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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, November 10, 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. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. PATRICK SCANLON, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

15 MS. GARVEY: 3-A. AGENDA FOR THE  
16 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD  
17 MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2009.

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

20 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
21 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD  
22 MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2009.

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

25 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE

1 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
2 HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2009.

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

5 MS. GARVEY: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
6 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE  
7 AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER  
8 17, 2009.

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

11 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third  
12 Order.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Any  
14 announcements from council?

15 MS. GATELLI: I just have one thing  
16 really, that tomorrow is Veteran's Day, as  
17 you all know, and there will be a ceremony  
18 at 10:30 at the courthouse for anyone that  
19 is able to attend.

20 And I would just like to say a few  
21 things about Nancy Kay Holmes. I'm sure you  
22 read the article in the paper about Nancy.  
23 She truly was a very dedicated community  
24 servant especially in her neighborhood  
25 activities, I think she was much more in

1 love with the neighborhoods than anyone I  
2 have ever seen. She helped everyone and  
3 even came to other neighborhoods to help  
4 anyone that was in need, and I said a little  
5 story in the paper for Mr. Duquee, I  
6 remember we had a ware house in South  
7 Scranton that had I think there was 5,000 or  
8 10,000 tires in it, the man refused to  
9 remove them, so we got together and we said,  
10 "We'll remove them if you allow us to go  
11 into the building," and the very first  
12 person that called to help was Nancy Kay  
13 Holmes. That's just the kind of woman she  
14 was. She will truly be missed by her family  
15 and all of her friends and please remember  
16 her in your prayers. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I'm go to add  
18 to that, please remember in your prayers all  
19 those who have died in the last two weeks,  
20 particularly those who were killed and  
21 injured at Ft. Hood as well as Nancy Kay  
22 Holmes and their dear family and friends  
23 they leave behind. Nancy was my former  
24 colleague at Scranton High School, the  
25 second woman to serve on Scranton City

1 Council, and as Mrs. Gatelli indicated a  
2 staunch Greenridge neighborhood activist. I  
3 personally wish to send my condolences to  
4 her family members because I was unable to  
5 attend the services due to an illness.

6 Friendly's Family Fun Night will be  
7 conducted on Wednesday, November 18 from 5  
8 to 8 p.m. at Friendly's Restaurant in  
9 Dunmore. Proceeds will benefit ST. Francis  
10 of Assisi Food Kitchen. Enjoy a delicious  
11 meal while helping to feed the needy and  
12 homeless of Scranton.

13 The North Scranton Rotary Club will  
14 conduct it's Ted Warholic memorial  
15 scholarship dinner on Sunday, November 22  
16 from 5:30 to 9:00 at the Taurus Club in  
17 Scranton. Tickets for the roast beef dinner  
18 are \$10 and may and must be purchased by  
19 November 18. Checks can be made payable to:  
20 Ted Warholic Scholarship Fund. And any  
21 donations can be mailed to the Ted Warholic  
22 Scholarship Fund care of Penn Security Bank  
23 150 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA,  
24 18503. Ted Warholic was a past president of  
25 the North Scranton Rotary Club and owner of

1 Bill's Sporting Goods, a fixture in North  
2 Scranton.

3 And was also mentioned earlier, we  
4 as a proud and grateful nation tomorrow,  
5 November 11, celebrate Veteran's Day. I  
6 wish to thank our heroic veterans, past and  
7 present, living and deceased, as well as  
8 their families for the great sacrifices they  
9 have made not only for our country but also  
10 for all of us who enjoy the rights,  
11 privileges and blessings of living in this  
12 great nation and may God bless each and  
13 every one of them.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Fourth  
15 Order. Citizens participation. Andy  
16 Sbaraglia.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
18 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
19 5-C, this administration desire another  
20 authority. Another authority means more  
21 lawyers, more government, a government  
22 inside of a government. We already got a  
23 government, but why at this time? Why would  
24 this legislation appear at this time and not  
25 before the election? It's obviously why

1           because this is another slap to the  
2           taxpayer. We all know that Lackawanna  
3           College wants our library. We also know  
4           that the mayor want to build a new library.  
5           Now, why would he want to build a new  
6           library? It's obvious why. It's the same  
7           old story, money is generated from  
8           contracts. You just have to look at how  
9           much money the mayor received from the last  
10          election on the people who got bidding on  
11          jobs. There is no way -- I wish there was a  
12          way of collaborating, but you can't.  
13          Boscov's gave a lot of money to the mayor  
14          and the mayor signed for a loan to Boscov's.  
15          Rinaldi gave a lot of money to the mayor,  
16          they got a \$30 million project, and this  
17          goes on and on and on. It's a never ending  
18          story. What we need is less authorities,  
19          not more authorities. Every authority costs  
20          us money one way or another way and the  
21          worst part about it, they hardly ever come  
22          before the council.

23                        You three members of this council  
24                        will not be here come January. At this time  
25                        this legislation should not be brought up,



1           it should be brought up when the new council  
2           takes effect. At that point you will have a  
3           new council there and a new outlook but now  
4           it's brought up now and I don't know how  
5           many other pieces are going to be brought  
6           up, controversial legislation. They are  
7           either going to try to ram it down our  
8           throats while they still got the majority on  
9           council which is very sad. It's more than  
10          sad. People who say they love the city, but  
11          yet they don't love the city. I think they  
12          love themselves more than the city or these  
13          things wouldn't appear.

14                        We don't need another library. We  
15          all know that. All we need for the library  
16          is maybe correspond a little more with the  
17          county library system and incorporate it  
18          into it. We had a library in North  
19          Scranton, that's gone, and now they want to  
20          get rid of our gem, our library down there  
21          across from -- well, just say Central, but  
22          it's Lackawanna College now and you know it,  
23          even the paper printed in the paper that  
24          Lackawanna College was looking upon that  
25          parcel with their eyes wide open hoping they

1 can get it some way. How do they get it?  
2 Well, we get an authority here, going to  
3 give an authority. An authority could do  
4 what they want like they pointed out to us.  
5 That's a government within a country. If  
6 they decide to sell it, they will do it.

7 Look what happened at Nay Aug with  
8 the authority up there. Hell, even in the  
9 kids up there I think East Scranton can't  
10 even use the pool without pay and everybody  
11 sat there. It's true that at least you did  
12 something with the local pools, but we  
13 should be getting rid of authorities. The  
14 Scranton Parking Authority Theatre is  
15 defunct. Everybody knows it, but yet you  
16 predicate all these authorities. We don't  
17 need authorities, we need every piece of  
18 legislation coming before council, that way  
19 everybody in the city knows what council is  
20 doing. It's the only way you can actually  
21 get an intelligent election is to have them  
22 look at what council does and that's why I  
23 support 61 no matter who runs it -- or 19  
24 whatever you want to call it now. I do  
25 believe in it. Even no matter who runs it.

1 At least people could see what's happening  
2 and know where to point their finger, it's  
3 the only way, but this thing shouldn't even  
4 be on the agenda.

5 This should be held off until  
6 January. It's obviously somebody hopes to  
7 get it passed before the new council takes  
8 over and it's a sad thing you would think so  
9 little of your city that you would do that  
10 to them. I thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Mike Dudek.

12 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek,  
13 608 Depot Street, I live down there in the  
14 Plot. First of all, congratulations to Mrs.  
15 Evans and her team. We are going to be  
16 looking forward to a very interesting  
17 session of city council for the next ten  
18 years and I hope to be able to help you with  
19 that.

20 Now, as to Mr. Sbaraglia and I, we  
21 are probably on two different ends on the  
22 library. I'm a big supporter in our library  
23 system, many other people aren't, but he is  
24 100 percent right on the mark that he comes  
25 up here to criticize the concept of an

1 authority. I did my master's thesis on  
2 authorities, specifically the SRA back in  
3 the 50's. An authority is a like a God and  
4 a general unto itself. There is no  
5 constitutional way to supervise it and to  
6 create a library authority in my view is the  
7 wrong way to go. I don't like the idea of  
8 an authority, we don't need to create an  
9 extra governmental layer to create a good  
10 library system. All we need to do is to  
11 work with the county to create is good  
12 library system. We to not need an extra  
13 layer of government.

14 At the very least, I would ask city  
15 council to table this thing until after the  
16 election is over. Let's get a new city  
17 council seated and let's take a very good  
18 long hard look at those proposals because  
19 the proposal on it's face really reeks to  
20 me, as far as I'm concerned, and I'm one of  
21 these people that would like to see a  
22 library built basically where the housing  
23 development was vacated because of, you  
24 know, the insufficient fire wall, I would  
25 like to see the library built there and I

1 would like to see a library, but I don't  
2 want to see a library authority.

3 A library authority could end up,  
4 you know, think of the SRA and the library  
5 authority moving to put something and I  
6 think you will begin to see that you can  
7 create a monster unto itself. It's a  
8 governmental level that I don't like to see  
9 created. I don't think we need it.

10 We do need library upgrades, we need  
11 facility services, yes, but let's do it the  
12 traditional way. Let's not create a new  
13 level of government that we are not to going  
14 to need and that could back to bite us in  
15 the butt thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
18 Scranton City Council. Bill Jackowitz,  
19 South Scranton resident, member of the  
20 Taxpayers' Association. Retired master  
21 sergeant in the United States Air Force. I  
22 would like to remind everybody that tomorrow  
23 is Veteran's Day. There will be a ceremony  
24 in front of the courthouse, Washington  
25 Avenue side at 10:30 a.m. I encourage

1 everyone who has the day off to attend the  
2 ceremony.

3 My sympathy to all of the  
4 warfighters who were killed at Ft. Hood,  
5 Texas, Afghanistan, Iraq and all other  
6 conflicts, also their families.

7 I would like to share something with  
8 you: They fold the flag. I watched hands  
9 fold the flag today. I watched and cried  
10 and went away. I wanted to, but could not  
11 stay, they fold more flags another day.  
12 They fold a flag for honor one, a fallen  
13 daughter, a fallen son, so careful so that  
14 when they are done it's fit to hand to the  
15 loved one. A hand is careful and so slow,  
16 no need to impress, no need for show. They  
17 smooth each crease then fold and go, we  
18 honor them so all we know. Thirteen folds  
19 so careful and true. Thirteen folds before  
20 they're through. Thirteen folds they're  
21 asked to do before they hand the flag to  
22 you. You smooth and wrinkles so minute,  
23 your sacrifice none can refute. The grief  
24 and sadness can't dilute the meaning of your  
25 staunch salute. You turn and face their

1           loved ones there, you march to them so you  
2           can share. A sense of just how much we  
3           care, the warrior's lost that's hard to  
4           bear. A grateful nation still stands tall.  
5           A grateful nation loves them all. This flag  
6           is a symbol of the call, for freedom lives  
7           where great men and woman fall. I watched  
8           them fold a flag today. I watched and cried  
9           and went away. I wanted to, but I could not  
10          stay. They fold more flags another day.

11                         Again, I ask the citizens of the  
12          Scranton and Lackawanna County to attend the  
13          Veteran's Day ceremony at 10:30 a.m.,  
14          especially the elected officials including  
15          the newly elected officials. This poem was  
16          written by Milton E. McKinney, a retired  
17          serviceman. Warfighters signed a blank  
18          check up to and including their lives, so  
19          please come to the Veteran's Day ceremony.

20                         MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Stucker.

21                         MR. STUCKER: I just heard -- I was  
22          over at city hall today, down at the garage.

23                         MR. COURTRIGHT: I can't hear you,  
24          Jim, you gotta pick the night up.

25                         MR. STUCKER: Down at the garage,

1 right, and Mr. Sam Vitras said he went over  
2 there on Greenridge to cut the trees down.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Good. That's good.

4 MR. STUCKER: We got to get the house  
5 tore down now.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, we're working  
7 on that one, Jim. Maybe the council will  
8 have better luck than me.

9 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Then over on Ash  
10 Street, on Ash Street they said that the  
11 road has been bad over there and they have  
12 fixed it. They are fixing the parking lot  
13 now.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Jim.

15 MR. STUCKER: So they got to get that  
16 working, so everything has been good up  
17 where I live.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Very good.

19 MR. STUCKER: So I'm going out  
20 tonight. I'm going into the hospital.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: What?

22 MR. STUCKER: I'm going to be up in  
23 the hospital, the CMC.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Why, what's wrong?

25 MR. SUTCKER: My knee.



1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, not your heart  
2 again.

3 MR. STUCKER: No. No, no. So I'm  
4 happy for you and Janet for getting in for  
5 voting.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thanks, Jim.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank.

8 MR. STUCKER: And I voted for the  
9 other guy, that judge, I don't know his  
10 name.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

12 MR. STUCKER: But I voted for him.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right, Jim.

14 MR. STUCKER: Hope you see me out in  
15 two or three weeks, it might be longer.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Good luck.

17 MR. STUCKER: Okay. Bye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: By, Jim.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Joe Dwyer.

20 MR. DWYER: Good evening, members of  
21 city council and community. I want to  
22 congratulate Mr. Courtright and Ms. Evans on  
23 their elections and I wish you a grand four  
24 years, and I'm sorry that Mrs. Fanucci that  
25 you didn't make it in.

1 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you.

2 MR. DWYER: I hope you continue your  
3 activism and continue with your good works.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you very much.

5 MR. DWYER: You are welcome. I would  
6 like to share with you an accounting that I  
7 had with Malena Doherty from the Community  
8 Development Department. I went to her  
9 looking for help for a housing for girls,  
10 single girls who were living in the campus  
11 along the valley, and I was really shocked  
12 and surprised that didn't even know what she  
13 was talking about. I quizzed her on the  
14 shelters and how many beds were available  
15 for women in this community to stay in for  
16 the homeless. She had no clue. In fact,  
17 she gave me so much misinformation she  
18 didn't know whether she was coming or going  
19 and she became real belligerent over the  
20 phone and so I just said that was enough.

21 So now with that, when I found out  
22 it wasn't going to be of any help going  
23 there, and Mayor Connors suggested I go talk  
24 with her and I thought okay and --

25 MS. FANUCCI: Who is this?

1 MR. DWYER: I tried, but that door  
2 didn't work, so I met with a couple of  
3 ministers in the community and their  
4 outpouring was so great that we decided that  
5 it's going to be such a difficult time  
6 finding housing we are going to work with  
7 the camps the way they are, so we have  
8 started collecting kerosene heaters and  
9 bringing them to the people that are living  
10 in those encampments.

11 The first camp that we brought a  
12 kerosene heater to the people just fell to  
13 their knees and started crying because they  
14 didn't have any heat other than what they  
15 were getting out of the wood they were  
16 getting out of the woods and this made their  
17 life so much easier. They were so humbled  
18 by our gift and so moved they didn't even  
19 want to receive it, they just left it in the  
20 box. We returned later that evening with  
21 kerosene fuel to heat that unit and they  
22 still had it in the box because it was like  
23 Christmas to them. They received a gift  
24 that nobody ever offered them before.

25 So I'm asking if anybody has any

1 kerosene heaters that are not using if they  
2 would either bring them to the Greenridge  
3 Assembly of God Church or their own church  
4 and let us know they have them available.  
5 We would be more than happy to distribute  
6 them.

7 I would also ask if we can get an  
8 accounting of what the Community Development  
9 is using the homeless and stimulus monies  
10 for other than that one pet project where  
11 they wasted \$300,000 on a house for a family  
12 that only wanted an upgrade in their living  
13 conditions. There wasn't a family that  
14 received that house, did not need a house,  
15 they just wanted an upgrade and they got one  
16 and they got a beautiful one.

17 Also, I had some wonderful success  
18 with HUD. We are going to meet with them  
19 and they are going to show us because we  
20 didn't have any luck here in our own  
21 community, so that is good.

22 And what else can I say? I am  
23 appalled with what our county commissioners  
24 just did with the medical care provider  
25 that's supposedly providing medical care

1 over at the prison. It is ashamed that the  
2 they passed that contract and I will ask for  
3 a forensic audit of Dr. Zaloga's personal  
4 practice as well as the medical care that he  
5 is providing over at the prison because what  
6 he claims he is not doing. The service is  
7 not there. With that, I thank you for your  
8 time.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Les Spindler.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.  
11 Les Spindler. As of last Tuesday, happy  
12 Scranton resident. Mrs. Evans,  
13 congratulations to you and Pat Rogan and  
14 Frank Joyce on your great victory.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. SPINDLER: And also you,  
17 Mr. Courtright, although, it would have  
18 tough for you to lose to yourself.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: I didn't hear you.

20 MR. SPINDLER: It would have been  
21 tough for you to lose to yourself.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, yeah.

23 MR. SPINDLER: I think the people  
24 made a statement last Tuesday that they are  
25 tired of Chris Doherty's politics in this

1 city. They don't like the direction the  
2 city is going and finally after eight years  
3 they won't put up with anymore of Chris  
4 Doherty's BS, that's borrowing and spending,  
5 I think the people finally made a statement  
6 that we are going to put a council in there  
7 that will hold Chris Doherty's feet to the  
8 fire, and I hope they do it.

9 And they also made another  
10 statement, Mr. Courtright, being that you  
11 were running unopposed and you got more  
12 votes than I believe else in the whole  
13 election, and I think that sends a statement  
14 that people are very unhappy with what's  
15 going on in the tax office and good luck in  
16 your job and I think you are going to need  
17 it.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Two weeks ago,  
20 Mrs. Gatelli, you criticized some police  
21 officers for giving tickets at 3 in the  
22 morning on Eynon Street, you said were  
23 weren't on Main Avenue where the crime is.  
24 Well, they should have been where the crime  
25 is, but thanks to you we have a police

1 officer in these chambers here and not on  
2 the street where the crime is so that's a  
3 bit of hypocrisy on your part.

4 MS. GATELLI: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Spindler.

6 MR. SPINDLER: I said all along the  
7 police officer should be on the street where  
8 the crime is, not in these chambers.

9 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, you are right.  
10 You are absolutely right.

11 MR. SPINDLER: There is no crime in  
12 these chambers.

13 MS. GATELLI: You are right, Mr.  
14 Spindler.

15 MR. SPINDLER: And another thing,  
16 Mrs. Gatelli, when I brought up about Carl  
17 Graziano, Jr., being drunk and crashing his  
18 car two weeks ago you asked if he was on the  
19 job. Well, what's that have to do with it?  
20 Is it okay if he is off the job to drive  
21 drunk and crash his car? I guess you are  
22 condoning drunk driving. And plus --

23 MS. GATELLI: You really should be  
24 ashamed of yourself.

25 MR. SPINDLER: No, I shouldn't.

1 MS. GATELLI: You really should.

2 MR. SPINDLER: You were asking if he  
3 was driving on --

4 MR. GATELLI: You know what I do at  
5 West Scranton High School with those  
6 children. Your daughter was included --

7 MR. SPINDLER: So?

8 MS. GATELLI: -- in the SAAD program,  
9 and I don't condone drunk driving.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Well, then why did you  
11 ask if he was on the job or not?

12 MS. GATELLI: Because he shouldn't be  
13 punished if he wasn't on the job.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, he should not for  
15 drunk driving?

16 MS. GATELLI: He should be punished  
17 criminally, but not lose his job.

18 MS. SPINDLER: And threatening his  
19 girlfriend with a gun that wasn't  
20 registered?

21 MS. GATELLI: He shouldn't lose his  
22 job for that.

23 MR. SPINDLER: He threatened his  
24 girlfriend with a gun that wasn't  
25 registered.



1 MS. GATELLI: Oh, come on, Les. You  
2 can't say things like that.

3 MR. SPINDLER: The Doherty newsletter  
4 will report it's a fact. Moving on, last  
5 week Mike Dudek said about public safety  
6 director about New York City not having one,  
7 I agree with him and I have said that years  
8 ago that PEL wouldn't let Mayor Connors have  
9 one, but they let Chris Doherty have one, so  
10 I think that's one cut we can make in next  
11 year's budget, get rid of the public safety  
12 director.

13 Next, again, the city is fighting  
14 another arbitration loss and the Doherty  
15 newsletter says that it's -- I have to get  
16 my glasses on -- the contract violates the  
17 Recovery Plan, but they didn't print about  
18 Chris Doherty violating his own recovery  
19 plan with huge raises to the crony hires he  
20 makes.

21 Mr. Courtright, I wonder if you  
22 could answer this question, I heard  
23 something. Is that true that on the  
24 midnight shift that if the police officers  
25 give out a certain amount of tickets they

1 get four hours off?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Um, I have heard  
3 that rumor. I don't know for a fact it's  
4 true. I will be speaking with Captain  
5 Graziano about that, I have heard that  
6 rumor, and I can't confirm or it.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Another  
8 thing, I want to talk about Chief Elliott  
9 still and what he did to those two police  
10 officers, the two policewomen, who I know  
11 personally, these women are wives and  
12 mothers and how he treats them is  
13 inexcusable. He is an embarrassment to our  
14 police officer force, an embarrassment to  
15 the city, and like I said, he should resign  
16 or be fired.

17 And lastly, I couldn't believe my  
18 eyes last Thursday on Channel 16, Chris  
19 Doherty was on "Does It Really Work" segment  
20 and they were testing a Riddex pest control  
21 device. If you plug in the electric device  
22 it gets rid of pests. Well, they plugged it  
23 in and it didn't work, the mayor was still  
24 there. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan.

1 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
2 The first thing I have here is this library  
3 authority. I don't know if council is going  
4 to vote to approve that, but in my own  
5 opinion I just can't -- I really can't see  
6 it. You know, I really enjoyed sitting down  
7 with that editorial writer for the Times and  
8 if there is anything that everybody agreed  
9 with, including him, the city can't meet  
10 it's debt obligations and we are creating  
11 another authority. I just can't really  
12 understand why we aren't abolishing these  
13 authorities instead of creating them because  
14 they are just an instrument for borrowing.

15 I mean, I really hope when the new  
16 council comes that they look at the city's  
17 debt, they look at the city's pension  
18 program to see maybe if it's time to hand it  
19 back over and hand it over to the state,  
20 maybe it's time to really think about  
21 bankruptcy. I'm really being honest here.  
22 I'm just wondering why are we even debating  
23 a Scranton Public Library Authority with all  
24 the nightmares we had and with a council  
25 that was afraid to use it's powers of

1 subpoena. I mean, I just -- I really can't  
2 understand how we can put this and how he  
3 could even assume that more borrowing is the  
4 better interest of the residents of this  
5 city. I tend to believe that Lackawanna  
6 College has the first option on the  
7 municipal -- the Scranton School District's  
8 building right across from the library and I  
9 think that was written into the agreement  
10 when they bought Central, so now if we are  
11 going to play games with an authority and we  
12 are going to create a library where are we  
13 taking the city? Don't you think we should  
14 be looking for answers to our long-term debt  
15 and to a lot of other problems this city  
16 has?

17 The shocking thing is we are not  
18 even talking about youth programs in the  
19 city or playground programs or remedial  
20 education programs and the shocking thing is  
21 that some of the members on this city  
22 council are school district employees. I  
23 mean, can we get some sense of reality here  
24 and try to move away from these authorities?  
25 Maybe we should consider abolishing them. I

1 really can't come up with any good reason to  
2 keep them going at all.

3 I mean, Andy Sbaraglia talked about  
4 the Parking Authority, but I can't really  
5 say the Sewer Authority has done this city  
6 any justice either. I can't -- I really  
7 can't think of anything these authorities  
8 have done except become an instrument for  
9 borrowing. So. I mean, I think it's really  
10 time to really -- what I'd say to the next  
11 council is set yourselves and get ready to  
12 face the real problems that this city faces  
13 instead of shifting money from one account  
14 to the another, stop looking for quick fixes  
15 for borrowing money. The last thing we need  
16 is one team against another team. We need a  
17 little cooperation and I'm not sure if the  
18 mayor will cooperate, and to be bluntly  
19 honest, I'm not sure that council will  
20 cooperate because we have had these problems  
21 for a long time and everybody has talked  
22 about saving us you.

23 But, I mean, as far as this library  
24 authority it's just ridiculous. How much  
25 borrowing can the residents of this city

1 sustain? They can't sustain the debt load  
2 we have now. Somebody needs to pack the PEL  
3 luggage for them and send them on a little  
4 journey, and this city really needs to  
5 consider bankruptcy. Look what's going to  
6 happen to Dunmore here. They are talking  
7 about 11 percent rate increase in taxes and  
8 then people are making promises about no  
9 more 25 tax increases, and what I'd like to  
10 ask this council is how are you going to  
11 fund the city's debt without money? I don't  
12 understand it and then people are talking  
13 about paving roads and with when money?  
14 What money does this city possess that we  
15 can really do anything? You know, I hope  
16 some day that somebody would say something.  
17 Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie  
20 Schumacher, resident and member of the  
21 Taxpayers' Association. I'm here also to  
22 speak on 5-C. The fifth "whereas" states,  
23 in quotes, The trustees of the Scranton;  
24 Public Library have recommended that a new  
25 municipal authority be created in accordance

1 with the terms in the Pennsylvania Municipal  
2 Authorities Act for the purpose of owning  
3 and operating public libraries in the city  
4 of Scranton."

5 I have personally attended the last  
6 several meetings of the library board of  
7 trustees and there was no, I repeat no  
8 mention of creating a library authority.  
9 The next scheduled meeting was announced to  
10 be a combined November/December meeting to  
11 be held on 12-3.

12 In your packet of backup, you should  
13 have minutes of an emergency board meeting  
14 giving approval for Scranton City Council to  
15 create this new authority. This means the  
16 fifth whereas I read is an out and out lie.  
17 The board did not recommend this creation.  
18 Now, what I might ask, if I didn't already  
19 surmise the answer, what is the emergency  
20 the library didn't advertise this special  
21 meeting which would have allowed public  
22 input? Were life and limb at risk?  
23 Certainly not.

24 I submit the emergency was more  
25 likely ramming this ordinance through

1 council before the new majority takes  
2 control. Recall, if you will, the last time  
3 the city property was transferred to an  
4 authority. That property was the Schmidt  
5 Sports Complex in South Scranton. What  
6 happened to that property? It was sold. Do  
7 we want the Albright Library sold? No. My  
8 answer is no, a thousand times no.

9 A number of other questions are  
10 raised by this ordinance such as: One, the  
11 Silkman House is not a library and has not  
12 been for several years. That building is  
13 occupied by the Lackawanna River Corridor  
14 Association. According to the business  
15 administrator, though the city owns that  
16 property there is no lease with LRCA and  
17 LRCA pays no rent. A new furnace is to be  
18 installed using stimulus funds and we  
19 taxpayers pay the insurance on this  
20 nonlibrary library, so why is it being  
21 transferred to a library authority? Is to  
22 be sold perhaps for a dollar?

23 The fifth whereas states, "The new  
24 authority is created for the purpose of  
25 owning and operating public libraries in the



1 City of Scranton."

2 Operating funds currently come from  
3 a number of sources including the county.  
4 They have agreed to fund operations of an  
5 authority or will property taxes be  
6 increased to pay for the operation of this  
7 authority. In the current structure, areas  
8 outside of the City of Scranton are serviced  
9 by a bookmobile, including all of the  
10 Wyoming County. Will these services cease  
11 outside of city limits and will the county  
12 cut back funds for nonservice of areas  
13 within Lackawanna County but outside of the  
14 city limits?

15 The fourth whereas states, "A  
16 portion of the deed reads: The management  
17 and control above-provided for maybe changed  
18 at any time to conform to any general laws  
19 passed by the Commonwealth regulating free  
20 public libraries."

21 I would like the number of this  
22 bill, as I don't believe it exists. I  
23 believe this to be a backdoor maneuver which  
24 will allow the funds currently held by the  
25 board of trustees to be used for building a

1 new library outside of central city. The  
2 county is already on record as saying they  
3 are not supporting operations of another  
4 library in the City of Scranton, so that  
5 means funds would have to come from the  
6 city's operating budget and there are higher  
7 priorities such as reducing the debt. This  
8 authority could also borrow and we the  
9 taxpayers would be stuck with yet more debt.

10 Finally for tonight, but there is  
11 plenty more for next week, it's bad enough  
12 the mayor want to give more power to  
13 appointees and take it away from our duly  
14 elected council, but five, half of the ten  
15 members of this authority, don't even live  
16 in the city. Three of these outside terms  
17 wouldn't expire for five or six years and  
18 two would expire in 2011. This should be  
19 defeated tonight. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Sam Patilla.

21 MR. PATILLA: Good evening, Mrs.  
22 Evans and Mr. Courtright. I'm going to hold  
23 my congratulations because the real job  
24 starts now, so the people in the audience  
25 and those of us listening, I don't see ECTV,

1 but those listening out there in television  
2 land, the new people's council are really  
3 going to need your help now because we have  
4 a long road to travel and it's not going to  
5 be an easy one.

6 I come before Council to speak on  
7 5-C. Now, it says here in the literature  
8 that it's the intention and desire of  
9 Scranton City Council to form this library  
10 authority and my personal feelings and the  
11 history of the authorities in this city we  
12 don't need this. We truly don't, you know,  
13 we have got more pressing needs, the police  
14 and fire departments, the debt. Our  
15 attention should be focusing on reducing  
16 that debt and settling those contract  
17 disputes with the fire and police  
18 organizations. We don't need another  
19 authority, and if this resolution isn't  
20 defeated, you know, as an Afro-American  
21 male, as a man who served this country as a  
22 member of the United States Marine Corp, as  
23 a resident of the Scranton, as a resident of  
24 South Scranton, as a patron of the library  
25 authority, if this authority is created I

1 want on this authority.

2 Just like Marie stated, a lot of  
3 people that are involved with this, these  
4 authorities, don't even live in this city.  
5 They could care less about our finances and  
6 wether we're in the black or whether we're  
7 in the red. We need honest Scrantonians,  
8 new and old, who actually have the city's  
9 best interest at heart manning the firing  
10 line. We need people who are going to work  
11 to get Scranton back on the road to recovery  
12 so she can hold her head high among the  
13 other municipalities in the Commonwealth,  
14 all right?

15 This is nothing but a dog and pony  
16 show. You know, it shouldn't even have been  
17 entered into this agenda. There is no  
18 reason, no reason that anybody sitting on  
19 council give me - that will explain why we  
20 need this authority, especially in hindsight  
21 knowing that the county is already stating  
22 on the record they are not going to help  
23 finance this, all right, because we actually  
24 don't need it. Like I stated, I go to the  
25 library. I'm a patron of the library. It's

1 perfectly situated where it is so that  
2 everybody within this city can utilize it's  
3 services. We don't need a special library  
4 in that part of Scranton, we don't need this  
5 over here. We need to work with what we  
6 got, correct the mistakes that we made in  
7 the past so we don't go down this path  
8 again.

9 This whole country is in a tailspin,  
10 all right? Where are you going to find the  
11 money to fund not only the creation of a new  
12 library, but this authority. We don't need  
13 bigger government. The times that I come  
14 and spoke you have always heard me say,  
15 reduce government, reduce government, reduce  
16 government. Those are the type of decisions  
17 that we need from our elected and appointed  
18 officials, the hard decision that's going to  
19 help just not a certain section of Scranton  
20 or this individual, but the city as a whole,  
21 the majority of the city to progress and  
22 move forward.

23 I don't know if I have to go to the  
24 Federal Courthouse to seek relief there, but  
25 like I said before, as a Scrantonian, as a

1 taxpayer, a resident of this city, as a  
2 disabled individual, as a former marine, if  
3 this authority is created I want to be on  
4 that authority because we need watchdogs in  
5 every department, every authority. We need  
6 people who are going to hold our elected and  
7 appointed officials to the fire to make sure  
8 they are making decisions that are going to  
9 benefit this city and not just certain  
10 sects, not just certain individuals. Thank  
11 you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: AJ Munchak.

13 MR. MUNCHAK: AJ Munchak, Scranton  
14 resident. I have heard a lot of the --  
15 excuse me, for my foggy voice, a lot of the  
16 previous speakers, some are well-informed  
17 and some weren't and I'm here tonight to  
18 address what the law is regarding the  
19 authority.

20 Now, I don't know anything about the  
21 timing of this before or after the election,  
22 I have nothing to do with that and I don't  
23 know how the appointees will be made to this  
24 authority, but in researching this with the  
25 members the Lackawanna library system

1 authority, the purpose of this is to convey  
2 the title for those three buildings from the  
3 city to a board.

4 Now, what you may not know is that  
5 the library up in Taylor, up in Abington,  
6 Mid-Valley, they all have their separate  
7 boards, they own buildings, and there is a  
8 reason for that. The reason being that the  
9 city cannot sell it as it is right now, it  
10 has to be given or sold, but given to an  
11 authority. That allows the authority, and I  
12 believe that they are nonpaid members, at  
13 least the other ones are so it shouldn't  
14 increase any costs, one of the reasons is  
15 that the Albright Memorial building is  
16 underinsured. They can only insure for  
17 \$2 million, and speaking with the director  
18 when the board takes over, and I know this  
19 for a fact, it could be insured for what  
20 it's worth 10 to 15 million dollars as it  
21 should be, but \$2 million won't even cover  
22 the stained glass as it was told to me.

23 Now, I have gotten calls this past  
24 weekend, particularly this morning, people  
25 are worried that if this is conveyed to an

1 authority South Scranton library is going to  
2 be built. Well, that may be true, but it's  
3 not going to happen in the near future.

4 Governor Doherty came into our  
5 office in the spring and asked for a tax  
6 increase.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Mayor Doherty?

8 MR. MUNCHAK: Governor want to be,  
9 wanna be governor. Did I say governor?  
10 Want to be governor, and he asked the three  
11 commissioners, if you remember I came here  
12 on that, to increase the library tax and we  
13 are not doing it. We can't do it. It won't  
14 be done next year, in 11, in 12 and 13,  
15 there is no room for that. And, as you  
16 know, the state has cut the library funding  
17 mercifully, unbelievable. So there won't be  
18 any tax increase.

19 Now, some of you mentioned in here,  
20 and I respect everybody's opinion that the  
21 authority could go out and borrow money.  
22 They can't. They won't -- they can't go to  
23 a bank and say, "We want \$20 million for a  
24 new library," because they will need  
25 council's approval and they will need the



1 approval of Lackawanna County. No authority  
2 can borrow the money by themselves because  
3 the first question a banker is going to ask,  
4 "Well, how are you going to pay it back?"

5 They can't raise taxes, the  
6 authority itself, it's got to be the  
7 municipality or the governing body that  
8 controls that particular operation, so don't  
9 worry about a tax increase, don't worry  
10 about the authority going out and borrowing  
11 money, they can't do it. I don't know  
12 anything about the timing, that's another  
13 thing, but I just want people to remember  
14 that when you have that quote/unquote 14  
15 million tax increase, the famous 48 percent,  
16 14 mils, included in that was an arts and  
17 culture fee, included in that was a one mil  
18 raise for the library fee tax because, as  
19 you know, the bookmobile was down, the hours  
20 were cut and what with the arts and culture  
21 fee we also gave, we being my  
22 administration, it was Bob Cordaro's idea,  
23 by the way, he never gets enough credit, we  
24 gave \$250,000 to the Everhart who was  
25 closing; we gave \$250,000 to the Cultural

1 Center which was falling apart; and we gave  
2 an additional \$250,000 to the library  
3 system, and that has continued and my  
4 colleagues have continued it now.

5 Without that money, without that  
6 extra money your library is going to close.  
7 Right now the City of Scranton only has two.  
8 Does it need a new library? Absolutely. No  
9 question about it. They are bursting at the  
10 seams over at Albright, but there is no  
11 money now or in the immediate future to  
12 build one, so I know you don't like  
13 authorities, but this time it's necessary,  
14 and your council now is reading this into  
15 law, the next council, obviously, will be  
16 approached by whatever, and I don't know how  
17 the determination is going to be as far as  
18 appointments, but there can't be any funding  
19 and there can't be any tax increase without  
20 city council imposing a tax or without  
21 Lackawanna County increasing your taxes, and  
22 I can tell you from the county it's not  
23 going to happen. So I don't know if you  
24 have any questions or anything, but that's  
25 all I have to say.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Commissioner  
2 Munchak. Ron Ellman.

3 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.  
4 Ronnie Ellman again. I'm not a happy camper  
5 tonight. Miss Rosie took away my Taurus  
6 Club card for two weeks.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, no what did you do?

8 MR. ELLMAN: And then she added  
9 another two weeks for I guess it's  
10 subordination or something. It's partly  
11 council's fault. I come home a couple of  
12 weeks ago, and Miss Judy remembers that day  
13 where I told you I was going, I come home  
14 about two or three in the morning and Miss  
15 Rosie is up. She is never up, never, ever  
16 is she up, and she said, "Where have you  
17 been?"

18 And I said, "Council meeting."

19 One thing lead to another. Anyway,  
20 I have been unhappy so I'm not going to pick  
21 on my beloved mayor tonight. I quit  
22 watching Channel 16 months ago because they  
23 just don't seem to talk about Scranton  
24 anymore. You know, we don't have a  
25 newspaper. If you can't read the truth in a

1 paper there is no sense reading it so I  
2 don't read the paper very good. I read  
3 the -- you know, peruse it real fast, but  
4 Wednesday which was an important day to me  
5 for news, I put 16 on and I watched it for  
6 19 minutes, this was after the elections,  
7 finally they mentioned a new flag pole at  
8 one of the schools, I think it was Morrison  
9 or something, then they jabbered in the end,  
10 they never said a word about the elections.  
11 You know, when you watch it they talk about  
12 Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport and  
13 Stroudsburg, I don't know why they don't  
14 talk about Scranton anymore. That -- this  
15 isn't right.

16 I try to watch Mr. Snedeker in the  
17 morning to see what the weather is going to  
18 be and then Jackie is jumping around trying  
19 ask 16 again and when she talks it's like  
20 getting a tooth pulled without getting a  
21 shot or something, so I just quit watching  
22 it, but I can't understand why they are here  
23 in town and don't talk about Scranton. We  
24 ought to have some kind of outlet that for  
25 the people.

1                   And again, I was going to say about  
2                   the parking on the sidewalks, it's just  
3                   impossible. I have left my house with the  
4                   dog and I couldn't go a couple of blocks in  
5                   either direction on either side of the  
6                   street because of illegal parked cars and  
7                   it's not -- like I said, it's not  
8                   inconvenience, it's safety. You know, you  
9                   try to walk this silly Basset hound and he  
10                  is pulling all over the place and he has no  
11                  fear of cars, I don't belong in the street,  
12                  I belong on the sidewalk. The cars don't  
13                  belong in the sidewalk, I don't care what  
14                  time of day it is.

15                  Today, I went to my bank downtown on  
16                  Spruce and the D.A.'s Office got -- they use  
17                  the turn lane for their parking. You know,  
18                  that's not right. I don't care -- I don't  
19                  care whose car it is. Across the street was  
20                  the same way that the jewelry store they  
21                  think that their customer parking is the  
22                  left-turn lane, and I seen the girl coming  
23                  down the street, the ticket lady, and if you  
24                  are double parked she doesn't do anything,  
25                  but some poor guy that's shopping or went to

1 the dentist or something and he doesn't get  
2 back to the car in time they will get a  
3 ticket, but cars that are parked illegally  
4 like in the turn lane the first car or two,  
5 they don't get tickets.

6 You try to push a grocery cart out  
7 on Keyser Avenue and Gerrity's you have to  
8 go up four and five cars, they are bumper to  
9 bumper in the fire zone, and the policeman  
10 told me they can't go over there to give  
11 tickets when they have signs for saying "No  
12 Parking, fire zone."

13 If they started ticking, there was  
14 an article in the paper, I don't know, quite  
15 awhile ago, if they ticketed the people in  
16 this city that deserved it we probably  
17 wouldn't have any budget trouble.

18 And I got one other thing I want to  
19 talk about real quick, that's the little  
20 quads running all over the place, you know.  
21 It's just a matter of -- just a short time  
22 before one of these fools gets killed on  
23 North Main Avenue. I was watching them  
24 yesterday they must have been going 70 miles  
25 an hour racing down North Main, I don't

1 know, 4:00. It wasn't dark out. They were  
2 racing two boys, I don't know how old they  
3 were, but they were racing up to the gas  
4 station up there because I was walking the  
5 dog. You know, this busy traffic and here  
6 is those kids on those quads, well, there is  
7 some grownups ride them, I don't know. I  
8 think they ought to be heavily fined and  
9 confiscated and, you know, the owner's  
10 fined. Enough is enough. There is one boy  
11 that rides that thing, day and night, one,  
12 two in the morning and he has no muffler on  
13 it.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Ellman, your time  
15 was up.

16 MR. ELLMAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

17 MR. MCGOFF: That's okay. Attorney  
18 Scanlon is not as heavy on the button as  
19 Attorney Minora.

20 MR. ELLMAN: You should have the  
21 sheep's hook.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mr. Dobrzyn.

23 MR. DOBRZYN: He said I need a  
24 haircut. The nerve. I'm trying to beat  
25 Nancy back there. I'd also like to speak on





1 the other day and right below 307 on Moosic  
2 Street, right above Moosic Street going up  
3 to East Mountain there is some big dumps  
4 being formed there and some of it looks like  
5 the highway department, but there is also  
6 some other people dumping, so it looks  
7 terrible and once they defoliate the woods  
8 we have some invader species of bamboo  
9 coming in and once there is a defoliation  
10 that takes over and it's a real problem with  
11 the ecology, so I would love to see people  
12 stop dumping and maybe hopefully somebody  
13 some day will get caught at it. They should  
14 pay \$300 for every piece of garbage at the  
15 bottom of that hill. The mound will be on  
16 the left-hand side, I think it would be  
17 before -- before the turn to Elmhurst  
18 Boulevard, so it's something to look into  
19 because it's really bad. I mean, there  
20 is maybe 5 or 10 50-ton triaxials worth of  
21 dirt and construction debris, old concrete  
22 dumped there, and now there is refrigerators  
23 and rusted old washing machines appearing  
24 with a little pristine section of the woods.

25 It's really ashame that this stuff

1 starts to develop because it lays there for  
2 years and never goes away. Old tires, you  
3 name it, it's there.

4 The last time I was here I machined  
5 about tax exempts, and I would agree that  
6 maybe there is nothing you can do on the  
7 current ones that are here, but I would  
8 think that there should be something about  
9 future development here. There should be  
10 some kind of way of boxing them in or giving  
11 them as much as they are going to get and  
12 saying no more.

13 I talked with a Mr. Novasky at a  
14 taxpayers' meeting and I will have to  
15 contact him because he seemed to have  
16 knowledge of a college that bought the big  
17 old hotel and they were told not to, that  
18 this was it, you don't buy a hotel because  
19 it's not going to be tax exempt and my  
20 understanding was it wasn't tax exempt at  
21 that time. So, you know, at some point they  
22 really need to be told to build up and  
23 instead of out. Thank you and have a good  
24 evening.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Other speakers?

1 MS. RUGGERO: Hello. Good evening.  
2 My names is Joseph Ruggero, Scranton  
3 resident, property taxpayer, income taxpayer  
4 and library taxpayer. As we know, the  
5 library funding, state funding, has been cut  
6 by a significant amount. Therefore, I  
7 believe it is necessary to have this  
8 authority and I stand any support of it.  
9 Thank you have a good evening.

10 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening. My name  
11 is Brett McCloe, Scranton taxpayer,  
12 homeowner. I would like to congratulate  
13 Mrs. Evans, Mr. Rogan, Mr. Joyce and Mr.  
14 Courtright on their victories in last week's  
15 election. I feel that this will begin to  
16 add stability to Scranton's new lease on  
17 life, a new focus on prosperity and a more  
18 pragmatic approach to city government.

19 The voters of this city showed  
20 overwhelming that so-called malcontents,  
21 crazies, doomers, did not, in fact, hijack  
22 this city council, but instead exposed a  
23 real problem in how we govern this city. It  
24 showed how you get to the land of progress  
25 matters. It showed that the citizens of

1           this city realize that the ends do not  
2           always justify the means. It showed that  
3           the people of this city were not against  
4           progress but could not swallow the vision,  
5           the debt and the waste associated with it.

6                        It also showed that elected  
7           officials can no longer hide behind  
8           bureaucracy to coverup legislative mistakes  
9           or lapse in judgment. Citizens voted  
10          accordingly. I am sorry that there are  
11          those who are sad about the outcome of the  
12          elections for city council, but the citizens  
13          of this city won a very important battle,  
14          not for someone's generic version of  
15          progress, not for fiscal responsibility, the  
16          battle that was won was for ourselves, our  
17          values and our vision.

18                       At no point in time in Scranton's  
19          history have the citizens ever this city had  
20          rapid use and access to information  
21          technology. No longer did we have to wait  
22          until the newspaper told us what to believe.  
23          No longer were we forced, bound or expected  
24          to do as we are told because of someone with  
25          religious, political or social standing. We

1 had the ability to fact check every single  
2 word, every single statistic and every  
3 single balance sheet. We had the ability to  
4 share what we had learned, compare it, prove  
5 it or disprove it.

6 In the restaurants, at the fire  
7 stations, at the bus stops and on patrol, in  
8 the salons, at the water cooler and most  
9 importantly at the kitchen table is where  
10 the conversation were started. Here at this  
11 podium citizens of this city began their own  
12 journey in the progress of this city, and in  
13 the voting booths on November 3, 2009, is  
14 when citizens came to the end of one chapter  
15 and began to write another. A chapter based  
16 on progress that did not include buildings  
17 and swings, dog parks and coffee shops, the  
18 promise of \$90,000 a year jobs and expensive  
19 condos. All are very nice, but not the  
20 progress on I'm talking about.

21 A chapter of progress forged out of  
22 the intangible, forged out of the courage to  
23 speak one's mind, forged out of the  
24 willingness to challenge the status quo.  
25 This is the battle that was won. This is

1 the progress citizens who came to this  
2 podium were willing to be chastised for,  
3 sued for, made fun of, called names,  
4 interrupted, and is the reason why they were  
5 willing to take quite a beating in the local  
6 media.

7 Citizens should never forget or take  
8 for granted this victory. There still  
9 exists a very large and still growing  
10 bureaucracy totally void of common sense and  
11 conscience. It is the job of every citizen  
12 in filling those voids and on election day  
13 they did just that, but we cannot stop  
14 there. There is much work to be done  
15 individually on ourselves as well as on our  
16 society in order to change our local  
17 government because time and events did not  
18 and will not change who we are as a people.  
19 It's simply unfolds who we already were and  
20 what we are destined to become. Thank you.

21 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, city of  
22 Scranton. A couple of weeks ago or last  
23 week I believe it was we had a lady who came  
24 up here and told us that she was leaving  
25 Scranton because she had believed all the

1           propaganda about moving here, it was one of  
2           the places to do businesses and to live and  
3           she found the opposite.

4                       Yesterday I was downtown, there was  
5           an elderly couple who had to park on Olive  
6           Street because all the meters on Washington  
7           Avenue across from Lackawanna College were  
8           tagged. They all had the orange bags on  
9           them, there was no place for those people to  
10          park. I guess last week we had the same  
11          problem with Lackawanna College homecoming  
12          which is all, you know, it's a great  
13          tradition to start, however, there is  
14          revenue just lost, I believe, unless  
15          Lackawanna is paying for that thing.

16                      Same thing happens with the Cultural  
17          Center when they are a function the buses  
18          are parked all over of the place, the meters  
19          are bagged and there is no place for people  
20          to park, these are residents of the city.

21                      But this elderly couple walked  
22          downtown and they had planned on moving  
23          here, from what I gather they stopped and  
24          chatted, and she asked me a question. She  
25          said, "Where is beautiful downtown

1 Scranton?"

2 And I said, "This is it."

3 And she said, "Well, from the time  
4 that we got off the sidewalk on the corner  
5 of Vine Street all the way down we either  
6 had to walk around people, we had to walk  
7 out in the road because the sidewalks were  
8 all blocked off," obviously, the national  
9 bird of New York City has now become the  
10 national city bird of Scranton, that's the  
11 crane, and they walked all the way down to  
12 Lackawanna Avenue and back. And she said to  
13 her husband, "This was your idea, and  
14 believe me, darling, if you are going to  
15 move here you are going to do it by yourself  
16 because all the brochures we read, all the  
17 nice things we have heard about Scranton,  
18 uh-huh, not from what I have seen I wouldn't  
19 move here."

20 And where are you going to drive if  
21 you can come downtown? Are you going to  
22 keep repairing tires or keep repairing tie  
23 rod, are you going to keep repairing cars?  
24 Little bumps here and there, which have not  
25 been taken care of since I have been here,



1 and I don't think anything in the future is  
2 going to happen.

3 I would hope that this new council,  
4 if it does take place, will consider the  
5 fact that paving these streets is a very,  
6 very vital thing. I personally am tired of  
7 buying new tires. I am tired of having  
8 repairs done to my car from potholes that  
9 shouldn't be there to begin with. I don't  
10 know when the last time was that this whole  
11 downtown area was paved, but there was a  
12 water main break on Vine Street, right at  
13 the corner of North Washington Avenue, and I  
14 guess the water company came in and repaired  
15 it and they paved it beautiful. Beautiful  
16 spot there. It's too bad they couldn't do  
17 the whole street, but it looks really good  
18 from what they did.

19 Now, I don't know why this city  
20 can't do it and I don't know why we don't  
21 have any money, but we have money for  
22 development, development, development,  
23 development. Well, thank God, hopefully  
24 this boutique city concept is going to go  
25 down the drain and it's going to be go pack

1 to being a bedroom community and possibly,  
2 just possibly, we can bring industry in here  
3 because there would be adequate housing, the  
4 roads will be suitable to drive on and  
5 people will be proud of their city once  
6 again.

7 I'd like to congratulate the winners  
8 from the election and to the losers of the  
9 election and those of you who are on your  
10 way out, you finally got your wish, no more  
11 hard work. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Anybody else?

13 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. I  
14 would like to congratulate Mrs. Evans and  
15 Mr. Courtright and also to thank everyone  
16 that made the effort to run, I know that  
17 takes a lot of lot of work. I'm here to  
18 speak on 5-C and the first sentence is,  
19 "Signifying the intention and desire of the  
20 Council of the City of Scranton to organize  
21 an authority."

22 I was wondering who requested this  
23 be put on as legislation?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Who on council approved  
25 or asked that it be put on the agenda?

1 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I did.

3 MS. KRAKE: And did you write the  
4 legislation, Mr. McGoff?

5 MR. MCGOFF: No, I did not.

6 MS. KRAKE: Did the law department of  
7 the City of Scranton write it?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I don't believe so.

9 MS. KRAKE: So it initiated with you  
10 and then you had them write it or did it  
11 initiate with them?

12 MR. MCGOFF: It was initiated by --  
13 I'm assuming by the administration.

14 MS. KRAKE: I see. That was my  
15 question, because it's very misleading the  
16 way this sentence reads, "It signifies the  
17 intention and desire of the council of the  
18 City of Scranton to organize an authority."

19 When in reality it should say the  
20 administration, so you may want to change  
21 that for the next reading.

22 My next part of this is after I  
23 listened to everyone speak tonight, and  
24 especially the gentleman that just simply  
25 said one sentence because it was a great

1 loss that the state cut the funding to  
2 libraries, it's a huge loss. Someone very  
3 close to me is a librarian and it's her life  
4 and it's very sad. However, council because  
5 of Mayor Doherty's past record with the  
6 authorities needs to be extremely cautious  
7 for the taxpayers. Once he gets ahold of an  
8 authority there is no oversight from  
9 council, there is none of the municipal  
10 accounting practices which force  
11 accountability and transparency, so these  
12 are all valid gripes that the people have  
13 against having this become an authority.

14 It may be a very great way to help  
15 the library, but I do think there needs to  
16 be a lot of legwork to prevent the abuses of  
17 the past going forward. You all know what  
18 they are, you have all been here a long  
19 time, they need to be addressed. This may  
20 very well be the right way to go only it  
21 needs to be fixed so that they -- it cannot  
22 be abused.

23 In fact, it occurs to me, this is  
24 very -- probably wouldn't happen, but we  
25 have seen strange thing happen, if the

1 authority were to sell the library would  
2 that not force council to build one? Maybe  
3 you would have a seated council that would  
4 not want to borrow if the authority  
5 approached it, but now if the authority --  
6 because that was part of what Mr. Munchak  
7 said, the purpose is to convey the title to  
8 the board that they go so far as to try and  
9 sell that, you are going to be forced to  
10 build a library, so there is a lot that  
11 needs to be considered before this gets  
12 passed and I hope council will do that.  
13 Thank you.

14 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Nelson  
15 Ancherani, First Amendment Rights. First  
16 off, I would like to start out commenting on  
17 completion of the case going to Court as  
18 reported in the Slimes tabloid:

19 "Lawyers for the city argue that the  
20 new Scranton police union contract granting  
21 45 percent pay increases through 2014 should  
22 not be allowed to stand."

23 I'm going to read in a part Bob  
24 Martin, president of Lodge 2, FOP,  
25 explaining the raise concept: I would like

1 to set the record state and clear up some of  
2 the misstatements in regard to the Labor  
3 dispute between the City of Scranton and the  
4 fine police officers in the fraternal order  
5 of police that represent these outstanding  
6 officers.

7 The Times-Tribune got it mostly  
8 wrong and now I'm hearing completely  
9 erroneous reports on WILK radio. First and  
10 foremost, in the 2008 arbitration award the  
11 wage increases are not 45 percent as  
12 portrayed by the city and Mr. Levine at the  
13 hearing. The actual award is for  
14 44.8 percent with a vision that if there  
15 were any increases in the preceding award it  
16 would be deducted in equal amounts over the  
17 life of the 2008 through the 2014 contract.

18 We received the 7 1/2 percent wage  
19 increase from the Commonwealth Court order  
20 on February 6, 2009, which also included a  
21 statement that the city's Recovery Plan had  
22 not contained any language to prevent wage  
23 or personnel cost containment after 2005.  
24 So the actual number we are looking at now  
25 is 37.3 percent, so if you do the math over

1 the life of this dispute from 2002 through  
2 2014 the wage increase would be 3.1 percent  
3 each year, not even a cost of living for  
4 most of these years.

5 Now, when you couple this with the  
6 fact that the mayor's staff, some of which  
7 received 10,000 to 15,000 for one year, city  
8 administration employees, DPW employees,  
9 received substantial pay increases and  
10 benefit improvements and the clerical  
11 employees also received wage I am profits  
12 since 2002.

13 This award hardly seems  
14 unreasonable. I must add, favorites got  
15 raises and approximately 50 new hires plus  
16 attorneys and consultants received over 20  
17 million cumulatively since 2002. Police and  
18 fire got nothing from this mayor.

19 Now, onto the excerpts from the  
20 slimes: Scranton budget cuts inevitable and  
21 super majority irate against Doherty offers  
22 great theatre, but what of government?

23 Quote: If we could have more  
24 officers that would be great, the mayor  
25 said. He quickly added that when benefits

1 are added to the base salary each new  
2 officer costs the city about \$80,000, a  
3 number confirmed by Mr. Renda, he is  
4 speaking about the police. 80,000, that's  
5 37,000 more man I make so that means Stu is  
6 getting \$122,000 a year when you add on the  
7 37,000 to his 85,000 yearly salary and who  
8 also got a \$46,000 dollars increase in pay  
9 since he started working for the city in  
10 2003.

11 I'm challenging Stu to show me where  
12 it costs \$80,000 for a police officer. The  
13 mayor talks about paving four to five miles  
14 of streets during his tenure as mayor. How  
15 many of those streets were paved by the  
16 utilities after tearing up the streets for  
17 the water main reconstruction?

18 Quote: The city has only 30 at-will  
19 workers, in other words, nonunionized  
20 management staff, he said. The balance of  
21 workers include 150 police, 150 firefighters  
22 and 110 public works and 60 clerical  
23 workers. Mr. Doherty said staff with  
24 salaries are defined by contract. That  
25 totals 500. Where are the other 48 workers?



1           There are 548 employees listed in this  
2           year's budget.

3                     Quote: Things go up every year, he  
4           said. Health care gest more expensive,  
5           salaries increase for employees.

6                     Sure, force out 100 employees with  
7           full benefits and hire 100 more to replace  
8           with them with full benefits and then fire  
9           the health care consultants who saves the  
10          city five million. The increased salaries  
11          were not police or fire. They haven't  
12          gotten a raise in eight years from this  
13          mayor, but raises to his favorites, new  
14          hires and attorneys and consultants have  
15          increased over 20 million since 2002.

16                    Quote: That leaves Mr. Renda, the  
17          mayor and council left to figure out how to  
18          deal with balancing services -- can I just  
19          finish this?

20                    MR. MCGOFF: Please.

21                    MR. ANCHERANI: Balancing services  
22          against tax levels in an environment which  
23          the city continues to face structural  
24          deficits. That number was 5.5 million in  
25          2009, Mr. Renda said. Get ready, taxpayers,

1 here comes the 25 percent tax hike, the  
2 money from the tax office won't get here in  
3 time. We are you really up the creek.  
4 Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Mrs.  
6 Evans?

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I wish to  
8 thank everyone who voted for me on election  
9 day, although, I still don't know exactly  
10 how many of you actually did. I thank all  
11 who called and e-mailed to congratulate me  
12 and I deeply appreciate the many calls,  
13 e-mails, cards, and well wishes I received  
14 during my illness. I'm sorry that I wasn't  
15 able to respond personally as I have always  
16 done. Please know all your messages and  
17 cards were received and I'm forever grateful  
18 for your kindness, support and loyalty.

19 I'm also very proud of my council  
20 team Frank Joyce and Pat Rogan and I thank  
21 the Joyce and Rogan families for their  
22 tremendous support and hard work throughout  
23 the campaign. The time has come for new  
24 blood in city government and for a new  
25 generation of Scrantonians to take the

1 mantels of leadership. As their mentor, I  
2 have been privileged to see both young men  
3 develop into tireless campaigners and  
4 fearless candidates who have the courage and  
5 strength to stand up for our working  
6 families, our senior citizens and the poor.  
7 Beginning in January, they will become  
8 exceptional councilmen who will serve  
9 faithfully all the people of Scranton.

10 The voters spoke loudly in May and  
11 again in November. They demanded change and  
12 accountability. For the first time in many  
13 years, there will be not only a strong  
14 executive, but also a strong legislative  
15 body and the checks and balances in city  
16 government will be restored. Through their  
17 votes for council and mayor, Scrantonians  
18 also voiced a desire for cooperation between  
19 the branches of government and in that  
20 spirit the new majority, Frank Joyce, Pat  
21 Rogan and I met with the mayor yesterday.  
22 It was a positive session and the first of  
23 what I hope will be many future meetings  
24 between the mayor and council as we try to  
25 work together to improve city finances, and

1 the quality of life of all Scrantonians.

2 Further, the mayor agreed to hold  
3 his state of the city address in the evening  
4 rather than at noon in order that all  
5 council members may attend.

6 In addition, we invited the mayor to  
7 attend council meetings so that both  
8 branches of government can work in concert  
9 publically. There was unanimous agreement  
10 to work toward the betterment of our city.

11 On a less encouraging note, I am  
12 disappointed that I never received  
13 management information from Stu Renda,  
14 business administrator, that I had requested  
15 since early 2009 and for which I ultimately  
16 filed a Right-to-Know request on  
17 September 25, 2009. So, Kay, I would ask  
18 that you please call Mr. Renda one last time  
19 and request this information is sent to our  
20 office on or before Friday, November 13.

21 Several weeks ago, residents of  
22 Emmett Street contacted me regarding a  
23 hazardous structure at 518-520 Emmett  
24 Street, and they also appeared before  
25 council asking for relief. On Friday,

1 November 6, an emergency declaration was  
2 signed by Mayor Doherty and city controller  
3 Novembrino to demolish the structure  
4 immediately and the problem has been  
5 successfully addressed.

6 Finally, I have a few citizens'  
7 requests for the week: Residents report and  
8 request that trees need to be cut in a  
9 city-owned lot located in the back of the  
10 1600 block of Church Avenue between  
11 Ferdinand and Putnam Street. Please ask the  
12 DPW to address this problem as soon as  
13 possible.

14 Residents report a home located at  
15 is 102 Moltke Avenue that was abandoned  
16 following a fire, siding is hanging off and  
17 neighbors feel the structure poses a safety  
18 hazard. Please provide a report to council  
19 on or before November 23, 2009.

20 A letter to the city engineer:  
21 Please provide council with a written update  
22 and timeline for the Crisp Avenue bridge on  
23 or before November 25, 2009.

24 A memo to PEL: Please provide  
25 detailed meeting summaries from October 12

1 to the present, and that's it.

2 MS. GATELLI: I just have a few  
3 items. Just for the residents that live  
4 near Tom and Jerry's, the hearing for that  
5 will be held Monday, November 16 at 1:00 at  
6 Bob Russell's office, anyone that can  
7 attend.

8 Also we discussed in caucus tonight  
9 about PEL and whether they would have a  
10 Recovery Plan ready for council to vote on.  
11 We all were in agreement, the ones that  
12 attended the caucus, that we think that that  
13 should be up to the new council to decide  
14 about PEL.

15 Also, we got a memo from OECD, with  
16 all of the money that goes to shelters and  
17 emergency programs within the city out of  
18 block grant money, the emergency shelter  
19 grant, there were nine contracts signed, one  
20 was for Catherine McCawley Center, that's  
21 where mothers and children live. Another  
22 one for St. Anthony's shelter, another one  
23 at Catholic Social Services for the Nativity  
24 shelter. Catholic Social Services for  
25 mental health programs. Catholic Social

1 Services for Veteran's programs. The  
2 Community Intervention Center. United  
3 Neighborhood Center. Women's Resource  
4 Center, and Bethel AME.

5 Also there were contracts given, 11  
6 of them, one was for the Bellevue Center,  
7 over in Bellevue that is run by United  
8 Neighborhood Centers, those are children's  
9 programs.

10 Also for Project Hope where there is  
11 a camp in the summertime for underprivileged  
12 children. Boys and Girls Club for the park  
13 at summer program that runs the full length  
14 of the summer and it's held in various  
15 school playgrounds throughout the city.  
16 Friends of the Poor. The Deutsch Institute.  
17 Catholic Social Services again for permanent  
18 supportive housing. United Neighborhood  
19 Centers for supportive housing. Salvation  
20 Army for help with utilities. Condemnation  
21 money that goes to the City of Scranton to  
22 put people up when their house is condemned  
23 and those are some of the places where our  
24 block grant money went, so I wanted people  
25 to know that yes there are -- the poor and

1 the homeless who are being very well taken  
2 care of in the City of Scranton, and that's  
3 all I have. Thank you.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Actually, Judy, you  
5 read off my list, but that's okay, but I  
6 also want to add to that, obviously there is  
7 always more we can do, and I don't think  
8 there is any of us who don't feel for the  
9 people who are out there and have issues in  
10 that area, we wish we could do more, but  
11 unfortunately, you still have to do with  
12 what you have. We are not any different  
13 than anyone else is and there is always more  
14 than we can do and hopefully we can strive  
15 for that later on and try to raise some more  
16 money for them.

17 Also, I want to also congratulate  
18 the new majority and I am thrilled to hear  
19 that they sat down with the mayor. I have  
20 said from day one the only which we can get  
21 anywhere is working together regardless if  
22 you agree it's the only way to move forward  
23 and I'm very happy to hear this. This is  
24 still my city and I still will be a taxpayer  
25 and am very happy to hear that we can



1           actually look forward to seeing some  
2           progress on all ends, and I just wanted to  
3           congratulate you on that.

4                         Also, I wanted to talk about  
5           legislation with the library. I was really  
6           thrilled that Commissioner Munchak did stop  
7           by because he did clarify a lot of the  
8           issues. I do understand the concerns with  
9           another board. I, too, understand and feel  
10          the same way, but I also know that the only  
11          way that this system could survive is to be  
12          able to go on it's own and be able to raise  
13          money to do things that they couldn't do  
14          before. This is going to be a very tough  
15          time all over the state for lots of  
16          programs, not only just the library system  
17          but, much our programs and I think that we  
18          need to give them the opportunity to be able  
19          to could that. It was good to hear know,  
20          him explain that, yes, they can get money  
21          but the only way they can do that is going  
22          from counsel and voting for the county, they  
23          can't just go off on their own and get it.

24                         I also would like to leave a note  
25          for Attorney Minora to check into the

1 Albright library now. I believe that  
2 existing is a an agreement saying that we  
3 cannot give that building or sell that  
4 building it has to always be a library. To  
5 make sure that that is the case even after  
6 this board is formed, if that building is  
7 given or sold does it still have to consist  
8 of what it is now and will that change if  
9 that goes over to the board or the authority  
10 to make sure that we still are protected in  
11 that area.

12 It is one of my favorite buildings  
13 in the city. It's absolutely beautiful, so  
14 I do want to check on that, but otherwise I  
15 mean, I understand but I do believe that  
16 this is not a terrible thing for us. I know  
17 that everybody said, well, you shouldn't be  
18 worried about that, you should be worried  
19 about other things. No, we have to worry  
20 about it all and, you know, we can't just  
21 pick and choose. It is before us and I  
22 appreciate the sentiments that because now I  
23 am not going to be official after January  
24 that I should stop doing my job, but that  
25 certainly won't happen and it didn't happen

1 to the council before me and it won't happen  
2 to the council after me. We do what we do  
3 until we are -- while we are here, so I will  
4 be voting in favor of that and we'll see  
5 what happens after I receive what Attorney  
6 Minora has to say and then I will go from  
7 there to decide next week, also. And that  
8 is all I have.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: One of the speakers  
10 brought up about making money from tickets.  
11 If you've ever got a ticket in this city and  
12 take a look at it the city gets a very small  
13 portion of the money, there is about five or  
14 six different people that have their hand in  
15 the pot, so we don't make a whole lot of  
16 money and tickets, the city itself I should  
17 say.

18 Election day you get an opportunity  
19 to speak to people that you don't get to  
20 speak to that often and probably there was  
21 two main issues at that election poll that I  
22 work out, one was the Crisp Avenue bridge,  
23 and I don't blame the people for being  
24 upset, that should have been fixed a long  
25 time ago. I used it every day when it was

1 available, now I have to go a different  
2 route. I couldn't understand, it's not like  
3 it's a raging river there, I couldn't  
4 understand why the Army Corp couldn't come  
5 in and put a temporary bridge in there.  
6 They could probably do it in a day.

7 So, Kay, when you send that for  
8 what Mrs. Evans brought up, when you send  
9 the letter can you ask them is it possible  
10 to put a temporary bridge in there and until  
11 they get the permanent one in there. I  
12 mean, if anybody knows this, if you have a  
13 big SUV you can drive through there. It's  
14 not like a raging river going down there and  
15 the people have paid the price long enough,  
16 I think it's time we do something for them  
17 and myself.

18 The other thing big issue was, and I  
19 tried to -- I told people that asked me  
20 this, several people asked me this, if you  
21 stand at that poll all day long in the  
22 parking lot of the Keyser Valley Community  
23 Center when you go home, I always wear a  
24 white shirt, it's all dirt from if the wind  
25 blowing, because it's dirt. This time it's

1 all mud because the water just lays in there  
2 and I asked if the past to get it done and  
3 we couldn't get it down because it's not low  
4 to moderate income area, so we couldn't use  
5 OECD money, and I have asked on more than  
6 one occasion to use UDAG money, but I was  
7 never able to use anybody UDAG money since  
8 I'm here. I hope their next counsel can get  
9 their hands on that mysterious UDAG money  
10 and fix that parking lot at the Keyser  
11 Valley Community Center.

12 And I guess I think it's funny, but  
13 not that funny, I had people, two people  
14 come out of the poll and tell me they didn't  
15 vote for me because they wanted me to stay  
16 on council, you know, and there were two  
17 people I helped with something. And I said,  
18 "I wish you talked to me before you went  
19 in."

20 Whether I'm here or not, you know,  
21 if you need some kind of help you certainly  
22 found me before, I'm sure you will find me  
23 again. So whether I'm here or not if you  
24 need any kind of help I will be more than  
25 happy to help you. When I was able to help

1 people while I have been on council it  
2 certainly wasn't because I had any in,  
3 because I think we all know I didn't have  
4 any in. Usually, it was me telling them the  
5 right way to go or who to go to or where to  
6 go to, to get done what they needed to get  
7 done, and I would still be happy to do that  
8 for you, so if you talked to me before maybe  
9 you would have voted for me, but I think  
10 that's about all I have. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First, I  
12 too would like to congratulate all of the  
13 candidates that won. Attorney Moyle, who  
14 will now become Judge Moyle. Also,  
15 Mr. Courtright who will be leaving us, and  
16 certainly to Mrs. Evans, Mr. Rogan and Mr.  
17 Joyce who will become the -- part of the  
18 council next year. My congratulations to  
19 you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of things were  
22 mentioned tonight that I did have a chance  
23 to speak to Mrs. Evans prior to meeting, not  
24 for very long, Mrs. Gatelli brought up the  
25 Recovery Plan and PEL, I was in contact with

1 Mr. Jerry Cross from the Pennsylvania  
2 Economy League I believe, and he expressed a  
3 desire to meet with members of the current  
4 council and also members of the new council.  
5 It is probably that the new Recovery Plan  
6 may come to the current council, but not in  
7 time for it to be voted upon, you know, not  
8 the necessary time frame in order for it to  
9 be completed before the end of the year, so,  
10 therefore, it would be the work of two  
11 councils, two separate councils and so  
12 Mr. Cross did indicate that he would like to  
13 meet and I will try to arrange a time and  
14 place that's convenient to those who are  
15 interested in meeting with Mr. Cross and  
16 discussing the new Recovery Plan. And I  
17 think that was all and move to 5-B.

18 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
19 AN ORDINANCE - PROVIDING FOR THE  
20 ACCEPTANCE AND DEDICATION OF JAMESTOWN WAY  
21 CIRCLE AND PARK EDGE LANE; AS WELL AS ALL  
22 THE STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEM UNDERLYING SAID  
23 STREETS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY; ALL OF THE  
24 AFOREMENTIONED IMPROVEMENTS BEING LOCATED IN  
25 THE PARK EDGE SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA; ALSO AUTHORIZING THE  
2 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
3 TO ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00)  
4 AND TO RECORD IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS AT THE  
5 OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS FOR  
6 LACKAWANNA COUNTY A DEED FOR THE AFORESAID  
7 PUBLIC STREETS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

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

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 AN ORDINANCE - SIGNIFYING THE INTENTION AND  
23 DESIRE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
24 SCRANTON TO ORGANIZE AN AUTHORITY TO BE  
25 KNOWN AS THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



1           AUTHORITY UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF THE  
2           GENERAL ASSEMBLY, KNOWN AS THE MUNICIPALITY  
3           AUTHORITIES ACT, 53 PA.C.S. CHAPTER 56;  
4           SETTING FORTH AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF  
5           ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION; APPOINTING AND  
6           FIXING THE TERMS OF THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE  
7           BOARD OF SUCH AUTHORITY; AND UPON  
8           ORGANIZATION CONVEYING TITLE TO THE  
9           AUTHORITY FOR THE PROPERTIES ON WHICH THE  
10          ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY, THE GREEN RIDGE  
11          LIBRARY AND THE SILKMAN HOUSE ARE LOCATED;  
12          AUTHORIZING ALL OTHER NECESSARY ACTION; AND  
13          REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR  
14          PARTS OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF  
15          RESOLUTIONS.

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

19                   MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

20                   MS. FANUCCI: Second.

21                   MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

22                   MS. EVANS: In addition to the  
23                   formation of a new library authority and  
24                   appointment of authority board members, this  
25                   legislation includes conveying title to the

1 library authority for the properties on  
2 which the Albright Memorial Library, the  
3 Greenridge Library and the Silkman House are  
4 located. Further, all inconsistent  
5 ordinances or parts of ordinances as well as  
6 resolutions and parts of resolutions are  
7 repealed by this legislation.

8 Throughout my six years as a council  
9 woman, I have never been presented with such  
10 legislation. It is, indeed, a highly  
11 significant and unusual action which is why  
12 I do not believe this legislation should be  
13 introduced at the 11th hour for  
14 consideration and possible approval by an  
15 outgoing council. All deeds and prior  
16 ordinances and resolutions must be studied  
17 carefully.

18 In addition, the members of the  
19 board of trustees of the Scranton Public  
20 Library have provided their written  
21 intention to serve as the members of the  
22 library authority.

23 And, Kay, if you could please  
24 determine who appointed the members of the  
25 board of trustees of the Scranton Public

1           Library, please, and update me prior to our  
2           next council meeting.

3                       Coincidentally, as was mentioned  
4           earlier, Mayor Doherty made an official  
5           announcement of his candidacy for governor  
6           earlier today and though it is his objective  
7           to construct a new library in South Side,  
8           which is the primary purpose of tonight's  
9           legislation, he may not continue to serve as  
10          the mayor and see this complicated and  
11          costly project to fruition. It is reckless  
12          to proceed at such a time, particularly in  
13          light of the significant cut to library  
14          funds within the new state budget and the  
15          inability of the county and city governments  
16          to financially support a new library at this  
17          time. Therefore, I will be voting "no."

18                      MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I would  
19          just like to comment on just a few things.  
20          First, the nature of the existing board  
21          makes it difficult for, as was said, for the  
22          library to receive money. The board was  
23          created under an ordinance back in 1890 and  
24          the way in which it's -- the way in which  
25          it's setup it probably violates any number

1 of ordinances at this time and would make it  
2 just, for example, "There shall be selected  
3 five members nominated by the mayor one from  
4 each the city's pastors resident in the City  
5 of Scranton of the following religious  
6 denominations," and says what religious  
7 denominations will be represented on the  
8 board which I think in today's day and age,  
9 you know, is probably in violation of a few  
10 things and would make it very difficult to  
11 receive any type of funding.

12 Also: "No more than two from the  
13 same political party. Three chosen by a  
14 board of trade."

15 I think a change is needed. The  
16 library is in difficulty and as Commissioner  
17 Munchak indicated one of the ways of maybe  
18 -- the only way of saving or preserving the  
19 library system is to make some changes to  
20 it. Right offhand, as was mentioned, the  
21 insurance and the liability that goes along  
22 with the buildings would be assumed by the  
23 authority which would be a savings to the  
24 city and I think that some changes need to  
25 be made and I think this is a way of going

1 about it.

2 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add,  
3 perhaps Mr. Munchak's opinion with regard to  
4 council's approval being necessary for any  
5 type of borrowing or floating of revenue  
6 bonds by an authority may not be entirely  
7 accurate.

8 For example, last December of 2008,  
9 the Scranton Parking Authority pursued and  
10 received a million dollar line of credit  
11 without the knowledge or consent of Scranton  
12 City Council. I know that the Sewer  
13 Authority is very capable and has pursued  
14 funding without the knowledge and consent of  
15 Scranton City Council.

16 So while it certainly may be true  
17 that this new authority would have to obtain  
18 approval from city council for any of it's  
19 funding for current and new libraries, it  
20 isn't necessarily entirely true and because  
21 of the examples I have stated that's enough  
22 to leave a great doubt in my mind. And we  
23 have incurred great debt from the Parking  
24 Authority, for example, through issuance of  
25 revenue bonds and revenue bonds by nature of

1           their being require a city to pledge the  
2           full faith and credit of it's taxpayers and  
3           this city and I believe this county can  
4           ill-afford to support anything else at this  
5           point in time and continue to keep moving  
6           forward.

7                     MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

8                     MS. FANUCCI: Can we have attorney  
9           Minora also look into that, please, to find  
10          out? I do believe there is something that  
11          has to do with state funding when something  
12          is funded solely at this point by the state  
13          that there is some check and balance that  
14          goes into it so I believe that might be what  
15          the county commissioner was speaking of  
16          that's why it has to go through where the  
17          Sewer Authority and the other authorities  
18          might not have that stipulation, so maybe if  
19          we can look into that and find out from  
20          Attorney Minora if that would be the case  
21          for next week. Thank you.

22                    MR. MCGOFF: Anything else?

23                    MS. EVANS: Yes, just one thing that  
24          you brought to my mind as you spoke, just  
25          one piece of information that I was made

1           aware of several years ago when I first took  
2           my seat on council. Once a -- well, once an  
3           authority is created it becomes very  
4           difficult, almost impossible to dissolve  
5           that authority and the greatest obstacle is  
6           the fact that it cannot dissolve an  
7           authority that carries any debt, and so that  
8           is why there has to be such caution  
9           exercised in this matter. It's not anything  
10          to take lightly and though I agree that much  
11          of what Mr. McGoff and Mrs. Fanucci have  
12          said, I think, for example, in terms of  
13          their current board members, the board of  
14          trustees, though some of the provisions of  
15          the statement you cited may have been  
16          adhered to, I don't think all of them have,  
17          you know, yes, it is antiquated and as a  
18          result as time has passed adjustments have  
19          been made.

20                   MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor of  
21                   introduction signify by saying eye.

22                   MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23                   MS. GATELLI: Aye.

24                   MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

25                   MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

1 MS. EVANS: No.

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

4 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.  
5 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 93,  
6 2009 – AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE  
7 CONVEYANCE BY SEALED BID OR AUCTION A VACANT  
8 LOT LOCATED AT 2935-2937 PITTSTON AVENUE  
9 ACQUIRED PURSUANT TO A GIFT TO THE CITY, AS  
10 MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED  
11 DEED.

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

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

16 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

25 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to moving to



1 Seventh Order, I'd like to make -- going  
2 back to Item 5-C, I would like to make a  
3 motion to schedule a public hearing for  
4 Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 10 a.m., and  
5 authorize the city clerk to place the  
6 necessary ads.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: 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. I'm sorry, I  
16 should have done that earlier.

17 MS. GARVEY: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION  
18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
19 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 92, 2009 - AMENDING FILE  
20 OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2008, AN ORDINANCE  
21 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET  
22 2009" BY TRANSFERRING \$17,100.00 FROM  
23 ACCOUNT NO. 01.040.00040.4201 (BUSINESS  
24 ADMINISTRATION- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO  
25 ACCOUNT NO.01.040.00040.4190 (BUSINESS

1 ADMINISTRATION UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE) TO  
2 PROVIDE FUNDING TO COVER QUARTERLY PAYMENTS  
3 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

4 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
5 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
6 Committee on Finance?

7 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for Finance, I  
8 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

15 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Motion to adjourn.

24 MR. MCGOFF: So moved. Thank you  
25 for your participation.

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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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER