window out which has been out since I  
3                   know of and it needs a paint job up there,  
4                   and no wonder there is pigeon dung up there  
5                   with the window wide open they can come in  
6                   and out freely.

7                   It's just, you know, I question do  
8                   you people see or don't you have any idea or  
9                   don't you care? And I that goes for all  
10                  five of you, and I know the other ones don't  
11                  care. They just -- they are here for their  
12                  paycheck and that's all it amounts to, and I  
13                  would love to see you do something, you have  
14                  got another six or seven months to go,  
15                  please, consider the fact that these people  
16                  need you, that's why you are up here. Thank  
17                  you.

18                  MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
19                  Congratulations, Mrs. Evans. This election  
20                  isn't really over yet, we don't know who is  
21                  running or anything, but I would just like  
22                  to say that no matter who wins the people  
23                  will be voting and whatever they decide is

24 what they want and I'm not necessarily in  
25 favor of putting people down, like, I

52

1 disagree with Mrs. Wardell, I don't believe  
2 in that. I mean, I know Judy and Sherry and  
3 I have words and things like that.

4 MS. GATELLI: Actually, Fay, I'm  
5 going to miss you.

6 MS. FRANUS: Me too.

7 MS. GATELLI: Believe it or not.

8 MS. FRANUS: No, seriously --

9 MS. GATELLI: I know you like my  
10 little doggy, too.

11 MS. FRANUS: I do.

12 MS. GATELLI: It's not personal, I  
13 know that.

14 MS. FRANUS: No, that's what I'm  
15 trying to say.

16 MS. GATELLI: We have gotten along  
17 in the past and we will again.

18 MS. FRANUS: Yes, and that's what  
19 I'm trying to say. We are here for the  
20 better of the city no matter what and I hope  
21 you both of, you know, win in November or  
22 whatever you are doing, I hope you do  
23 something else that you enjoy and, like I

24 say, the election isn't over, part of it  
25 isn't over anyway, and I hope everybody does

53

1 well, Billy and -- that's all I want to say.  
2 Good luck to everybody.

3 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

4 MR. JONES: Bob Jones, Scranton.  
5 Everybody summed what I want to say tonight,  
6 so I'd just like to say three things, Janet  
7 Evans, Bill Courtright, and Scranton  
8 firefighters. And, yeah, I still have my  
9 little red sign and you can't take it.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City  
12 Council, I'm Tom Ungvarsky and I'm a member  
13 of the Scranton Lackawanna County Taxpayers'  
14 Association. I'd like to congratulate Janet  
15 Evans and Mr. Courtright on their victories.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. UNGVARSKY: Well, Mr. Doherty  
18 won and I lost. I hope that Mr. Doherty has  
19 the right idea because I believe Scranton is  
20 a working man's town. We have had mines and  
21 factories here and they have been  
22 hardworking people. Mr. Doherty had the  
23 idea that he can open up loft apartments and  
24 boutiques and downtown eateries and attract

25

well-paying jobs to this city. I hope the

54

1

book that he read gave him the right idea

2

because I think that Scranton is going to

3

suffer in the longrun. Thank you.

4

MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Nelson

5

Ancherani, First Amendment Rights. This

6

coming January we will see a new council in

7

these chambers. It is my belief that

8

between now and then numerous pieces of

9

legislation will be pushed through. As

10

Mrs. Fanucci has admitted she is a rubber

11

stamper, this would be a great time for her

12

to shed that title along with Miss Gattelli

13

and Mr. McGoff.

14

For four years Ms. Fanucci, Ms.

15

Gattelli and Mr. McGoff, have voted and

16

passed record budgets. They have passed

17

numerous borrowing and spending legislation.

18

They passed the 25 percent tax increase and

19

it appears another one will be coming for

20

2010 when we have a deficit of 5.5 million

21

when we don't have the money from the tax

22

office. This is an opportunity for you

23

three to shed the rubber stamper titles and

24

come to the rescue of the Scranton taxpayers

25

who for eight years have endured record

55

1

budgets and record borrowing and reckless

2

spending borrowing and spending.

3

Reckless borrowing example: 35

4

million borrowed the Scranton Parking

5

Authority, 59 million in interest is going

6

to be paid back, plus giving the Scranton

7

Parking Authority \$879,000 this year for

8

Scranton Parking Authority citation issuers,

9

whoever they are.

10

Reckless spending examples are

11

millions on outside attorneys and

12

consultants. If there was more time I could

13

name many, many more. With that B & S we

14

are approximately 300 million in the whole

15

in long-term debt, debt that are great

16

grandchildren will be paying off. With that

17

said, it is my belief and I predict for 2010

18

there will be another 25 percent tax

19

increase, much more borrowing, and another

20

record budget. There are ways to save money

21

and give the taxpayers' relief, but I don't

22

believe we will see that until the new

23

council takes over in January. If I'm wrong

24

I'll be the first one to admit it.

25

Just to clarify, I have lived in

1           this city all my life. I would have left  
2           years ago if I didn't love it. For the  
3           better part of my life, I did what most of  
4           the people did and are still doing, ignoring  
5           what's going on. Shame on me and to quote  
6           Shebo: I wondered what the fuss was about  
7           when Joe Clifford and "Jack is Back" Fosta  
8           argued against issues that they felt were  
9           bad for the city. They loved their city and  
10          now more people are carrying on where they  
11          left off.

12                        I love my city as much as any other  
13          person in this chambers. Thanks to the  
14          internet and informed council speakers, it  
15          is much easier to get information that we  
16          won't get from the slimes. We won't be kept  
17          in the dark like we used to be. Politicians  
18          don't like when their sheep alone to watch  
19          and are looking over their shoulders. Keep  
20          it up, council speakers.

21                        And I just want to say that what I  
22          say is not scripted. Thank you.

23                        MR. MCGOFF: Point of clarification,  
24          Mr. Ancherani, you can only blame me for two  
25          and a half years, not four.

1 MR. ANCHERANI: Pardon?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I said you can only  
3 blame me for two and a half years, not four.

4 MR. ANCHERANI: Two and a half,  
5 okay.

6 MS. GATELLI: Are we going on the  
7 lunch bet this time, Nelson?

8 MR. ANCHERANI: Pardon?

9 MS. GATELLI: We doing the lunch bet  
10 again?

11 MS. ANCHERANI: Yes.

12 MS. GATELLI: Come on.

13 MR. ANCHERANI: It will go to  
14 charity.

15 MS. GATELLI: You reneged on me last  
16 year.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, if there are  
18 no other speakers.

19 MS. HUMPHRIES: Oh, hold on a  
20 minute. May the peace of Jesus Christ be  
21 with everybody. Congratulations Mrs. Evans,  
22 you finally made it. I hope you make it  
23 higher.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MS. HUMPHRIES: Mr. Courtright,



1           congratulations. Mrs. Fanucci and Mrs.  
2           Gatelli they went. I think you tried to do  
3           the best you could, but in the support of a  
4           president that's supposedly Christian and  
5           the people that are getting in office and  
6           supporting the killing of the unborn, it's  
7           the same as communism as far as I'm  
8           concerned.

9                        I want to ask a question, I didn't  
10           know the estimate, but Mr. Boscov was loaned  
11           a lot of money and I know he gave to the  
12           party of Mr. Doherty. With the situation,  
13           the financial situation in the City of  
14           Scranton, how can that be done, that's  
15           number one? I think you could probably get  
16           an answer to Channel 16. Mr. Courtright,  
17           you are going to be the big tax boy and I'm  
18           so proud. Could you tell me something about  
19           that, was it \$30,000, \$3,000? What was the  
20           estimate?

21                       MR. COURTRIGHT: What Mr. Boscov gave  
22           Mr. Doherty? I have no idea.

23                       MS. HUMPHRIES: Well, isn't it  
24           supposed to be documented for the City of  
25           Scranton, number one?

1                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Are you talking  
2                   about his campaign contributions?

3                   MS. HUMPHRIES: The loan. There was  
4                   supposed to be a loan. How could there be a  
5                   loan, number one, when our city is in  
6                   duress, a depression and everything, number  
7                   one. I am in love with the library, but  
8                   that one is fine right now until we get out  
9                   of the hole. I hope some day we will see a  
10                  beautiful library when we do get out of the  
11                  hole. The other thing I want to say the  
12                  journalist I had asked him something, how  
13                  come they do not say anything about my  
14                  speaking which everybody stops me and they  
15                  love me and they can't understand why the  
16                  comments are, and our country, our  
17                  journalists that got killed in other  
18                  countries that are martyrs, why doesn't our  
19                  people that are journalist speak the truth,  
20                  not just support one person, cover  
21                  everything that's being hidden in the City  
22                  of Scranton, the corruption in the City of  
23                  Scranton, because this appalling when you  
24                  got to speak to somebody in another country.

25                  Now, there is treason, number one,

1           when you go up against your country, but  
2           there is also -- there is corruption in your  
3           country you got to do what you got to do to  
4           straighten it out.

5                     I think it's appalling, number one,  
6           that they do not cover the truth. They are  
7           afraid of me because I know the truth and I  
8           think it's wrong. I think it's wrong to see  
9           buildings blown up and people sitting back  
10          when they seen documents by scientists and  
11          all being brought in and cigarettes being  
12          burnt or getting your bank papers saying,  
13          Phyllis, burn a debt. That is wrong.

14                    What they have done is equal to that  
15          Guantanamo or whatever that place what they  
16          have done to me, even some of the church  
17          people. I think it's wrong. I think it's  
18          unholy. I think it's corrupt and when they  
19          cover when people are raped and attacked and  
20          they cover and they put whatever they want  
21          they are all going to be striped of their  
22          jobs. I'm honest to God as God as my  
23          witness. Bishop Martino, we got to get  
24          together and we got to show what really  
25          happened in the City of Scranton. I am for

1 peace. I am for peace. I am for  
2 forgiveness, but I am for justice, and we  
3 got to get some of these corrupt SOB's out.

4 God forgive me, I'll go to  
5 confession, I'll be absolved of my sin. I  
6 love yous and I hope you all do a wonderful  
7 job.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

9 MS. HUMPHRIES: And I'm sure they  
10 will cut this out, too.

11 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, City  
12 Council. My name is Dave Gervasi, Scranton  
13 firefighter and resident. I just want to be  
14 real brief. I want to congratulate  
15 Mr. Courtright on your victory and I'd like  
16 to congratulate Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. GERVASI: And I'd also like to  
19 say even though we didn't agree much, Mrs.  
20 Fanucci and Mrs. Gatelli, congratulations.  
21 You have a load of your mind right now  
22 probably, but I want to thank you for your  
23 service, I know it's a struggle on  
24 everybody. And, like I said, we didn't  
25 agree much on anything, but thank you for

1 your service to the community. That's all.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good evening.

4 As you know, the primary election is now  
5 behind us and the November or general  
6 election moves in the near future. Seeking  
7 elected office is not an easy task, rather,  
8 it requires strength, courage, and  
9 sacrifice, a love for people, a sense of  
10 humor and at times a thick skin. Campaigns  
11 also demand sacrifices from candidates  
12 families, friends, and supporters, but at  
13 this end of the day we all love our city and  
14 want the best for the people of Scranton and  
15 at the end of the day all of the candidates  
16 are owed thanks.

17 I am so very grateful for your  
18 support on primary election day. My  
19 teammates, Mr. Rogan and Mr. Joyce and I,  
20 deeply appreciate the confidence and trust  
21 you have placed in us and we firmly share  
22 your desire for open, honest and financially  
23 sound government. We don't take anything or  
24 any one of you for granted and we fully  
25 realize we have another race to run and

1 another battle to be won in November, and

2 with God's help and your help our city will  
3 not only continue to progress, but also  
4 change for the better in the future.

5 Contrary to the opinions of some  
6 political pundits and naysayers, I have not  
7 been idle during my years on city council  
8 and have fought hard for what I know is  
9 right for the people of Scranton. The  
10 issues were and are tax increases, massive  
11 debt, inflated budgets, job creations and no  
12 accountability. The question is not so much  
13 what will a new council do if and when it is  
14 finally able to legislate and vote  
15 independently, but what will the mayor do if  
16 and when for the first time since 2002 he  
17 has no veto power and no rubber stamp? What  
18 will he do if he has to live within his  
19 means?

20 I think most of you know what I will  
21 do, but will the mayor communicate and  
22 negotiate? I believe there is a first time  
23 for everything and with your help the time  
24 to open the windows and doors in city hall  
25 and let the light of accountability and

1 fiscal responsibility shine in will come.

2                   Now, in regard to the library in  
3                   South Scranton that was mentioned earlier, I  
4                   do not support it's construction at this  
5                   time nor do I support passing the cost to  
6                   county government. After all, the county  
7                   constituents are, indeed, city constituents  
8                   and it's simply a matter of passing the buck  
9                   to the county, but it's really not passing  
10                  the buck because the same people are going  
11                  to get the bill.

12                  Next, just to update the status of  
13                  the city's 2008 audit, the Single Tax Office  
14                  provided a response to the auditor's  
15                  confirmation letter on May 17, 2009. The  
16                  Sewer Authority and the Parking Authority's  
17                  2008 financial statements were also  
18                  received, although the Redevelopment  
19                  Authority report will not be issued until  
20                  it's July meeting.

21                  In addition, there are 18 items that  
22                  must be provided by the business manager and  
23                  OECD. Despite these obstacles, we can try  
24                  to remain hopeful that the 2008 audit may be  
25                  received prior to council's recess in

65

1                  August.

2                  Also, on May 12, council received a

3 copy of a letter from the United States  
4 Department of Transportation Federal  
5 Railroad Administration to Congressman  
6 Kanjorski. The Chrome-Lynn Pennsylvania  
7 Regional Office will investigate council's  
8 concerns regarding the deplorable condition  
9 of railroad cars located near Lomma  
10 Industries.

11 Finally, to date, I have not  
12 received responses from the mayor regarding  
13 two issues: First, he has not put in  
14 writing his decision not to close the  
15 firehouses. Second, he has provided neither  
16 the location nor the funding source of  
17 student housing for the Commonwealth Medical  
18 School.

19 It seems the mayor intends to  
20 aggressively pursue a library in South Side,  
21 however, before he begins this project the  
22 people would like answers to their previous  
23 questions. Kay, please send a memo  
24 requesting a response to both items on or  
25 before June 5, 2009.

66

1 Also, Kay, I have not received the  
2 financial figures for the DPW which were



3 long ago provided for the police and the  
4 firefighters by Stu Renda and neither have I  
5 received the health care contributions and  
6 salaries for every management position which  
7 were also requested from the Mr. Renda.  
8 Please send him a memo requesting complete  
9 information for management and the DPW on or  
10 before June 5, 2009.

11 Also, a letter to Daron Northeast.  
12 I was notified today that the dirt and dust  
13 had become intolerable again. Daron  
14 Northeast must keep their property wet to  
15 prevent this problem for residents of  
16 Dickson Avenue and Delaware Street.

17 And, finally, please send another  
18 request for "no parking" signs on Moosic  
19 Street to the proper department of the DPW,  
20 and that's it.

21 MS. GATELLI: I just have a few  
22 items this evening. We received a letter,  
23 there was a meeting last Thursday with the  
24 three governing bodies and the Single Tax  
25 Office, and everyone had agreed that the Tax

67

1 Office would put together an operating  
2 budget so that we can review it, the three  
3 taxes bodies would review it. Obviously,

4 the budget is not enough what's being given  
5 by the school district and the city, and I  
6 also discussed this with future tax  
7 collector, Bill Courtright, and he agreed  
8 that there needs to be a budget for the tax  
9 office so that they can function, so I will  
10 keep you informed on that.

11 Also, there were five applicants for  
12 the controller's job in the Single Tax  
13 Office, they are going to be contacting the  
14 city and the school district to consult with  
15 them about these applicants. My only  
16 question was I don't know how they are going  
17 to pay a controller that's not in the budget  
18 already, so I would like to send a letter to  
19 Mr. McGovern and Mrs. Vitali asking them  
20 where the funds are going to come from and  
21 what the salary would be for a controller in  
22 this office, so that we know what's going  
23 on.

24 The railroad cars, I did meet with  
25 the gentleman from the Federal Rail

68

1 Authority, Mr. Seth Ford. He inspected the  
2 property and he agreed that there were some  
3 things that needed to be addressed. The

4 railroad cars are very near to the street  
5 and we requested that they be moved back so  
6 that the site distance would be a little  
7 better. The property is not  
8 well-maintained, it's littered and the grass  
9 is very high, and he was going to send his  
10 recommendations to the Rail Authority, so we  
11 will wait to hear further on what they have  
12 to say on that.

13 There is a balance on the Junior  
14 City Council raising funds when they were  
15 here and there is a balance of \$2,360.71.  
16 That account was in my name and the Junior  
17 City Council and I had asked Mrs. Garvey to  
18 contact Rosanne Novembrino because we wanted  
19 to donate it to the police memorial that's  
20 planned for outside of city hall and we are  
21 awaiting Rosanne Novembrino getting an  
22 account with signatures to transfer the  
23 money, but I just wanted you to know that  
24 that's where that money will be going if and  
25 when the account gets set up, and that's all

69

1 I have. Thank you.

2 MS. FANUCCI: I only have one thing  
3 that's on tonight's agenda that I want to  
4 speak about. We have a loan that we are

5 giving the City Cafe. They are a restaurant  
6 that is on 309 Washington Avenue. The  
7 purpose of the loan would be to assist in  
8 equipment, purchasing equipment and capital.  
9 It's \$25,000 and 5 percent for the term of  
10 the loan, which is ten years. The total  
11 project cost for the renovations will be  
12 \$100,000. The city will hold the equipment  
13 as collateral, also.

14 There is -- I don't know if -- I'm  
15 looking to see if Andy left, but there is  
16 one job equivalent is the purpose of it,  
17 they have to do one job when they take out a  
18 loan for \$25,000, but they are hiring six  
19 people, so although they are meeting the  
20 required amount of hired they are actually  
21 hiring six additional people, so that is a  
22 good loan.

23 That is all I have on the agenda  
24 tonight. Obviously, I'm going to speak on  
25 some of the comments made tonight because I

70

1 can. I have to say, Mrs. Wardell, as much  
2 as you don't like who I am or what I have  
3 stood for I have to say I have outclassed  
4 you by tonight's performance. We understand

5                   you are czared up with Mrs. Evans and you do  
6                   a wonderful job and I want to --

7                   MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. -- she was out of  
8                   order.

9                   MS. FANUCCI: She talked the whole  
10                  time, she talked the whole time and I'm  
11                  doing the same thing.

12                 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

13                 MS. FANUCCI: I'm defending what was  
14                  said about me in a public meeting. These  
15                  meetings have turned --

16                 MR. MCGOFF: I gaveled her out of  
17                  order and --

18                 MS. FANUCCI: -- into politics from  
19                  day one.

20                 MR. MCGOFF: -- I'm asking you to  
21                  refrain.

22                 MS. FANUCCI: All right, I will not  
23                  speak on her. This forum, as I talked,  
24                  everything tonight was politics. Politics  
25                  from the start to finish. In fact, I

71

1                   believe we violated probably four to five  
2                   ethics codes here tonight from even this  
3                   podium violations from made. For some  
4                   reason that's acceptable. The election is  
5                   over. I am very proud of my mayor. I

6                   certainly will support him in every way. I  
7                   will stamp away for the next six months  
8                   while I'm here. I'm very proud of that.

9                   I believe that the citizens of  
10                  Scranton came out and did what they wanted  
11                  to do and I believe that's a wonderful  
12                  thing. I'm okay with the fact that my  
13                  election did not work out the way I planned,  
14                  but in the long run I believe the city is  
15                  safe and the best interests will be upheld,  
16                  and that is all I have ever cared about.

17                 I know that I was not supposed to  
18                 push back in this forum and it was supposed  
19                 to be all about the people taking over here  
20                 and this was their only outlet, but to me  
21                 that would be -- it would irresponsible,  
22                 irresponsible for me to say it's okay for  
23                 you to come here and spew whatever it is you  
24                 are spewing on a weekly basis and not stick  
25                 up for the rest of the people who are out

72

1                   there who like where they live, who believe  
2                   in the city and who actually have the best  
3                   interest at heart not just for their own  
4                   personal agendas.

5                   I believe the personal agendas were

6 motivated by what takes place in this forum  
7 and I was okay sticking up for it and I  
8 certainly sleep very well at night knowing  
9 that I did what I needed to do for myself  
10 and for all of the people out there who  
11 actually have faith in what could happen in  
12 the city when you work together.

13 The division is strong and has been  
14 strong for years, way before I even got here  
15 and it will continue to be that way because  
16 of people who come up to this podium week  
17 after week with their personal agendas, and  
18 I certainly won't mention the names.

19 I find it sad, I find it almost that  
20 you should go out and find other ways to  
21 make this place a better place. If you have  
22 the time to come here and spew your very  
23 distorted views of where we live, I believe  
24 there are many people who deserve help.  
25 Take that energy, help, volunteer, do

73

1 something productive, do something wonderful  
2 for the people who are out there working  
3 hard every day.

4 Funny how tonight I had to listen  
5 about the library and how we don't need a  
6 library and everybody has computers. That's

7 not accurate. There are many homes who  
8 can't afford computers, many more than you  
9 understand, and you should go to the library  
10 and see how people are waiting for the  
11 computer room where they can't get in. They  
12 can't check e-mails, they can't put resumes  
13 out, the kids can't do their homework. Why?  
14 Because they don't have computers. So I  
15 know when you come in here and you say my  
16 interest is in the best interest of the city  
17 and you believe that others have different  
18 motives, but you can't talk out one side of  
19 your mouth. You can't say you are  
20 interested in the city, but yet people don't  
21 deserve the same opportunity they you have  
22 or I have. Yeah, I'm lucky I have a  
23 computer and I think we are all, I'm not  
24 sure about Bill, Bill tries to stay off it  
25 as much as possible, but everybody else

74

1 deserves the same opportunity, so next time,  
2 the next week after we realize what has  
3 happened here and we come to terms with what  
4 is going on, I hope you come in here with a  
5 better idea and some solutions, you know,  
6 not just the problems because we all know



7 there is problems because come in with real  
8 solutions and want the answers that are  
9 given to that are real answers. Don't look  
10 for answers that are only good to move your  
11 agendas or move what you are looking to do.  
12 Accept answers for what they are, sometimes  
13 they are the answers and that all there is.

14 Yes, the Ice Box, we answered the  
15 Ice Box question for you four or five times.  
16 You will not accept it, but that's okay.  
17 I'm not going to waste my time answering  
18 something you won't accept. We are being  
19 held up a sign in the back about the Ice  
20 Box. You have to understand that everything  
21 is not as easy as saying you should do this  
22 or we should have that. It doesn't work  
23 that way. The stimulus money, for example,  
24 again we talked about that tonight, that is  
25 going to be a long process and there is so

75

1 many compliances that are going to go along  
2 with it, it is not going to be as easy as 20  
3 people signing up and us giving them checks.  
4 That's just not how it is, but let's hope  
5 next week we can move past this and realize  
6 that although the division has been made and  
7 the mayor did win, and I love the fact that

8 the election process took place and I love  
9 the fact that that's what it's all about.  
10 It is what it is and I'm happy with that  
11 just like I'm happy with the Recovery Plan  
12 passing, just like I'm happy with the fact  
13 that it is time to move on. Thank God it is  
14 time to put it down and move on, and I am  
15 hoping that when you look at yourselves you  
16 can do the same also, and that's is all I  
17 have. Thank you.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would like to  
19 thank everybody that came out and voted and  
20 congratulations to all the candidates, not  
21 just the ones that won. I congratulate them  
22 for putting themselves out there. It's not  
23 easy to run and anybody that's ever run will  
24 tell you that it's a difficult task as Mrs.  
25 Evans I think said, although, it's more

76

1 difficult on our families than it is on  
2 ourselves, so congratulations to all that  
3 put themselves out there.

4 Kay, if everyone on council here  
5 agrees, I think it's childish these people  
6 that steal political signs and I don't think  
7 there is any candidate that would disagree

8 with that, but we had some serious  
9 accusations made there this evening about  
10 information being withheld, and obstructing  
11 justice. If the rest of the council would  
12 agree I would ask that we send a letter to  
13 Dave Elliott and ask him does, in fact, does  
14 he have information to who stole these signs  
15 and if he does what is going to be done with  
16 it, so that we can put this issue to rest.  
17 As we all said, the election is over but  
18 let's get this sign issue done once and for  
19 all. Is there anybody on council that would  
20 object to us asking Mr. Elliott? So, if we  
21 could just him if he has information if he  
22 does what's going to happen with it so we  
23 can put this to rest. Yeah, I'll make a  
24 motion that we send a letter to police chief  
25 Dave Elliott asking him to update us on the

77

1 sign issue.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: And just one  
12 question, Mr. Minora, and I don't know if  
13 you can answer this, but we did ask for a  
14 letter to be sent a couple of weeks back  
15 about this declaratory judgment for the  
16 money that's at the tax office. I don't see  
17 how we are going to fill a hole in the  
18 budget if we don't get that money, so I  
19 don't know if there is any response to our  
20 letter that we sent out our not? Have we  
21 received a response?

22 MR. MINORA: Actually, I spoke to  
23 Attorney Patterson today and her thought is  
24 to first try and get all of the lawyers in a  
25 room and see whether or not there can be

78

1 some kind of agreement without the need of a  
2 lawsuit which, of course, would be better if  
3 it's possible to do and faster, and I think  
4 that's your thinking. I don't know how far  
5 along she has gone with that idea, but we  
6 did speak today and that was what she  
7 related to me.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: If you could ask, if

9                   it's not too much trouble, if they can  
10                   update us on a weekly basis where this  
11                   stands because I just don't know what we are  
12                   going to do if we don't get that money, how  
13                   are we going to fill that whole in the  
14                   budget, and I'm concerned about that, and  
15                   maybe she can just drop us a note every week  
16                   saying where we stand with this. If all  
17                   taxing bodies that's the way to go and if  
18                   not what are we going to do?

19                   MR. MINORA: I'll be glad to ask  
20                   her. We have talked about it pretty  
21                   regularly and after the letter went out to  
22                   her she spoke to me about, you know, what my  
23                   thinking was, what the idea behind it was  
24                   because the letter was rudimentary in terms  
25                   of just making suggestion without any legal

79

1                   theory behind it, so we talked about that at  
2                   length and I don't think she has any great  
3                   opposition to it, I think she just thinks  
4                   it's a faster track if she can get everybody  
5                   in the room, all of the other lawyers and  
6                   bodies that they represent to stipulate to  
7                   doing this without the necessity of the  
8                   litigation, and frankly, if that can be  
9                   done, you know, that's a meeting.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, yeah.  
11 Whatever it takes to resolve it so that the  
12 city gets whatever money they do have coming  
13 to them and I'd just appreciate if she would  
14 update us.

15 MR. MINORA: I'll follow-up with her.  
16 I'm sorry?

17 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, would you  
18 while you are in discussions with Attorney  
19 Patterson, would you ask her if she will be  
20 serving as the counsel to the tax office,  
21 particularly in light of the fact that  
22 evidently we are going to be paying for a  
23 controller to oversee day-to-day operations?

24 MR. MINORA: I'll be glad to ask her  
25 that.

80

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. MINORA: Although, I think she  
3 talked to me and she gave us a letter today  
4 about all of the bodies meeting and coming  
5 to some intergovernmental agreement  
6 including the collector of taxes to resolve  
7 a lot of these issues on a cooperative basis  
8 and I don't know if that was one of them or  
9 not, but I'll be sure to ask her.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: And that's all I  
12 have. Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. A number of  
14 things: First, we did receive a notice of  
15 the -- from -- or a copy of the is it  
16 stipulation on Tripp Park, is that the  
17 correct term? Attorney Minora is writing.

18 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry.

19 MR. MCGOFF: The stipulation from  
20 Judge Minora is what -- concerning Tripp  
21 Park?

22 MR. MINORA: Concerning Tripp Park,  
23 and again, it's a stipulation that was  
24 reduced to order, a Court order allowing  
25 for -- let me jump back. There was first a

81

1 freeze put on any kind of development or  
2 alterations, some of which were not going to  
3 contribute to the flooding problems up  
4 there, but a blanket order included  
5 everything, so this stipulation is meant to  
6 allow for I guess certain repairs and I  
7 didn't enumerate all of those, but household  
8 building projects that would not contribute  
9 to the flooding problems, so by stipulation  
10 which is now reduced to an order are going

11 to be allowed.

12 MR. MCGOFF: And it's my -- this was  
13 agreed to by all parties?

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

15 MR. MINORA: Yes, by stipulation,  
16 yes.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Just to let the public  
18 know that, you know, there is some progress  
19 in that area.

20 Also, Mr. Jackowitz, if you would  
21 please at the end of the meeting or at some  
22 point in time if you could give the address  
23 for the donations to someone from Channel 61  
24 hopefully they would scroll it so that it  
25 would seen and you may receive some

82

1 additional -- from some additional sources  
2 and I think we would all agree if Channel 61  
3 would do that that we would encourage it.

4 And just I think at times in dealing  
5 with this library I don't want to get into a  
6 debate on something that's not on the  
7 agenda, but I think at times some people are  
8 led to believe that the proposition for  
9 building a library in South Side would mean  
10 that the Albright library would close. I



11 believe that the proposition is that South  
12 Side library would be in addition to, not in  
13 place of the Albright, and as far as I know  
14 I have not seen or been made aware of any  
15 plan for the building and/or the operation  
16 of the library. I will certainly ask this  
17 week if there is anything that's even close  
18 to concrete as far as that is concerned and  
19 at least maybe we can, you know, discuss  
20 what's firm rather than suppositions.

21 And last thing on the election,  
22 again, congratulations to everyone who is  
23 involved. I think the one thing that was  
24 glaring to me in this election -- in an  
25 election that had such impact for the City

83

1 of Scranton that many areas of the city  
2 there was such a poor turnout. It would  
3 have -- I think that we need to do something  
4 to encourage more people to be involved and  
5 not just a -- I think in some places what  
6 was the total number it was somewhere around  
7 50 percent maybe of eligible voters and that  
8 should be more especially in an election  
9 where there was a great deal at stake and  
10 hopefully in the future that will improve,  
11 and that is all I have. Mrs. Garvey.

12 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B. FOR  
13 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - TRANSFERRING  
14 THE FUNDS FROM FUND 03 GENERAL FUND CITY  
15 LIQUID FUEL ACCOUNTS WHICH FUNDS AND  
16 ACCOUNTS ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE  
17 CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS, AND ABOLISHING AND  
18 CLOSING SAID ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFERRING THE  
19 FUNDS REMAINING IN THESE ACCOUNTS TO THE  
20 CASH LIQUID FUELS INVEST ACCOUNT.

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

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

84

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

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

9 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
11 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE

12 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN  
13 AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE ECONOMIC  
14 DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION LOAN PROGRAM,  
15 PROJECT NO. 009.500.4 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO  
16 EXCEED \$25,000.00 TO D & MS, LLC D/B/A CITY  
17 CAFÉ TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

2 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 67,  
8 2009 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
9 COUNCIL NO. 123, 2007, ENTITLED, "AN  
10 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
11 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
12 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO

13 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR  
14 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
15 (AS AMENDED) TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE  
16 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
17 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)  
18 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)  
19 PROGRAM", BY AMENDING THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN  
20 AND THE 2008 ACTION PLAN TO INCLUDE NEW  
21 FUNDING UNDER TITLE XII OF THE FEDERAL  
22 AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF  
23 2009 ("RECOVERY ACT") FOR THE HOMELESS  
24 PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM  
25 (HPRP) AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

86

1 GRANT- RECOVERY (CDBG-R) THAT RESULTED FROM  
2 THE RECOVERY ACT.

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

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

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 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

16 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER - 7-A.  
17 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
18 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -  
19 RESOLUTION NO. 122, 2009 - AUTHORIZING THE  
20 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
21 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO SUPPLEMENTAL  
22 REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 040809-F WITH  
23 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT  
24 OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE LACKAWANNA  
25 AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF

87

1 INCREASING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE  
2 PROJECT DUE TO CONSTRUCTION COSTS OVER-RUNS.

3 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
4 recommendation for the Chair on for the  
5 Committee on Community Development?

6 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
7 Committee on Community Development, I  
8 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
11 call, please?

12 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.  
15 MS. GATELLI. Yes.  
16 MS. MAGNOTTA: Ms. Fanucci.  
17 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.  
18 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.  
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.  
20 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.  
21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
22 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.  
23 Motion to adjourn?  
24 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.  
25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you for your

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1 participation.

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(Meeting adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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