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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, October 20, 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  
(Not present)

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI  
(Not present)

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli. Ms.  
7 Fanucci. Mr. Courtright.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Let the record  
11 reflect that Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci  
12 called and said they would probably not be  
13 here. Dispense with the reading of the  
14 minutes. Third order.

15 MS. GARVEY: 3-A. A. INDEPENDENT  
16 AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE SCRANTON SEWER  
17 AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31,  
18 2009.

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

21 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. APPLICATIONS AND  
22 DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING  
23 HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 14,  
24 2009.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
3 FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER  
4 30, 2009.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third  
8 Order.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Any announcements from  
10 council? Mrs. Evans?

11 MS. EVANS: Please remember in your  
12 prayers this week all those who have died,  
13 particularly Michael Barrett and his dear  
14 family and friends he leaves behind. He is  
15 the brother-in-law of Andy Sbaraglia, a  
16 regular speaker at Scranton City Council  
17 meetings, and one of the kindest most  
18 generous gentlemen I know.

19 The Women's Society of St. Joseph  
20 Malachite Church will sponsor a spaghetti  
21 dinner this Thursday, October 22, from 5 to  
22 8 p.m. at the church hall located at North  
23 Street and St. Francis Cabrini Avenue.  
24 Takeouts are available at 4 p.m. and ticket  
25 costs are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for

1 children under ten and are available at the  
2 door.

3 Providence United Methodist Church  
4 will conduct it's annual turkey dinner and  
5 bazar on Saturday, October 24, that's this  
6 Saturday, from 5 to 7 p.m. Takeouts are  
7 available from 4 to 5. Tickets are \$9.50  
8 per adults and \$5 for children ages 5  
9 through 12 and are available at the door.  
10 Don't miss this delicious pre-Thanksgiving  
11 dinner.

12 The Make a Difference Day Breakfast  
13 benefiting St. Francis of Assisi kitchen  
14 will be held this Saturday morning  
15 October 24, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the  
16 social hall of St. Peter's Lutheran Church.  
17 Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for  
18 children under 12. St. Peter's church hall  
19 is also handicapped accessible. In  
20 addition, a bake sale will be held at the  
21 same time to benefit the Elm Park Emergency  
22 Food Pantry.

23 The Dante Literary Society will  
24 conduct it's annual fall dinner of rigatoni  
25 and meatballs on Saturday, October 24, this

1 Saturday, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the club rooms  
2 at 1916 Prospect Avenue, Scranton. Tickets  
3 are \$8.50 for adults and \$4.00 for children  
4 and are available at the door. Their sauce  
5 is the best in town, made from a secret  
6 recipe that the cooks will not give me,  
7 although I have been trying to pry it out of  
8 them now for years.

9 The Knights of Columbus and the  
10 Ladies Auxiliary of St. Pat's Church will  
11 hold their annual family pancake breakfast  
12 this Sunday, October 25, from 8 a.m. to noon  
13 at All Saints Academy School auditorium in  
14 West Scranton. This is an all you can eat  
15 pancakes or scrambled eggs bonanza together  
16 with sausage, juice, sweet rolls and  
17 beverages. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and  
18 \$3.00 for children under 12 and may be  
19 purchased at the door. It's a great way to  
20 start your Sunday.

21 Also, on Sunday, October 25, at  
22 12:30 p.m. St. Stanislas Polish National  
23 Catholic Cathedral will conduct it's  
24 pre-holiday homestyle turkey dinner at their  
25 youth center located at 530 East Elm Street

1 in Scranton. Takeouts are available from  
2 10:30 to noon and ticket costs are \$10 for  
3 adults, and \$5 for children under 12. Enjoy  
4 a delicious Thanksgiving meal in October and  
5 give mom a day off from cooking this Sunday.

6 There will be a CPW wrestling show  
7 at St. Mary's Center on Mifflin Avenue,  
8 Scranton, on Friday, October 30, to benefit  
9 a Scranton High School student Deanna Medina  
10 who is suffering from leukemia. Doors open  
11 at 6:30 and belt time is 7:00 p.m. Tickets  
12 are \$10 for adults and children ages five  
13 and under are free. Please call  
14 570-955-0923 for tickets or visit their  
15 website at [WWW.CPW2.webs.com](http://WWW.CPW2.webs.com). And that's  
16 all.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Courtright,  
18 anything?

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm good.

20 MR. MCGOFF: I just did want to say  
21 the exit conference for the independent  
22 audit with held today. Their report was a  
23 clean opinion which I am told means, and I'm  
24 quoting them, that the figures are free of  
25 any material misstatement. Bound copies of

1 the audit should be available tomorrow or  
2 the next day.

3 MS. GARVEY: Tomorrow.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Tomorrow for council  
5 members. Also, I neglected last week when I  
6 mentioned the Steamtown Marathon, Paul  
7 O'Hora, who works in the flood control  
8 office, was the first Scranton finisher with  
9 a time of somewhere around two hours and 40  
10 some minutes, so congratulations to him.

11 And lastly, I don't do this often,  
12 but I would like to say Happy Birthday to my  
13 granddaughter, who was nine on Sunday, and  
14 my grandson will be 16 tomorrow, so Happy  
15 Birthday to them, and that is all.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Citizens' participation.  
17 Mike Dudek.

18 MR. DUDEK: Good evening, Council.  
19 My name is a Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street,  
20 Scranton, down there in the Plot. I have  
21 some good news and also to temper that good  
22 news a bit of an explanation. The good news  
23 is that a multi-million dollar homeless  
24 shelter being built in downtown Scranton is  
25 on track and ready for completion, it should



1 be done within the year, but we should  
2 temper that with the fact that the general  
3 contractor for the project is the Department  
4 of Transportation and the shelter I'm  
5 referring to is the new Lackawanna County  
6 bridge going across Lackawanna Avenue and  
7 over the river.

8 Now, Pax Christie, an organization  
9 that really is a whistle-blower organization  
10 in Mr. Dwyer has pointed out that we have a  
11 tremendous problem here and I think we  
12 really better take a good look at this  
13 because when we look at Scranton's  
14 unemployment rate we hear numbers nine, nine  
15 and a half, maybe even close to 10 percent,  
16 it's really closer to 20 to 22 percent. The  
17 reporting regulations were changed in the  
18 Regan administration to eliminate people  
19 from the report if they quote/unquote stop  
20 seeking work, but the numbers are still  
21 there and talking the numbers of human  
22 beings are still there, and the numbers of  
23 unemployed are still there and the numbers  
24 are homeless are growing and the problems  
25 are a growing problem.

1                   I think city council could use one  
2                   of it's two powers here for good. Not the  
3                   legislative powers described in the Home  
4                   Rule Charter, I'm talking about kind of a  
5                   bully pulpit power. We are talking about  
6                   adults, we are talking about city council  
7                   people as adults, why don't we get all of  
8                   the players that be and have them come in  
9                   and sit down and take a good look at this  
10                  problem and see what could be done here.

11                  I think what could be done is that  
12                  Bishop Hannon High School be used for this.  
13                  The Scranton Catholic Diocese owns that  
14                  building and right now the Scranton Catholic  
15                  Diocese would probably be very receptive to  
16                  doing something like this. The Diocese has  
17                  had six years of shall we say trauma. Very  
18                  difficult times without being too specific  
19                  about that we all know what we are talking  
20                  about here. The Diocese has had a really  
21                  rough time, but now that that period is  
22                  over, I think now the Diocese just may look  
23                  at this as something that could be done.  
24                  The mission of the Catholic church is to the  
25                  poor and the homeless. This fits hand and

1 glove, they have that facility. It would be  
2 very easy to modify that facility. It is  
3 one diagonal block away from the soup  
4 kitchen that the church already runs, and  
5 the church along with the state government  
6 is already greatly involved in social  
7 projects.

8 St. James Place is something that --  
9 is a place where prisoners coming  
10 out-of-state prison go through there and get  
11 assimilated into society so the church and  
12 the social issues works with state  
13 government.

14 I think that we have an opportunity  
15 here to bring together the players to be,  
16 social workers the University and Marywood  
17 social sociology departments could help.  
18 The Reverend Catherine Simmons knows ten  
19 million times more about this than I do, she  
20 would certainly be a welcome player to this.  
21 I think we should do something to take care  
22 of this problem and take care of it once and  
23 for all because we have a marvelous facility  
24 to do it with, where there are probably  
25 going to be a lot of people around that

1 would help with this. Why don't we  
2 investigate this and with city council being  
3 the catalyst to bring people together and to  
4 investigate it.

5 I think we could wipe this problem  
6 out forever if we simply take a good look at  
7 it and once we do this with the school, it's  
8 something that has been done in this country  
9 many times before. In the 1930's in  
10 particular cities where you thought they had  
11 no money at all started building soup  
12 kitchens and homeless shelters and they  
13 managed to do it with very, very little in  
14 the way of financing, and I think we are  
15 running into the city same situation as a  
16 nation, and I don't think we should ignore  
17 our history of helping people in the time of  
18 a depression. Let's face it, the recession  
19 may be over for the economists, but the  
20 depression is just beginning for a lot of  
21 people here. Thank you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South  
24 Scranton resident and member of the  
25 Taxpayers' Association. I will repeat

1 myself from last week, in the local  
2 metropolitan area 5.7 percent of mortgage  
3 payments are 90 days or more delinquent.  
4 This figure is up 48 percent from 2008,  
5 which was only last year. Metropolitan area  
6 is Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton.  
7 Residents will be forced to make a decision  
8 do I pay my taxes or do I pay my mortgage.

9 We will see some of this in 2010 and  
10 a much larger percentage in 2011. Along  
11 with taxes being raised, all the utility  
12 bills are being raised, this will cause a  
13 problem for a large portion of the Scranton  
14 population. Elected officials must pay  
15 attention to this before they vote on any  
16 issue. When the citizens fall behind on  
17 their taxes and the collection agency starts  
18 coming after them for the tax money and the  
19 fines and the fees, my belief is Scranton  
20 will become a ghost town or just another  
21 stop on the Interstate.

22 Unless Mr. Austin Burke finds some  
23 good paying jobs for the area and the city  
24 government rescinds that ridiculous law that  
25 includes all of those ridiculous fines and

1 penalties, remember, the citizens and  
2 taxpayers are not responsible for the debt.  
3 The elected officials and appointed  
4 officials are. The citizens are only  
5 responsible for paying off that debt and  
6 paying the fines and penalties.

7 It was nice to hear about Princeton  
8 Review Incorporated purchasing Scranton  
9 based Penn-Foster Education Group. Now we  
10 wait and see how many jobs and what the  
11 salary will be. Hopefully Scranton  
12 residents will be hired. I'll be looking at  
13 that very closely.

14 Times-Tribune, 15 October 2009, had  
15 Mr. Austin Burke as their guest columnist.  
16 He stated in the article, "Community  
17 business education partnerships provide  
18 another impetus for improvement. Teachers,  
19 students and parents can learn about the  
20 availability of good careers in Northeastern  
21 Pennsylvania, programs such as Career First,  
22 job shadowing, facility tours and academic  
23 performance in the real world success."

24 The next day, Times-Tribune, 16  
25 October 2009, "Job fair attendees seek

1 anything. Anything with a recurring theme  
2 in this year's Northeast Job Fair."

3 A 22-year-old stated, "I live at  
4 home. I'm anxious to work and leave the  
5 area, but still attended the job fair  
6 looking for anything."

7 By the way, this person has two  
8 degrees, one in marketing and mathematics.  
9 Who did you believe, Mr. Burke or the people  
10 who are out there looking for a job?

11 Times-Tribune, 20 October 2009,  
12 "Jobs might not come back economists say,  
13 recession may have permanently altered the  
14 US economy."

15 Another good reason to get rid of  
16 the collection agency and those ridiculous  
17 fines and penalties.

18 Also, I would like for city council  
19 tonight to possibly pass an amendment to the  
20 OECD and try to get some free swimming in  
21 there for the Nay Aug Park for kids 15 years  
22 old and under. I believe tonight is the  
23 last vote on that. If we can get an  
24 amendment because the local citizens and  
25 businessmen and woman have contributed for

1 the last three years and we have sponsored  
2 over 12 events which was paid for by the  
3 generosity of the Scranton citizens and  
4 business people, so if council would be kind  
5 enough to amend that and see if we can get  
6 some OECD money for the Free Swim Program at  
7 Nay Aug Park. Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Andy Sbaraglia.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
10 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. I  
11 listened to Mr. Barrett's figures on the  
12 Scranton Sewer Authority, but you didn't  
13 bring up American Anglican, the one they  
14 rushed to get rid of, I don't know why.  
15 Wouldn't we have been much better off if we  
16 let the Germans run the Sewer authority than  
17 what we got now.

18 If you remember, the mayor had to  
19 come up with \$5 million and that's why you  
20 can't vote on any raises. I don't know if  
21 you've checked with your lawyer that he read  
22 the contract and give you an opinion if what  
23 the mayor does was legal, because he took  
24 power away from you and I don't believe you  
25 should have sat there and took. I believe



1           you should have fought for it.

2                         And the man was referring to over  
3           capacity, but he didn't say anything about  
4           the leachate line coming from Dunmore. I  
5           wish Mr. Bolus was here because that's his  
6           pet project. How much that's putting in and  
7           he also mentioned something about  
8           phosphorous and fertilizer. How much is  
9           that coming because all that stuff coming  
10          from New York they don't differentiate like  
11          we do. We try to recycle, they don't, so  
12          that stuff is coming into the landfill, God  
13          knows what, and maybe a lot of them problems  
14          that we have with that Sewer Authority is  
15          caused by that leachate line, and you sat by  
16          and you watched them take part in Moosic and  
17          add them to our system, so we are in effect  
18          paying for some Moosic's leachate and so  
19          forth, and they are not paying our rate,  
20          they are paying their rate like as if we  
21          didn't exist, so in hence we are out there  
22          kissing the people of Moosic and we are  
23          paying part of their sewer bill and God  
24          knows what we are going to be paying for  
25          that sewer bill.

1 Nobody really looks ahead except the  
2 mayor. He saw 200 million dollars of  
3 contracts. That is the main reason why  
4 American Anglican got thrown out of there.  
5 Contracts. The heart of the system. If you  
6 want to run for anything you need money and  
7 nothing gives you more money than contracts.  
8 I always said before, the whole system  
9 depends on two things contracts and  
10 patronage and the poor people on the outside  
11 they are not on the inside, they suffer and  
12 they will continue to suffer until they wake  
13 up and realize don't vote bipartisan, don't  
14 vote by name, vote with your brain. Look at  
15 the candidates and understand the  
16 candidates. That's your only hope for a  
17 better society anyway and we lack it in  
18 Scranton. We do lack it.

19 As they said before, too many of us  
20 are Democrats and we vote straight. That's  
21 not the way to do it. You got to vote with  
22 your brain if you hope for a better future.  
23 There is lot of things on the agenda, but I  
24 thought the sewer system being that it was  
25 brought up would be a good topic to speak

1 about. I have been following some of them  
2 for years. I have been following some  
3 things they may do to correct it.

4 And there is also a system where  
5 they said they can put classic pipe in the  
6 liners throughout the system and they also  
7 told me, I used to talk to some of the  
8 people that used to be on the board of the  
9 Sewer Authority, and they said a lot of the  
10 pipes in Scranton are loaded with sediments  
11 and whatever runs, dirt and so forth and so  
12 on, and that sewer authority slows some of  
13 the water down, so I don't know what  
14 happened if we ever get nice clean pipes  
15 that water would through like crazy in the  
16 places. Well, enough on the Sewer  
17 Authority. We are stuck with what we got  
18 until it can be changed. Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Lynn Bloom.

20 MS. BLOOM: Good evening, Council.  
21 I'm going to start with a little old joke, I  
22 probably won't tell it well, forgive me. A  
23 young woman was getting married and her  
24 mother was teaching her how to make her  
25 grandmother's potroast. So she said, "You

1 cut the potroast in half and you put 1/2 in  
2 this pan and 1/2 in the other and you bake  
3 it at 350 for two and half hours."

4 One day the young bride said,  
5 "Grandma, why do I cut the potroast in half  
6 and put it in two separate pans?"

7 The grandmother replied, "I don't  
8 know why you are doing it, I don't have a  
9 pan big enough to fit the whole potroast."

10 That's kind of the feeling I got  
11 from the comments from one of the council  
12 members last week, and I'm quoting from the  
13 Times so if I misspeak blame the Times. I  
14 brought up guns in the audience, I suggested  
15 change of venue, it doesn't cost much, it  
16 doesn't have to worry about anybody being  
17 sued. The response was: "Council has met  
18 here for I don't know how long and probably  
19 will continue to meet her for the  
20 foreseeable future."

21 Why? Safety is an issue. Just  
22 because you have always done something the  
23 same way does not make it appropriate in the  
24 here and now. The same could be said about  
25 women's right to vote, slavery, just because

1           you do something the same way doesn't make  
2           it okay. I'm not going to belabor the  
3           point, I was just somewhat offended by the  
4           inane comment that I read in the paper the  
5           next day.

6                     One of the council members mentioned  
7           lawsuits. This is a democracy. We have  
8           limited recourse when we do not agree with  
9           our government. I don't want to live  
10          through a coo or a riot, so suing whether we  
11          like to admit it or not is the American way.  
12          We have a Sewer Authority answering lawsuits  
13          from the federal government, that is the  
14          problem with lawsuits in this city. Not  
15          private citizens sticking to their beliefs  
16          and challenging a government that they feel  
17          is inaccurate, nonresponsive, unfriendly and  
18          sometimes downright hostile and they -- I  
19          have seen it -- I have been watching you  
20          folks for two and a half years.

21                     You are elected officials. You are  
22          held to a higher standard than your  
23          constituents. If you can't be held to a  
24          higher standard don't run for office. It's  
25          not tit-for-tat. You are on a dais, I'm at

1 a podium. We are not equal from the moment  
2 I start speaking. That is there for a  
3 reason. That's to display power, this is to  
4 place subjectivity. You don't need to beat  
5 people up, you don't need to make facetious  
6 comments. My mother always told me, don't  
7 lower yourselves to other people's level,  
8 you rise them up to yours.

9 My last point. I really wanted to  
10 be a one hit wonder last week, honest to God  
11 I did, but it's not going to happen in this  
12 city. It's not. One voice isn't good  
13 enough. Comments that I read in the paper  
14 yesterday prove that no matter how factual  
15 or reality based an argument might be an  
16 opinion on this council seems to carry more  
17 weight.

18 NCC. Ms. Fanucci said, "We have to  
19 get our bills paid."

20 Yes, the city does need the bills  
21 paid, but we also have acts going through  
22 Congress and laws coming into effect because  
23 creditors were raping the American public.  
24 You want to tack on fees, fine. There is  
25 late fees. You want to tack on exorbitant

1 fees for people that can't already make ends  
2 meet, what's the point? Do you want a  
3 solution or do you want what you want?

4 From my perspective, a lot of this  
5 city is run by "I want what I want and I  
6 want it now." Not what's good for the  
7 constituents, not what is good for the  
8 long-term future and not what is good for my  
9 child. I brought him here. I have a vested  
10 interest in giving him the best I can. I  
11 think you all should think about that  
12 because we are all going to God willing  
13 before our offspring and our grandchildren.  
14 They will be the ones paying the price for  
15 what you all decide today. Thank you very  
16 much.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Joe Dwyer.

18 MR. DWYER: Joe Dwyer, taxpayer,  
19 disgruntled taxpayer. Last week  
20 Mr. Courtright made a couple -- or asked a  
21 couple of questions of me last week, I'm  
22 sorry, I don't know why I'm nervous, but I  
23 am. And I want to apologize for saying that  
24 you weren't compassionate. I appreciate you  
25 taking the time and trying to help that

1 woman and her children, but because she  
2 didn't want to accept your help please don't  
3 take that one and say that the other ones  
4 don't.

5 When I was coming home from work the  
6 other morning I noticed somebody was  
7 sleeping in their car as well, and at 5:30  
8 in the morning I wanted to go and approach  
9 them, but I feared that I would upset more  
10 than I would be able to help them so I let  
11 them go. I went back later on in the day  
12 they were gone, but this weekend I had the  
13 opportunity to spend a whole day with  
14 somebody was hopeless and he has been  
15 homeless for eight years. And we were down  
16 at the mall and then we went up to Old  
17 Country Buffet for a bite to eat, and as we  
18 went about our day I just observed how  
19 people were receiving him, and I compared  
20 him to and I compared me.

21 This gentleman comes from a fine  
22 family in the community. His brother asked  
23 me to get him out of the woods, and I can't  
24 get him out. I got him into my home, but he  
25 wouldn't stay. This man dresses up in



1 garbage bags and covers them with a jacket.  
2 He wouldn't even accept a jacket from me, he  
3 is that proud. But the looks from the  
4 people most were how can I help, but didn't  
5 know how to go about asking how to help.

6 It's the same response I feel I'm  
7 getting from you. I appreciate your  
8 sincerity in what you are trying to do. I  
9 appreciate your wanting to help. We need to  
10 do something to help. Unfortunately, this  
11 administration under Mayor Doherty has been  
12 a roadblock to people who have been trying  
13 to help. Reverend Bill Schultz from the  
14 Scranton Rescue Mission had a grandiose plan  
15 of how he could house the homeless and how  
16 he can put people to work. He was rebuffed  
17 time and time again here. He did the  
18 project down in Wilkes-Barre.

19 We did the same project called the  
20 Dream Center, the House of Hope in  
21 Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina, and we  
22 put people to work. It was like a -- it is  
23 like a University setting where the people  
24 live and work in the same place, and they  
25 graduate with a certificate or a some kind

1 of a diploma. The same thing can happen  
2 here. We are doing it with the Goodwill, we  
3 are doing it with Allied Services, but when  
4 we see -- when we step up it's like we are  
5 stepping on somebody's protected turf and as  
6 soon as we go about doing something we get  
7 all of the black against us and people just  
8 go out of their way to destroy whatever we  
9 are trying to do. That isn't right.

10 Acquiring blighted properties, and  
11 there's lots of money through President  
12 Obama's Homeless Initiative Program, there  
13 is lots of money available. We went to  
14 Representative Murphy and Smith. They were  
15 gung-ho to help us. First they had a check  
16 with Mayor Doherty, the door was closed. It  
17 was.

18 When the gentleman was here from the  
19 Sewer Authority he talked about rooftop  
20 gardening. Those are viable projects in  
21 Portland, Oregon, New York City, Washington  
22 D.C., and there is money available for that.  
23 It's called rooftop gardening and a lot of  
24 people are doing it across the country and  
25 it's one way of saving the rain water from

1 going into the sewer. We wanted to do that  
2 again, we wanted to do that here and we were  
3 turned down.

4 There is so many things, so many  
5 people who want to help in this community,  
6 but every time we step out the door is  
7 slammed in our face. I'm just here as a  
8 concerned citizen, concerned not only the  
9 people who are the working poor and the  
10 homeless, but you as well because all of  
11 this is falling back on the taxpayers'  
12 pocket. We are overtaxed, underserved and  
13 we need a lot of help and there is help  
14 available and there is hands that are  
15 willing to be put forth.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

17 MR. DWYER: Thank you very much for  
18 your time.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Hello. Good  
21 evening, Council. Marie Schumacher,  
22 resident and member of the Taxpayers'  
23 Association. I think I gained five pounds  
24 just listening to Mrs. Evans' announcements  
25 tonight. That was a lot of food.

1 I'd like to start off tonight, I  
2 noticed that the people who are angry  
3 citizens and oppose guns are getting press,  
4 so I thought if you have to come to the  
5 podium to say that you are not intimidated  
6 by open carrying persons I'm here to make  
7 that my first comment tonight. I was not  
8 offended and I do not have a problem. I  
9 actually felt safer when people are --  
10 responsible people are carrying.

11 Next, I just wanted to comment again  
12 on another article that was in the  
13 Times-Tribune. I noticed that a community  
14 group in South Abington is trying to raise  
15 \$40,000 to build a dog park in their own  
16 community. They have a one-acre lot and  
17 theirs is \$40,000. Anybody recall how much  
18 ours cost? A magnitude of difference. We  
19 immediate to tighten our belt in everything  
20 we do.

21 Next, for Mr. Courtright I have a  
22 question, also in the paper was  
23 firefighters, and this happens to be Dunmore  
24 asking for no more cuts and saying they are  
25 cutting back. Is it not true that we in

1 Scranton have an agreement with Dunmore?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: We have a reciprocal  
3 agreement, yes. If there is a fire here and  
4 we need help they come and vice versa.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know they have --  
6 what about -- is there any compensation  
7 given and what is it going to do to  
8 Scranton's safety if Dunmore cuts back to  
9 solve their problems and our firefighters  
10 are deployed to Dunmore and we are  
11 uncovered? Is anybody talking with the  
12 Borough of Dunmore about how this could  
13 impact Scranton?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't think there  
15 is any money exchanged and if they cut back  
16 to save themselves, then I think we are  
17 going to have to step in and say something.  
18 We can't continually fight their fires for  
19 free, if that's what's going to happen.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's just not just  
21 the money, it's our own public safety. We  
22 are paying for these firefighters and, you  
23 know, we could use some more of our own and  
24 if our public safety is going to be impacted  
25 I think the time to talk is now. They are

1           announcing the fact of what they are doing,  
2           we shouldn't wait until we have a real  
3           problem or maybe even a tragedy in our own  
4           city because of actions they have taken if  
5           we, in fact, have these cooperative  
6           agreement.

7                        Next, the action 7-A tonight, again,  
8           I have spoken on this several times. The  
9           first item that I believe can be cut, I  
10          don't know if any of you took the time to  
11          walk down the street one block and walk that  
12          corner from around the Parking Authority's  
13          original structure, on North Washington and  
14          Linden, even one of the really bad pavements  
15          has been repaired. I think maybe it might  
16          have been damaged by somebody moving in or  
17          out, but one of those has already been  
18          repaired and that's a good place to cut way,  
19          way back because if you took the time to go  
20          down you will see some minor repairs are  
21          required.

22                       I saw some pictures on the Doherty  
23          Deceit website of the parking -- or  
24          the pavement in front of our almost brand  
25          new police headquarters and it looks far

1 worse than what it is down here at the  
2 corner of North Washington and Linden, so I  
3 think some money could be taken away from  
4 that project, \$150,000, and used better.

5 And, of course, one of the things I  
6 would like to see it used for is transferred  
7 some to the Kids Swim Free Project, and also  
8 there is no funding this year that I was  
9 able to identify that deals with the  
10 emergency utility bill help in the past. I  
11 believe the Salvation Army received funds, I  
12 don't know whether they didn't apply this  
13 year, but I think we are going to need that  
14 kind of money and I will be back next week  
15 with some more items, God Lord willing.  
16 Thank you.

17 Oh, one more, may I? Next -- in two  
18 weeks we are going to be having an election  
19 and I do hope since it's getting to be  
20 budget time that that meeting, I assume you  
21 won't meet on election day, but that will be  
22 reschedule to maybe Thursday night that  
23 meeting? Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Jim Stucker?

25 MR. STUCKER: How are you doing,

1 Courtright?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Jim, how are  
3 you?

4 MR. STUCKER: I got a new bike.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: You got a new one?  
6 Good. Lock this one up so they don't steal  
7 it.

8 MR. STUCKER: Mental Health got it  
9 for me.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Who?

11 MR. STUCKER: Mental Health.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, that's good.

13 MR. STUCKER: They got me the money  
14 for it.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's good, Jim.

16 MR. STUCKER: Okay, on the  
17 Greenridge, there is a house there now, the  
18 red one, they are supposed to tear it down,  
19 somebody took the board off.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: They took the  
21 boards off?

22 MR. STUCKER: They took the one  
23 board off.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. We'll tell  
25 them to put that back up, Jim.



1 MR. STUCKER: Hamm Court, people is  
2 complaining. There is garbage out there and  
3 the people that lives in the alley they are  
4 throwing garbage all over and they won't  
5 pick it up and put it in the barrels, and  
6 the city won't do it. The city won't take  
7 it and pick it up and put it in the barrels  
8 of the truck.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just give Neil the  
10 address and we'll have them look at that.

11 MR. STUCKER: Hamm court, that's all.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: We need to know what  
13 block of Hamm Court, Jim.

14 MR. STUCKER: It's the whole block,  
15 the Hamm Court.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. All right.

17 MR. STUCKER: And I don't know why  
18 you don't take the old Salvation Army in  
19 South Side and make that a place for the  
20 people that sleep under the bridge, a lot of  
21 them do, I seen them. Salvation Army in  
22 South Side, they should take that building  
23 and make a place for the people to sleep up  
24 underneath the bridge. Wintertime is  
25 coming, they should take the school up in

1 North Scranton and take that old school and  
2 put beds in there, and a couple of windows  
3 or paint them and put people in there to  
4 sleep. They should do that. Why can't did  
5 they do it?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think they could,  
7 Jim.

8 MR. STUCKER: They got to put their  
9 mind to it because I feel sorry for some of  
10 these people that sleep out underneath the  
11 bridge. Fourteen, 15, 16, 17 year old girls  
12 underneath the bridge with these guys.  
13 That's no good.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I know, Jim, you are  
15 right.

16 MR. STUCKER: And I give Mr. McGoff  
17 a note.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, he showed me.

19 MR. STUCKER: They want that house  
20 tore down bad.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

22 MR. STUCKER: Real, real bad.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: We'll be on it.

24 MR. STUCKER: And our place has been  
25 good where I live. Now, where the alley is,

1           it's not the alley, but -- I can't think.  
2           Right by the courthouse square, that road  
3           has never been paved. And why can't they  
4           take the money for this bridge and use it  
5           for the roads? They should take half of  
6           that money and repair the roads. The roads  
7           are bad, Hyde Park is bad, Parrot Avenue is  
8           bad.

9                         MR. COURTRIGHT: They paved Parrot,  
10           Jim.

11                        MR. STUCKER: Well, Greenridge is  
12           bad.

13                        MR. COURTRIGHT: It took 6 years,  
14           Jim, but they paved it.

15                        MR. STUCKER: Because Greenridge is  
16           real bad. Real, real bad. They got to do  
17           something with these roads, they are going  
18           to bust tires. Pat had to get new tires  
19           today and he told me to tell you,  
20           Courtright, it's his birthday Sunday.

21                        MR. COURTRIGHT: Pat's birthday is  
22           Sunday?

23                        MR. STUCKER : Yeah.

24                        MR. COURTRIGHT: He is having a  
25           party?

1 MR. STUCKER: He did already.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: He did.

3 MR. STUCKER: Yeah.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: You wait to tell me  
5 after the fact.

6 MR. STUCKER: He never told me. He  
7 wanted to keep a secret party, so --

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

9 MR. STUCKER: Everybody is  
10 complaining about you having the bike.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: What's that?

12 MR. STUCKER: Everybody is telling me  
13 you have the bike.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: No. You got a new  
15 bike.

16 MR. STUCKER: I said every time I  
17 turn around they yelling and bitching about  
18 it.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll see you at the  
20 Christmas party, all right?

21 MR. STUCKER: Where.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: You know where.

23 MR. STUCKER: Last year they threw me  
24 out the door, the back door.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's Ronnie. We

1 are going to tell Ronnie to behave himself.

2 MR. STUCKER: Ronnie did.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ronnie did, I know.

4 He will behave this year.

5 MR. STUCKER: Are you going to Mayor

6 Doherty's -- not Doherty, are you going to

7 Gary DiBileo's party?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure.

9 MR. STUCKER: Win this election for

10 us.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: What is what?

12 MR. STUCKER: When this election for

13 us?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's on a Tuesday,

15 election day? Tuesday, November 3.

16 MR. STUCKER: I have been going -- I

17 have been going up Market Street at the fire

18 station. I don't know why they can't change

19 my address to Scranton here.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: You have to change,

21 Jim, because you moved downtown.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Okay, Jim. Thank you.

23 MR. STUCKER: Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Les Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

1 Les Spindler, city resident and homeowner  
2 and taxpayer. Last week Ms. Fanucci asked  
3 the solicitor to look into drawing up  
4 legislation to prevent people from suing.  
5 Council has no authority to prevent people  
6 from suing. Anybody was a right to sue.  
7 It's up to the Courts to stop somebody from  
8 suing. If Chris Doherty didn't break  
9 contracts, didn't sell city assets people  
10 wouldn't have any reason to sue the city.

11 Mr. Courtright, something you said  
12 last week really bothered me. You said that  
13 the city they can condemn a house and tear  
14 it down without taking possession. That's  
15 unbelievable. That's really disconcerting  
16 to me.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: If it's a danger,  
18 you know. If it's a safety danger.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Well, there was an  
20 example where they -- somebody wasn't in the  
21 Doherty click, and I'll say it was Lee  
22 Morgan had a property, they condemned it  
23 because he is not in the click and Lee took  
24 it to Court and did win his case, so that's  
25 scares me that if you're not in the click

1           you could have your house condemned and  
2           possibly torn down.

3                       Every week there's a person on the  
4           Doherty newsletter online that makes  
5           comments about council speakers, and last  
6           week he said I was a hypocrite for talking  
7           about Mayor Doherty and who wants to run for  
8           Governor. He said why I don't go to the  
9           county commissioner meetings and criticize  
10          Corey O'Brien for running for Congress.  
11          Well, the reason I can't go to the  
12          commissioner meetings is that they are ten  
13          in the morning and I have a daytime job, so  
14          that makes it impossible for me to go to the  
15          commissioner meetings, you jerk.

16                      MR. MCGOFF: Please.

17                      MR. SPINDLER: Last Friday a  
18          Republican candidate for council called  
19          Steve Corbett and he said Mayor Doherty is  
20          supporting him. Corbett couldn't believe  
21          it. He said, "Wait a minute, a Democratic  
22          mayor is supporting a Republican candidate  
23          for council, and a Democratic mayor that  
24          wants to run for Governor."

25                      I find that hard to believe that a

1 Democratic mayor can support a Republican  
2 candidate and I hope the Democratic  
3 Committee and the state Democratic Committee  
4 take a good look at that when Chris Doherty  
5 wants to run for governor.

6 Last weekend, I think it might have  
7 been Saturday night, a city employee flipped  
8 his car on East Mountain Road, had a female  
9 companion in the car, when the police and  
10 ambulance got there the car was on it's  
11 side, when they got the person out of the  
12 car the employee had a nine-millimeter Glock  
13 on him, the police took him away in  
14 handcuffs, nothing in the Doherty newsletter  
15 about it, nothing on TV, it's just another  
16 case of this administration sweeping things  
17 under the carpet that they don't want put  
18 out in public.

19 Just like the two people that are on  
20 tape stealing Gary DiBileo's signs, Chief  
21 Elliott and Ray Hayes are sitting on that.  
22 They are sitting on it. This person is back  
23 to work, he is on the job, he should be in  
24 jail. If that was me I would be in jail and  
25 that's fact, and this is a fact, but it's



1 even possible that they said that person  
2 might have been drinking.

3 But it just goes to show that this  
4 is the most corrupt administration that we  
5 have ever had in this city and I hope  
6 something is done about it.

7 While I have a little more time, I  
8 just want to talk about something  
9 Mr. Barrett said from the Sewer Authority.  
10 He said they are going to defend the  
11 lawsuits against the EPA. All I have to say  
12 is what defense is there dumping a billion  
13 gallons of raw sewage in the Lackawanna  
14 River? To me there is no defense in that.

15 Lastly, we have two weeks to go  
16 until the election and, like I said, the  
17 past couple of weeks Mayor Doherty doesn't  
18 want to be mayor anymore so let's write  
19 somebody in that wants to be mayor and only  
20 mayor and let's do the right thing and write  
21 in the right person on election day. Thank  
22 you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Joe Talimini.

24 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini and for  
25 once I find I'm agreeing with council. I do

1           applaud Mr. Barrett for showing up here. I  
2           would love to see the other authority  
3           directors showing up if they have the guts  
4           to do so, but I doubt it very much.

5                        I would like to point out something  
6           that Mr. Barrett said. He is doing a study,  
7           a comparison to Portland, Oregon, if that's  
8           going to be the case I hope you people  
9           realize something, Portland, Oregon is  
10          probably 15 times the size of Scranton,  
11          population of approximately 1 million. It  
12          is a deep river port. As a matter of fact,  
13          every June they have 21 warships from around  
14          the world who come into the Willamette  
15          River, which is a tributary of the Columbian  
16          river, and they park right in the center of  
17          town. The Willamette river separates the  
18          north and south of Portland, so it's a deep  
19          port, deep river port.

20                      They also have some fantastic  
21          proposals up there. I mean, they use not  
22          only hindsight but foresight as opposed to  
23          this administration where these people, past  
24          administrations, can't make up their mind  
25          which is hindsight and which is foresight,

1 but Portland is an excellent place to study,  
2 however, I would imagine that you will take  
3 into consideration that the cost up there is  
4 probably far more excessive than our cost  
5 would be here, however, it is also a major  
6 industrial port.

7 It is a major city between San  
8 Francisco and Seattle, the only major city  
9 between San Francisco and Seattle so they  
10 account for just about the entire state of  
11 Oregon, lower half of Washington and the  
12 other half the California, so just take into  
13 consideration those things when Mr. Barrett  
14 offers his proposals.

15 I noticed on the agenda tonight, I  
16 guess it's 7-B, 7-C and 7-D we are talking  
17 about the existing traffic signal on West  
18 Linden for the Mt. Pleasant Corporate Center  
19 project, Mt. Pleasant Corporate Center  
20 Project, Mt. Pleasant Corporate Center  
21 Project. If there are three proposals on  
22 here for modifications then I still don't  
23 understand why you people cannot enact  
24 legislation to the modification of the light  
25 at Mulberry and Wyoming.



1           about my favorite mayor. I just sort of  
2           when I walk the dog at night I've just been  
3           comparing the similarities between  
4           Mr. Rendell and Mr. Doherty and whether some  
5           people appreciate me saying it or not I  
6           think Mr. Doherty is just a shoe-in for  
7           governor after comparing the two of them.

8                         Now, listen, both of them are the  
9           absolute mayors their respective cities ever  
10          had, bar none. Both of them are just --  
11          they're just not qualified for such a high  
12          position. Both of them just show nothing  
13          but disdain and contempt for the lower  
14          income people, you can see it just in all of  
15          their actions and I think they are just both  
16          just on the state gravy train for their own  
17          financial and political enhancement.

18                        They both just protect the wealthy  
19          from KOZ's and tax exemptions and so on, but  
20          I do see a light at the end of the tunnel.  
21          I find Mr. Rendell personable, friendly, you  
22          know, he looks like he's alive when you talk  
23          to him and see him on TV, but Mr. Doherty is  
24          devoid of these attributes. He is just  
25          unfriendly, aloof, arrogant and he thinks

1 eating a hot dog once a month or once a year  
2 with Joe Snedeker on television makes him  
3 one of the people and he will never be one  
4 of the people, thank goodness.

5 And now that I've many alienated  
6 everybody let me say something. I was  
7 talking to a couple today at Redner's that  
8 live at the Midtown apartments and they tell  
9 me they have a fear of losing them, and I  
10 said I agree with them. I think  
11 Mr. Doherty's plan is to take those  
12 apartments away and scatter them to the  
13 winds just like he took away their  
14 playground and just like he took away the  
15 apartments across the street waiting to gain  
16 to say they are too deteriorated and we need  
17 to tear them down. These people need to get  
18 on a vote for a good honest, new government.  
19 Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Joanne Williams.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Joanne  
22 Williams, city resident. First, I'd like to  
23 say someone came up here and spoke of  
24 some -- Mayor's Doherty supporting a  
25 Republican candidate. Let's remember, Mayor

1 Doherty won the primary on both the Democrat  
2 and Republican side.

3 Also, another thing, too, I don't  
4 think Mayor Doherty has ever shut the door  
5 on homeless people. He is not that kind of  
6 individual or man, he is a caring man.

7 Now, on October 27, next Tuesday,  
8 was to be a debate for candidates running  
9 for city council scheduled at Brennan Hall  
10 by the Women League of Voters, however, I  
11 heard it has been cancelled due to the fact  
12 that Mrs. Evans will not attend due to her  
13 Tuesday night council meeting and not only  
14 Mrs. Evans, but also her two team members  
15 would not show up for this debate.

16 I don't understand this, Mrs. Evans.  
17 I know you have missed council meetings in  
18 the past. I feel this debate should be a  
19 high priority for you. Why are you a no  
20 show with your team and why can't your two  
21 team members debate without you? The three  
22 of you are really -- that's really showing  
23 leadership. I mean, people need to hear a  
24 debate. I was just wondering, you know, do  
25 the other two need you there to debate? You

1 can you answer later at your time.

2 Also, last Thursday I attended the  
3 taxpayers' group interviewing candidates.  
4 Mrs. Evans while were -- I heard you were so  
5 upset that I was sitting in these chambers  
6 and that I was taking notes. I heard you  
7 were appalled that I was sitting in the  
8 chair you are sitting in, but there was also  
9 other people sitting in those chairs so they  
10 could face candidates. Mr. Quinn asked me  
11 to leave the meeting because he thought I  
12 was Mr. Miller's campaign manager. I told  
13 him that that was not true, so I was able to  
14 remain. These chambers have been taken over  
15 not by city taxpayers and the people of  
16 Scranton who believe, you know, and have  
17 positives, there is negative, too, positive  
18 Scrantonians don't want to be associated  
19 with the fiasco here every week. I really  
20 don't want to be here either to be honest  
21 with you.

22 The next night a campaign sign was  
23 stolen from my front yard, but you see I  
24 have cameras all around my home and I saw  
25 who did this to no surprise. I am letting



1           that person think hard about trespassing on  
2           my property and the consequences that will  
3           come with this because truly only me and the  
4           shadow knows who took it. Thank you.

5                     MR. MCGOFF: Ozzie Quinn.

6                     MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, president  
7           of the Scranton taxpayers. I would be  
8           remiss if I didn't say that Joanne Williams  
9           is trying to make an issue out of a  
10          nonissue. It's ashame that somebody can  
11          come up here and so blatantly accuse  
12          Democrats, you know, of doing something or  
13          Republicans of doing something and she is  
14          prancing all around the city with a  
15          Republican trying to get the vote for what's  
16          his name, Dougy, who sat here as a junior  
17          councilman. I hate to see him up there as a  
18          councilman, I really do and with all due  
19          respect to the kid. I don't think he can  
20          handle the job.

21                    MR. MCGOFF: Please.

22                    MR. QUINN: I want to speak a little  
23          bit about the Sewer Authority was here and  
24          Mr. Barrett. He didn't mention the fact  
25          that last year Mr. Doherty hired 38

1 individuals down at the Sewer Authority with  
2 the lowest wage at \$35,000. That's around a  
3 million dollars he could have saved the  
4 taxpayers. He won't mention things like  
5 that. He didn't mention how he circumvented  
6 the council here, as Andy Sbaraglia said,  
7 for that \$5 million contract with American  
8 Water. He circumvented an ordinance just so  
9 you people wouldn't have anything to do with  
10 them raising us 56 percent.

11 Now, you take, Mr. McGoff, you said  
12 up front that you said that the 2008 audit  
13 is finished and clean; right?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MR. QUINN: The exit audit, right?  
16 If it's clean, what's the debt? When you  
17 say the debt is clean?

18 MR. MCGOFF: No, they offered what is  
19 called a clean opinion.

20 MR. QUINN: What's the debt?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I explained what it  
22 meant. I'll try and find -- I don't want to  
23 be misquoted.

24 MR. QUINN: I want your definition  
25 of clean.

1 MR. MCGOFF: A clean opinion.

2 MR. QUINN: Clean opinion.

3 MR. MCGOFF: The figures presented to  
4 them are free of any material misstatement.

5 MR. QUINN: I'm not asking that, I  
6 want to know the debt.

7 MR. MCGOFF: You asked me what a  
8 clean opinion meant and I gave you what that  
9 definition was.

10 MR. QUINN: I also asked -- I want to  
11 know the debt. Do have you it there?

12 MR. MCGOFF: I don't have it.

13 MR. QUINN: Well, in 2007 we were in  
14 the hole \$107 million principle, but we were  
15 long-term debt a quarter of a billion  
16 dollars, can you imagine that, and we are  
17 going to go into this year's budget and  
18 Mr. Doherty is going to come before this  
19 council and try to pass a budget, and I  
20 don't know if they filled the hole in the  
21 budget for 2009, did he? Anybody know? I  
22 mean, we still have a hole in the 2009  
23 budget.

24 Well, you know, how can we do a  
25 budget in 2010 when we don't have an audit,

1 we have 2008 budget with a big deficit and  
2 here the fact is we have bonds that are  
3 comparable to junk bonds, you know, it's  
4 just ridiculous and he won't -- he wants to  
5 make loans, he won't make loans because  
6 there won't be able to be loans, but he will  
7 try to refinance the debt and if it gets  
8 a -- if he gets his way he will get his way  
9 like he did on the last budget, what he's  
10 doing, he is an actually paying off one debt  
11 with a credit card thinking that that credit  
12 card will pay off the debt, and that's  
13 bizarre. A common eighth -- a common kid in  
14 eighth grade would know that that's bizarre.  
15 You can't do it and yet you have people come  
16 on up here and praise this man.

17 I mean, we are going to get taxed by  
18 the school board and maybe, you know,  
19 Mr. Doherty, my taxes, of course, it's after  
20 the election so we might have -- the Sewer  
21 Authority obviously millions of dollars, we  
22 are talking millions of dollars they throw  
23 it around like it's nickles, and the fact is  
24 that we are going to get a rate hike. How  
25 the heck is the people going to do it? You

1 know, if they don't do it they go to NCC and  
2 they'll get it.

3 My gosh, you know, you got to start  
4 looking out for the people. You know,  
5 Mr. Doherty's debt did not happen during the  
6 recession. That's a point of interest. It  
7 happened prior to the recession. He made a  
8 comment about the recession or Stu Renda did  
9 and that doesn't hold any water, okay. I  
10 know that was the 2007 audit and when did  
11 the recession start?

12 So I'm asking you please hold the  
13 line on the 2010 budget, cut the fat, hold  
14 the taxes, if we have to go into a skeleton  
15 crew we have to do it. That's the only way  
16 we are going to do it, and how can you face  
17 your neighbors if you can -- if you don't do  
18 something and do something about the budget  
19 and lower the taxes. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: David Dobrzyn.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
22 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton and member of  
23 the Taxpayers'. I'd also like to comment on  
24 that business in here with the prior  
25 speaker. I mean, it was played up like it

1 was a big hoopla and really, I mean, it's to  
2 be broadcast sometime in the near future, so  
3 I don't know what the secret is about it,  
4 but I can understand why somebody would be  
5 concerned about someone sitting there taking  
6 notes and whatever, it's just maybe our  
7 mistake we didn't close the meeting, maybe  
8 we should just close the meeting to anybody  
9 but the taxpayers when candidates are  
10 involved.

11 I do have a message to all  
12 candidates, and it's a personal thing with  
13 me, and I feel that one person up there  
14 that's running did say what I wanted to  
15 hear, pay bills before tax cuts. We can't  
16 run around and promise tax cuts to the very  
17 same people that maybe voted the wrong way  
18 and allowed these conditions to prevail.

19 On this road repair business, we  
20 really need, and I was debated about it, but  
21 90 percent of the problems I see with  
22 Scranton roads are caused by Scranton  
23 utility companies which are private entities  
24 and they are doing severely inadequate  
25 repairs and then they externalize their

1 liabilities on us. We have to go behind  
2 them and pave our roads or get somebody to  
3 patch it right and pay out of the taxpayers'  
4 pocket.

5 Also, downtown many of these  
6 intersections, and it was mentioned last  
7 week that we have a person hit on Washington  
8 and Lackawanna, well, we need a four-way  
9 stop. People just speed around the corner  
10 and assume that they can turn on the red or  
11 whatever and it's really getting bad. I go  
12 down there almost every week to visit a  
13 business and you have to run for your life  
14 to get across that corner.

15 And I'm kind of just following a few  
16 things that happened the last few weeks. On  
17 the gun issue, the only thing I like it  
18 remind people at one tote a gun openly or  
19 concealed is basically the mafia says if you  
20 wind up in court you lost already, so if you  
21 shoot somebody and have to defend yourself  
22 in a Court of law your life is basically  
23 over. You are looking at a quarter of a  
24 million dollars in defense fees probably and  
25 who could pay that out of an average person.

1           Your life would be ruined if you used that  
2           gun, so it's silly to run around and carry  
3           it in the first place.

4                        This NCC business, I really would  
5           like to see some of these penalties and fees  
6           lowered. You can't have people just say, "I  
7           can't pay the taxes."

8                        You don't know what they are doing,  
9           maybe they don't have the money, they  
10          probably don't, maybe they are taking too  
11          much trips down to Pocono Downs down there  
12          or something, but I'd really like to see the  
13          fees lowered when it's 300 percent more than  
14          what is owed, certainly taxes got to be  
15          collected, but that's not a big help. That  
16          just make it all the tougher to pay these  
17          taxes.

18                       And, Bill, you have a real job as  
19          are aware, I'm sure you are aware that the  
20          tax office is bought and sold, Single Tax  
21          Office has been sold.

22                       MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah.

23                       MR. DOBRZYN: You know. Hopefully,  
24          somebody from council can help you out and  
25          get after the commissioners. Do they have



1 any kind of location?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe the county  
3 commissioners are doing a study of every  
4 department and I think their goal is to try  
5 and house as many of them in the  
6 county-owned buildings if not long-term  
7 leases to be--

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Because all I seen in  
9 that building that they moved out of for the  
10 last four years is a bunch of magazines  
11 racks, you know, so --

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobzryn.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Somebody needed a place  
14 to rent it out, but, okay, I had hoped to  
15 get to homeless and trade packs, but try to  
16 support some of these people with these  
17 homeless issues as best you can and --

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: And we really need to  
20 lobby, lobby, lobby people higher up in  
21 government because it's not all of our  
22 problem, although, they are here and they  
23 human beings. Have a good nigh.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Any other speakers?  
25 Please.

1 MS. HUMPHRIES: I want to try to go  
2 down this fast, as best I know how. Praise  
3 be Jesus, Mary, Joseph. Hello, City of  
4 Scranton, all of city council. Last week  
5 the man had said he wanted to get land and  
6 he wanted to help the homeless, and I asked  
7 him, listen, I have a lot to offer. I would  
8 like to know where these homeless people are  
9 to help them. I know what it's like to be  
10 homeless. I know what it's like to be  
11 hungry I know what it's like to be rejected  
12 and God opened my eyes to the crippling  
13 situations here. He refused and said, "No  
14 way."

15 When a person says, "No way," when  
16 you want a helping hand and he is asking for  
17 land and all, I think that situation is in  
18 question at that point. We've got to come  
19 together. There is homeless -- you know  
20 where it is, if you would help me I would  
21 like to try to help them, that's number one.

22 Number two, right now Casey,  
23 Doherty, Rendell, Hillary Clinton, faxes  
24 were sent and documents to them, medical  
25 documents and all to show what has happened

1 to me and to know avail did they help me  
2 while they are helping in other countries.  
3 They got to get back here and help us people  
4 here, that's what I say about that deal.

5 I stopped at Kanjorski's office  
6 today and I told him that I thought, too.  
7 You know what they say, sometimes talk,  
8 talk, there is a little joke about that.

9 Mulberry Towers, they're constant --  
10 the elevators have been breaking down, they  
11 fixed them and they break down. This is a  
12 serious situation. I want to know why the  
13 inspectors are not over there and closing  
14 that place up. There is no -- the elderly  
15 are walking up the back steps with their  
16 wheelchairs and all, which I got pictures of  
17 that. It's time whoever the inspectors are  
18 get over to Mulberry Towers, get security  
19 guards over there and why when these people  
20 have these buildings from out of the state,  
21 out of the state area, what they do is they  
22 don't use our garbage disposal people, they  
23 use somebody else that they want. That to  
24 me is wrong. It's wrong. They should use  
25 our City of Scranton garbage people and pay

1           them. Enough is enough with these people  
2           coming in. That's the next thing; right.

3                     The other thing, the Woman's  
4           Resource Center, I'm going to leave this  
5           area to go to Washington because of the  
6           situation here, but I came back. In the  
7           process I asked them to go to Court here and  
8           they said, oh, I can't. Well, while are  
9           they getting all of this money and they have  
10          volunteers on the phone, where is the money  
11          going there? Why don't they have cars to  
12          take these women, these children or these  
13          men to the court to protect them? We need  
14          to look into that, also. That's another  
15          thing.

16                    What I feel at this point is I'm  
17          trying my best to try and get everything in  
18          real fast. God. There is the parking lot  
19          over there is like 200 some people and in  
20          the process -- in the front where the fire  
21          lane is whoever they don't like they tow the  
22          cars away. How are the people going to get  
23          out to get their groceries or if they put  
24          their groceries they park the car, the  
25          groceries are stolen. That's wrong. This

1 is what's going on in Mulberry Towers.

2 I wrote to the man, I called him,  
3 Laurie and Brandon stopped me from a  
4 situation where he was there, then she tells  
5 me because I am a garbage picker. I am a  
6 recycler and the other thing about the bugs  
7 and all of this stuff they she said she  
8 would evict me out of there, the next thing  
9 you know they are selling, Al Rich is  
10 selling plastic covers, 60 to \$100 for 20.  
11 Listen, go to Boscov's, you can get them for  
12 \$12.

13 They got to stop praying on us  
14 elderly people and our poor people and this  
15 man that owns this place and the people that  
16 are running it I don't care if they like it  
17 or not they ripped articles off my walls,  
18 religious articles, they damage my apartment  
19 every week to get my out of there, guess  
20 what? I am here, I am going to go for city  
21 council, at least I could say I tried and to  
22 make it a better place for everybody.  
23 That's about what's happening here.

24 And recycling, I came over here and  
25 I got Mayor Doherty's garbage, I just want

1 to show you. Homeland Security.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Why don't you save that  
3 next week.

4 MS. HUMPHRIES: DiBileo, vote for  
5 DiBileo for mayor.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Phyllis, thank you.

7 MS. HUMPHRIES: I love you. Take  
8 care.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

10 MS. HUMPHRIES: I'm getting better  
11 and I'm learning.

12 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Nelson  
13 Ancherani, First Amendment Rights. Still no  
14 work being done at the Connell building but  
15 we can't forget Ms. Aebli said, "Please be  
16 assured that the Connell building is still  
17 an active ongoing project. This office is  
18 in communication with Scranton Connell, LP,  
19 on a regular basis."

20 Is there any word on when Scranton  
21 LP will restart the project and how much  
22 money they are short? The project was a 23  
23 million project and it appears as far as  
24 they can progress is only working on gutting  
25 the building. There is a dumpster in front

1 of the building and the street is partially  
2 blocked, but the \$35 million parking garage  
3 constructions is progressing in a normal  
4 fashion.

5 If it costs \$23 million to only gut  
6 the building, how much more would be needed  
7 to finish it? What is going to happen to  
8 that building when the freezing weather gets  
9 here? The building is open to the elements  
10 as many windows are missing or open. Being  
11 opened to the elements during the freezing  
12 weather will really play havoc with that  
13 building. Oh, I forgot, how silly of me.  
14 We could have someone from the city after  
15 the money was spent starting gutting the  
16 building come in and say the building is  
17 unsafe, it's structurally unsound and it  
18 needs to be torn down. Just like the Casey  
19 Parkway was torn down after 267,000 was  
20 spent renovating it; 267,000 wasted and  
21 thrown into the black hole of the weigh  
22 station along with the \$2 million loss  
23 through accounting errors at the Single Tax  
24 Office under their last administration.

25 But, don't worry, that \$2,267,000

1 has lots of company in the wasted money pot.  
2 Don't forget the \$5.5 million arbitration  
3 loss of American Anglican resulting in a  
4 56 percent rate hike for us taxpayers  
5 because of it. That's 7,767,000 wasted, but  
6 when you think about it, if the Connell  
7 building was torn down, we could build  
8 another parking lot.

9 Two more council meetings and the  
10 2010 budget will be presented to council.  
11 Lights in city hall run at night while the  
12 administration burns the midnight oil  
13 working on the budget. I predict a record  
14 budget. Another 25 percent tax increase and  
15 another multi-million dollar loan. We will  
16 need the loan so we can pump more money into  
17 the Connell building project and also to  
18 fill the five million gap from the money  
19 that we don't get from the tax office that  
20 was anticipated for this year's budget. The  
21 thing to remember is that the 25 percent tax  
22 increase was passed by Ms. Fanucci, Ms.  
23 Gatelli and Mr. McGoff and he keeps going  
24 into every succeeding year just like the  
25 Energizer bunny or rabbit. I wonder how



1           much the Parking Scranton Authority will get  
2           for citation issuers. They got \$879,000  
3           this year on top of the 35 million loan in  
4           2007, and still are having trouble making  
5           their bond payments.

6                        What amount of raises will the favor  
7           get and how many new positions will be  
8           created? Will the director of public safety  
9           get the \$10,000 raise that was denied to him  
10          last year or will it be \$20,000 to make up  
11          for last year? Will there be layoffs in the  
12          clerical union, the lowest paid employees in  
13          the city to make it possible for the 10,000  
14          raises to be given out? How much  
15          cumulatively will the raises total this  
16          year? Last year raises and new hires  
17          totaled cumulatively 2003 -- 2002 through  
18          2009 twenty million.

19                      So be on the alert taxpayers, budget  
20          time is fast approaching. All your people  
21          out there get to the council meetings and  
22          speak up. Your money is as important for  
23          you to watch over as it is important to them  
24          to spend. Be alert. We already have a  
25          \$300 million debt to pay off. The only

1 conciliation is that our grandkids will help  
2 us pay it back, and I say that  
3 sarcastically. It is ashame that we are  
4 saddling our grandkids with our bills.  
5 Ashame. Thank you.

6 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
7 Good evening, Council. In response to a  
8 council member's request for information  
9 regarding frivolous lawsuits it seems that  
10 Mr. Pilchesksi's lawsuits are for the  
11 benefit of the taxpayers. For example, I'd  
12 like to cite one filed last month at Docket  
13 No. 09-5908. It's Joe Pilcheski versus Judy  
14 Gatelli, Foxco Insurance Management  
15 Services, Knowells Associates, Housing  
16 Redevelopment Insurance Exchange, Wright &  
17 Reihner law firm and the City of Scranton.

18 The lawsuit was filed over the  
19 \$30,000 that Housing and Redevelopment  
20 Insurance Exchange paid to the Wright and  
21 Reihner Law Firm for Mrs. Gatelli's legal  
22 costs. I find it odd that the Scranton  
23 Times-Tribune did not print a story on this  
24 since it has so much public interest  
25 considering \$30,000 is involved.

1                   At any rate, this lawsuit clearly  
2                   spells out that the city's insurance company  
3                   was wrong in issuing a check for Wright and  
4                   Reihner for \$30,000 since most of it was for  
5                   paying for legal services to Mrs. Gatelli's  
6                   private gain. The lawsuit demands the  
7                   return of the \$30,000.

8                   In response to the lawsuit, the  
9                   lawyer for Housing and Redevelopment  
10                  Insurance Exchange, Attorney Tom Ratchford,  
11                  filed an answer and in that answer he was  
12                  unable to cite any part of the insurance  
13                  policy where it permitted to pay for legal  
14                  services for the private benefit of a public  
15                  official, this being Mrs. Judy Gatelli.

16                  In other words, he was unable to  
17                  dispute that the \$30,000 paid to Wright &  
18                  Reihner on behalf of Mrs. Gatelli was  
19                  improper. In fact, just last Friday morning  
20                  there was a hearing before Judge Mazzoni in  
21                  motion Court called for by Joe Pilcheski. I  
22                  attended that hearing. Mr. Pilcheski asked  
23                  Judge Mazzoni to issue an order to stop the  
24                  insurance company from paying anymore legal  
25                  bills for Mrs. Gatelli's private lawsuit.

1 Judge Mazzone asked Attorney Ratchford in  
2 open court if the insurance policy provides  
3 coverage for advancing a private claim and  
4 Attorney Ratchford responded that it does  
5 not.

6 In open court, Attorney George  
7 Reihner, Mrs. Gatelli's lawyer, told Judge  
8 Mazzone that he was hired only to defend  
9 Mrs. Gatelli in the liable lawsuit against  
10 her. After Judge Mazzone heard everyone's  
11 position on the matter, he decided that the  
12 Court does not have the authority to stop an  
13 insurance company from spending its own  
14 money. However, once the money is spent the  
15 legitimacy of the expenditure can be  
16 challenged, which is what Joe Pilcheski's  
17 latest lawsuit is doing, trying to get back  
18 \$30,000 that was wrongfully spent on Mrs.  
19 Gatelli's private and personal benefit is  
20 hardly frivolous, but I ask if Joe Pilcheski  
21 was not doing it who would be doing it?

22 Upon a Right-to-Know request of Joe  
23 Pilcheski, Housing and Redevelopment  
24 Insurance Exchange produced a check for  
25 \$30,000, but when is Mrs. Gatelli going to

1 produce her cancelled checks to prove that  
2 she paid for all of her legal bills and not  
3 the taxpayers?

4 And if I might ask, Mr. McGoff,  
5 could you please tell me why Mrs. Gatelli is  
6 not here tonight?

7 MR. MCGOFF: I do not know.

8 MS. FRANUS: They don't have to give  
9 a reason as to why they are not coming?

10 MR. MCGOFF: No.

11 MS. FRANUS: Do you know why  
12 Mrs. Fanucci is not here either?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

14 MS. FRANUS: Do you not know why Ms.  
15 Fanucci is not here either?

16 MR. MCGOFF: I was just told that she  
17 was not going to be here.

18 MS. FRANUS: Thank you very much.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

20 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hello, Bill.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.

22 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Bill, up.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Pick it up.

24 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Good luck. I them  
25 next week, promise?

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Buddy.

2 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Billy, I'm going to  
3 tell you right now, the game last week, we  
4 went up there and we pounded them so this  
5 week, good luck, team. Good luck. Thank  
6 you.

7 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.  
8 My name is Nancy Krake. I do believe the  
9 dog park, our dog park cost nearly \$300,000.  
10 It's a vast difference from \$40,000 that is  
11 about to be spent in the Abingtons and I bet  
12 when there is a Recovery Plan vote or a  
13 budget vote Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci  
14 will be here.

15 Mayor Doherty has changed his  
16 position on abortion. Now that he is  
17 running for governor he is Pro Choice. To  
18 change core values when it deals with life  
19 and death in order to further his political  
20 career is utterly reprehensible. To use  
21 Mrs. Fanucci's words to me and others,  
22 thrown under the bus. Mr. Doherty has  
23 thrown the job of mayor and, therefore, all  
24 of the citizens of Scranton under the bus as  
25 he goes around the state stumping for the

1           job of governor. And he has thrown his  
2           character under the bus by selling his own  
3           beliefs about abortion to the highest  
4           bidder, that is, the gubernatorial political  
5           arena.

6                       How can anyone -- excuse me, how is  
7           he able to continue to sell his religious  
8           articles to the Catholic Church and how can  
9           anyone ever trust this man with their city,  
10          their homes or their families? Thank you.

11                      MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Mrs.  
12          Evans?

13                      MS. EVANS: Good evening. Council  
14          will give it's final consideration and vote  
15          to the 2010 CDBG allocations tonight. On  
16          October 4 I submitted a list of 12 editions  
17          to the mayor's and OECD's proposed  
18          allocations and I see that only one of those  
19          12 editions was partially funded.

20                      I also submitted a list of eight  
21          total and partial cuts to the mayor's and  
22          OECD's allocations, and all of those  
23          suggestions received partial cuts. However,  
24          the dollars that were freed by these cuts  
25          were given to some projects that do not

1 appear to be a priority or a necessity in  
2 this economy, such as funding for the  
3 Scranton Cultural Center.

4 Generally, speaking, the  
5 administration allocated large sums to the  
6 downtown, city parks, OECD, and repayment of  
7 Section 108 loans for the Hilton Hotel and  
8 the Steamtown Mall. In addition, they chose  
9 to fund some county organizations and others  
10 which in part serve a population of those  
11 who reside outside of city limits, and I  
12 have no objections to funding organizations  
13 who serve such populations, but I do have  
14 concerns when the administration uses the  
15 very same reason to deny funding to county  
16 organizations like Bread Basket of  
17 Northeastern, Pennsylvania, and Meals on  
18 Wheels and Telespond Adult DayCare Program.

19 I am very disappointed to report  
20 that the administration refused to increase  
21 funding to the Scranton Fire Department,  
22 neighborhood police patrols, and paving of  
23 the city streets to include curb cuts.

24 Obviously, there are many 2010  
25 allocations with which I could not agree.



1 This legislation is far from fully  
2 appropriate, but there are also funds such  
3 as for police patrols, the fire department  
4 and street paving that have received at  
5 least partial monies and I do not wish to  
6 prevent even these partial funds from  
7 reaching such projects that are solely  
8 needed. Therefore, I will vote to approve  
9 the legislation and I will remain hopeful  
10 that a new council will be able to better  
11 fund the people's priorities and the  
12 people's necessity in 2010.

13 I have recently heard that all  
14 distressed cities will be phased out of Act  
15 47 within the next two to three years.  
16 According to the Times Leader, in fact, the  
17 City of Nanticoke may lose some funds  
18 approved under Act 47 as soon as next year.  
19 Further, the recently passed state budget  
20 significantly cut the State Department of  
21 Community and Economic Development which may  
22 have repercussions for Act 47. I find these  
23 revelations to be very interesting and  
24 relevant to Scranton.

25 First, council only today,



1 explaining to do regarding both the future  
2 of Act 47 and a new recovery plan for  
3 Scranton.

4 And finally, I wanted to address  
5 some statements made earlier by a council  
6 speaker. I just wanted to state that I  
7 won't go to a debate to campaign for city  
8 council when I should be at city council  
9 doing the job I was elected by the people to  
10 perform. And further, I haven't been able  
11 to campaign during this election season and,  
12 in fact, I have been unable to work because  
13 of a serious back injury.

14 And I can say with regard to another  
15 statement that was made, I have never  
16 participated in an interview where the  
17 public was allowed to attend, certainly at  
18 debates the public is encouraged to attend  
19 and to listen carefully to a discussion or  
20 debate of the issues, but as for interviews,  
21 no, that was a highly unusual circumstance.

22 And finally, I have just a few  
23 citizens' requests for tonight. First, a  
24 letter to Chief Elliott and First Assistant  
25 District Attorney Talerico. Although,

1 presentations have occurred in the past,  
2 numerous residents have requested additional  
3 public information circumstances regarding  
4 gangs in light of the revelations made in  
5 the press during the past few months. Also,  
6 residents ask that an announcement of public  
7 information sessions would be offered in a  
8 news media release.

9 Next, Mr. Oleski, reports that city  
10 inspectors and a representative of the fire  
11 department visited the restaurant on North  
12 Main Avenue in West Scranton and found no  
13 violations of any kind. In addition,  
14 Mr. Oleski spoke with city zoning officer  
15 Mike Wallace who indicated that there are no  
16 zoning laws regarding the type of ovens used  
17 by that restaurant. Mr. Oleski states that  
18 nothing can be done by the city since the  
19 restaurant is in compliance with all city  
20 codes and laws, thus, he cannot close the  
21 restaurant.

22 In addition, since the recent  
23 chimney fire at this particular location,  
24 the owner has purchased a chimney sweep  
25 contract in order that the chimney will be

1 checked on a monthly basis and as  
2 recommended by a representation of the  
3 Scranton Fire Department.

4 Finally, Mr. Oleski states that the  
5 restaurant owner is more than happy to speak  
6 with the neighbors himself and so he  
7 suggests that the residents of the  
8 neighboring houses should talk directly to  
9 the owner regarding their problems.

10 I also received a response regarding  
11 the utility pave cuts that were mentioned by  
12 a council speaker. Mullberry Street is a  
13 state road. The pave cut inspector has  
14 spoken to both the gas company and PennDOT  
15 and reports that PennDOT wants concrete in  
16 the cuts. This restoration will occur  
17 before winter according to PennDOT, but the  
18 paving won't occur until spring or summer  
19 because PennDOT has another project on  
20 Pittston Avenue in Scranton and wishes to  
21 perform both jobs in the same time period.

22 Also, Mr. Seitzinger reports that he  
23 will be talking to Daron Northeast regarding  
24 the trucks and if they are idling outside of  
25 the property he will contact the police and

1           have Daron Northeast or the truck drivers  
2           cited because there are signs posted and  
3           these trucks are in the violation of those  
4           ordinances and so that was a response for  
5           the residents of Dickson Avenue.

6                       And finally I would like, Kay, a  
7           letter to Mr. Barrett, executive director of  
8           the Scranton Sewer Authority, I heard a  
9           question mentioned earlier this evening by  
10          one of tonight's speakers and I think it's  
11          one worth following up, what was the number  
12          of employees, both union and management, in  
13          2004, 2006, 2008 and 2009 at the Scranton  
14          Sewer Authority? And that's it.

15                      MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Courtright?

16                      MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. First, off,  
17          one of the speakers spoke about the light on  
18          Linden Street, the reason that project went  
19          through as fast as it did was the city  
20          didn't pay for that study. That study was  
21          paid for by the developer and in order for  
22          the project to go ahead PennDOT had to give  
23          it's okay and have their engineers go out  
24          there. That's how it went through faster  
25          than some projects you received because it

1 was paid for by the developer.

2 I think that they were talking about  
3 Mulberry and was it Washington Avenue --  
4 Wyoming Avenue, I think we have been done  
5 this road before, I believe that it's in the  
6 works for a turn -- a turning lane to  
7 eliminate some of the problems there, but  
8 that wasn't even being paid for by a private  
9 developer and that's probably why it's  
10 taking so long.

11 OECD funding, every year we ask for  
12 certain things and we get some, we don't get  
13 some. We always ask for and seem to always  
14 get the money for police patrols, but I  
15 think we have seen in the last couple of  
16 years, just about every one of us up here,  
17 disappointed in the fact that we don't have  
18 the amount of people on the street that we  
19 have the funding for, so I only hope that  
20 this money that we give them going in the  
21 year forward is utilized and utilized to the  
22 fullest to get as many police on the street  
23 as possible.

24 I have always been a little  
25 skeptical about this downtown sidewalks when

1 we get ready for that because I'm not quite  
2 sure how do you get the sidewalks done in  
3 your particular place, and I'm going to ask  
4 how do they determine who gets these  
5 downtown sidewalks because what I'm seeing  
6 there is two, there is one for \$150,000 for  
7 the Parking Authority and then there is I  
8 believe another \$100,000, all it says is  
9 downtown sidewalks, it doesn't specify any  
10 project, so I'd like to know if they have  
11 one in mind. If not, how did you get chosen  
12 for that?

13 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, I asked  
14 that question last year because if you  
15 remember the same funding was awarded not in  
16 this amount, but it was a significant  
17 amount, hundreds off thousands of dollars  
18 was awarded for sidewalk paving or new  
19 sidewalks in the downtown in last year's  
20 allocations and, as I said, I wanted to know  
21 specifically where those sidewalks were and  
22 the answer was they didn't even know yet.  
23 They were just -- they just wanted the money  
24 there. Now, again they are saying that, you  
25 know, according to what we discussed earlier



1           tonight that HUD wants to see the money  
2           distributed to new entities rather than a  
3           repeat performance of a prior year which is  
4           why, for example, well, it's another reason  
5           why they have chosen not to support Meals on  
6           Wheels which is so desperately needed.

7           Well, if we funded sidewalks in the downtown  
8           last year, and I saw it this fall, that went  
9           out for bid, the bid proposals were coming  
10          in to be read at city council, why then are  
11          we funding it again next year?

12                   MR. COURTRIGHT: I agree.

13                   MS. EVANS: Someone is getting an  
14           awful lot for nothing here, but it's always  
15           in the downtown and no where else.

16                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. And as you  
17           said, you mentioned that they didn't want to  
18           keep funding the same projects year after  
19           year and I one of the projects that I was  
20           interested in asked for \$200,000 in funding,  
21           I told them that I didn't think we could  
22           give them \$200,000, we dropped it back to  
23           \$100,000 and it's under a name that doesn't  
24           specify the project and that bothered me, so  
25           I called Kevin Mitchell today and I asked

1 him, and I'm going to be very honest with  
2 you, what I said to him he gave me his word  
3 and I said, "No offense, but if I'm gone in  
4 January are these people going to get --"  
5 I'll try not to use the word I used on the  
6 phone, not get their funding, let me put it  
7 that way, after I'm gone, and he told me,  
8 no. And I said, well, I'm going to have the  
9 people call you. And he said, fine, I gave  
10 him the cell phone number and they called  
11 him and he promised them they would get  
12 their funding so I hope that holds true.

13 You know, you would like to take  
14 people at their word, but after six years  
15 here of, you know, eating a lot of words and  
16 not too many people keeping them you are  
17 skeptical, and when it's a project that you  
18 believe in and that you think they deserve,  
19 you know, you try to do the best you could  
20 for them. And unfortunately, every year I  
21 have been here I think they have cut back on  
22 the dollar amount that we're allowed to  
23 spend and a lot of good projects didn't get  
24 money. I know one project I see here is  
25 reduced from 5,000 to nothing and I truly

1 believe it was because we have given them  
2 money in the past and they wanted to give it  
3 to a different project.

4 But it's not perfect, it never is.  
5 I'll be voting "yes", but one thing we don't  
6 want to do is vote it down because then we  
7 don't get anything, so those of you that  
8 didn't get your money this year, hopefully  
9 when the new council comes in next year they  
10 will be able to help you out and hopefully  
11 there will be more money to give.

12 And I believe -- oh, I wanted to ask  
13 this question, I kind of wish, Mr. McGoff,  
14 and I think you know the answer and I don't  
15 know if Mr. McGoff doesn't know if Mr.  
16 Minora would know, the swimming for the  
17 children at Nay Aug that they applied for  
18 OECD funding is that eligible? Would that  
19 be an eligible project for OECD? Would they  
20 be able to get funds for that? I'm not sure  
21 of the answer to that.

22 MR. MINORA: I honestly don't know  
23 that. That would be a federal reg I'm  
24 assuming.

25 MR. MCGOFF: I will give you the

1 answer that I received. There were a  
2 number of -- actually, there was a number of  
3 reasons they said that it wouldn't be  
4 funded, but that the one that made the most  
5 sense was that federal funds can't be used  
6 to pay a municipal fee. What would happen  
7 would be that the fee to swim would be -- is  
8 being paid by funds from CDBG which is  
9 basically illegal and unethical.

10 The reason it's there is that if  
11 we -- if we wanted or if someone wanted they  
12 could charge \$10 to swim and then ask for  
13 \$100,000 because all of that money would  
14 then go back to the city and so it's kind of  
15 like, you know, paying yourself --

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right.

17 MR. MCGOFF: -- you know, through the  
18 funding and so they said that was the  
19 primary reason why it was not included.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I thought there  
21 was something like that, and I don't know  
22 what the dollar amount was they asked for,  
23 was it \$5,000 they asked for for swimming?

24 MS. EVANS: Seven, I think, because  
25 it was included among the 12 editions that I

1 had proposed, but I know when OECD submitted  
2 to all of council the reasons for  
3 acceptances of some projects and the denial  
4 for others, they listed only as a reason  
5 against the Kids Swim Free Program that it  
6 was located in Nay Aug Park which is not  
7 within a low to moderate income area, but at  
8 the same time in that same paperwork that  
9 provided reasoning as for allocations versus  
10 cuts, it also funded the Everhart Museum and  
11 had no problem with that which, of course,  
12 is also located in Nay Aug Park and it would  
13 seem that a decision needs to be made  
14 whether it is or it isn't in a low to  
15 moderate income area, so I understand what  
16 Mr. McGoff is saying and it makes very good  
17 sense, but I do question why that was not  
18 included as the original reason for denying  
19 the project.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Your guess is as  
21 good as mine.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Actually --

23 MS. EVANS: And it's also hard to  
24 believe that people paying a fee to go to  
25 the cultural center to see beautiful plays

1 and listen to the Northeastern Philharmonic  
2 that the Cultural Center receives a  
3 significant grant and on more than one  
4 occasion.

5 MR. MCGOFF: It's not municipal fee.

6 MS. EVANS: No, it's a -- it's going  
7 directly to kind of a private institution,  
8 so I don't know how that falls under serving  
9 the low to moderate income at all times.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, I thought we  
11 were talking about something else.

12 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: What I'll --

14 MS. EVANS: Those are just, you know,  
15 a tiny bit of the discrepancies that I  
16 noticed in the explanations provided to  
17 Scranton City Council by the Office of  
18 Economic and Community Development.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: What I would like to  
20 see also happen in the next year is the fees  
21 there at Nay Aug and some believe it should  
22 be and some believe it shouldn't, but I'd  
23 like to see that, I know they sold vouchers  
24 or whatever you want to call them at one  
25 time, but I'd like to see for the children

1           that can't afford it if they -- you could  
2           prove they are low to moderate income to  
3           give them at least five or six times a year  
4           a free pass so they could go in at any time  
5           of their choice because, unfortunately, and  
6           I think it's great that they have the  
7           children free swim, however you say it, you  
8           say 12 of them and that's terrific, I  
9           thought if possible if they were given some  
10          kind of voucher on a day that was convenient  
11          for them to go on a day that was really  
12          super hot you can go, you guys have a  
13          designated day, again, I think it's great  
14          you did it for them, but I'm talking about  
15          the city hand out something to these  
16          children.

17                   I understand you have to pay for  
18                   things in this world and I understand you  
19                   have to pay for the slide and you go out and  
20                   you work and I did the whole nine yards with  
21                   the soda battles collecting them and I  
22                   understand all of that stuff, but man I'm  
23                   looking at a kid in 90 degree weather and  
24                   they can't understand that they can't go  
25                   swimming bothers me, you know, it just

1 really bothersome to me so I hope the city  
2 could find somehow next year to at least  
3 give them some relief, I understand they are  
4 not going to allow them to swim.

5 And maybe if I'm not on this council  
6 anymore maybe I'll attend one of the Parker  
7 Recreation Meetings, you know, I had a  
8 tendency not to go to some of them because,  
9 and I'll make this brief, when I very first  
10 got on council there was another meeting  
11 going on in the room next to here and I  
12 walked in because I was early here and  
13 immediately everybody got alarmed. I think  
14 they thought I was there to cause trouble,  
15 and I wasn't. I didn't want to speak, I  
16 just wanted to hear what was going on, they  
17 asked me if I wanted to speak, and I said  
18 no. Are you sure you don't want to speak?  
19 I said, "No."

20 And then as the time went on they  
21 talked about something and I did want to  
22 speak and I said, "Well, I'll speak if I  
23 still could," and they said, "Yes," and that  
24 made everybody all kinds of nervous, they  
25 thought I had an ulterior motive for being



1           there when I just happened to be there, so I  
2           held back from going to some of these, but  
3           maybe I'll step up to the plate after  
4           January and see if I can't help these kids  
5           out, and that's all I have. Thank you.

6                   MR. MCGOFF: Just very briefly. Then  
7           I'll go back to the Kids Swim Free very  
8           quickly, I was given a number of reasons why  
9           with the low to moderate being one and the  
10          ethical issue being the fourth or fifth  
11          thing that was said, so I don't know why  
12          they included just that in the explanation  
13          that was first sent to us, I'm not sure.

14                   I would like also to since you  
15          brought it up that the Everhart Museum was  
16          eventually cut from the funding, so maybe  
17          it's one less area, that was all.

18                   And to respond to one person's  
19          comment about why we don't move the meeting  
20          somewhere else and they were a little upset  
21          with me saying that meetings have always  
22          been here and probably will be into the  
23          foreseeable future, Mr. Courtright just kind  
24          of offhandedly reminded me that it's in the  
25          Home Rule Charter that council meetings will

1 be held in council chambers, so that's why  
2 you don't see too much changes of venue for  
3 the meetings, and that is all. And Fifth  
4 Order.

5 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
6 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
7 49, 2008, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL  
8 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2009" BY TRANSFERRING  
9 \$17,100.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.  
10 01.040.00040.4201 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION-  
11 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO ACCOUNT NO.  
12 01.040.00040.4190 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION-  
13 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE) TO PROVIDE FUNDING  
14 TO COVER QUARTERLY PAYMENTS TO THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

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

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

20 MS. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved. Prior to Seventh  
2 Order, I'd like to make a motion to appoint  
3 Mr. Courtright as the temporary chair for  
4 the Committee on Community Development.

5 MS. EVANS: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
7 in favor signify by saying aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

12 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
13 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. Now, 7-A.

14 MR. MCGOFF: I guess at this time we  
15 need to make a motion to amend 7-A as read  
16 by Attorney Minora.

17 MS. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. MINORA: We are amending --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Should we vote on the  
20 motion to amend?

21 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry.

22 MR. MCGOFF: All in favor signify by  
23 saying aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
2 ayes have it and so moved. Thank you,  
3 Mr. Minora.

4 MR. MINORA: The applicant is EOTC of  
5 Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Adult  
6 Literacy Remediation project, amount funded  
7 is zero, it's now funded at \$10,0000.

8 The Dante Literary Society,  
9 Rehabilitated Bocce Court and grounds, from  
10 none to \$10,000. It is now funded at  
11 \$10,000.

12 The Bulls' Head Association,  
13 Restoration of former North End Lumber  
14 building, from \$15,000 down to \$10,000.

15 United Neighborhood Centers  
16 Community Development Corporation, South  
17 Side Neighborhood Housing Revitalization  
18 Initiative from \$75,000 down to zero.

19 Bethel A.M.E. Independent heating  
20 system from zero to \$5,000.

21 United Neighborhood centers and  
22 Community Development Corporation, Project  
23 Hope from \$60,000 to \$50,000.

24 The Everhart Museum Capital  
25 Improvements to the Everhart Museum Facility

1 from \$10,000 to zero.

2 Deutsch Institute of Inclusion  
3 Activities at City Sponsored Recreation for  
4 Disabled from \$25,000 to \$20,000.

5 Downtown Senior Center Refinish  
6 Walls and Pave Parking Lot from \$5,000 to  
7 zero.

8 Scranton Tomorrow, Main Street  
9 Facade Improvement Program from zero to  
10 \$10,000.

11 Telespond Senior Services and  
12 Programming, Public facilities and  
13 Improvement projects from zero to \$5,000.

14 Scranton Cultural Center  
15 Accessibility and Public Safety Improvements  
16 to the SCC Entrance from \$100,000 down to  
17 \$50,000.

18 Scranton Neighbors, Incorporated,  
19 Scattered Site Housing Acquisition and  
20 Rehabilitation Program from \$50,000 to zero.

21 City of Scranton, Sidewalks in  
22 downtown Scranton from \$175,000 to \$150,000.

23 City of Scranton Contingency from  
24 \$125,000 to \$100,000.

25 City of Scranton Facade Grant

1 Program from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

2 City of Scranton Park Enhancements  
3 from \$250,000 to \$200,000.

4 City of Scranton Park Enhancements  
5 for West Side Neighborhoods from \$60,000 to  
6 \$55,000.

7 City of Scranton Administration of  
8 CDBG \$675,000 down to \$660,000.

9 Catholic Social Services Homeless  
10 Veterans Supportive Housing Program from  
11 \$5,000 to zero.

12 Catholic Social Services Permanent  
13 Supportive Housing Program from \$5,000 to  
14 zero.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. You were  
16 probably right, I probably should have  
17 waited until they were read before we voted  
18 on including them. We don't need to make  
19 another motion do that.

20 MR. MINORA: Unless somebody has an  
21 objection.

22 MS. EVANS: I don't object.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Any objections to what  
24 was read?

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

1 MS. EVANS: No.

2 MS. GARVEY: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION  
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
4 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 83, 2009  
5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
6 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE  
7 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
8 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY  
9 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE  
10 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
11 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
12 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
13 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM.

14 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
15 recommendation of the temporary Chair for  
16 the Committee on Community Development?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: As temporary Chair  
18 for the Committee on Community Development,  
19 I recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

20 MS. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli. Ms.

1 Fanucci. Mr. Courtright.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
8 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 182, 2009 -  
9 APPROVING THE MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING  
10 TRAFFIC SIGNAL ON WEST LINDEN STREET  
11 (S.R.3020) AND SEVENTH AVENUE (S.R.3029) AS  
12 PART OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT CORPORATE CENTER  
13 PROJECT.

14 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
15 recommendation of the Chair for the  
16 Committee on Public Safety?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: As Chairperson for  
18 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
19 final passage of Item 7-B.

20 MS. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli. Ms.



1 Fanucci. Mr. Courtright.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
8 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 183, 2009 -  
9 APPROVING THE MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING  
10 TRAFFIC SIGNAL ON SEVENTH AVENUE (S.R.3029)  
11 AND ROUTE 11 NORTHBOUND RAMPS A&B  
12 (S.R.8027) AS PART OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT  
13 CORPORATE CENTER PROJECT.

14 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
15 recommendation of the Chair for the  
16 Committee on Public Safety?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: As Chairperson for  
18 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
19 final passage of Item 7-C.

20 MS. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. COLLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli. Ms.

1 Fanucci. Mr. Courtright.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
8 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 184, 2009 -  
9 APPROVING THE MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING  
10 TRAFFIC SIGNAL ON SEVENTH AVENUE (S.R.3029)  
11 AND ROUTE 11 SOUTHBOUND RAMPS C&D  
12 (S.R.8027/ACCESS) AS PART OF THE MOUNT  
13 PLEASANT CORPORATE CENTER PROJECT.

14 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
15 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
16 Committee on Public Safety?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: As Chairperson for  
18 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
19 final passage of Item 7-D.

20 MS. EVANS: Second.

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

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli. Ms.

1 Fanucci. Mr. Courtright.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
8 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 185, 2009 -  
9 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
10 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
11 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN  
12 FROM THE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING  
13 LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.25 IN  
14 AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00 TO  
15 FITNESS 53, INC. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE  
16 PROJECT.

17 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
18 recommendation of the temporary Chair for  
19 the Committee on Community Development?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: As temporary Chair  
21 for the Committee on Community Development,  
22 I recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

23 MS. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
25 call, please?

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MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

MS. EVANS: Yes.

MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli. Ms.  
Fanucci. Mr. Courtright.

MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

MR. COURTRIGHT: Motion to adjourn.

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

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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