

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

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Dispense with the
4 reading of the minutes.

5 MS. GARVEY: 3-A. A. AGENDA FOR THE
6 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE
7 HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2009.

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

10 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. CITY OF SCRANTON
11 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE
12 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008.

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

15 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
16 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
17 ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2009.

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

20 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third
21 Order.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Garvey.
23 I would like to make one announcement or say
24 one thing before we get to the meeting, next
25 week, next Tuesday is election day, and one

1 of the great freedoms and one of the rights
2 that we as Americans is the right to vote,
3 but with that comes also a responsibility
4 and that responsibility is that we make
5 educated, informed decisions and I know all
6 of us here on council encourage everyone,
7 all eligible voters to go out and exercise
8 their right and their responsibility as
9 citizens and make that decision next Tuesday
10 evening -- or next Tuesday, it doesn't have
11 to be evening.

12 And with that, realizing that this
13 is our last meeting before the election as
14 we have in the past, the podium or the dais
15 is not a place for political statements and
16 I would appreciate and we would appreciate
17 if that not be done this evening. Thank
18 you. Any other announcements?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. Please remember in
20 your prayers all those who are died this
21 past week, particularly Thomas McGuinness, a
22 retired captain in the Scranton Police
23 Department; Robert Kearney, loving father of
24 Ruth Martin; and Judith Laboranti-Merichak,
25 devoted mother of my friends and colleagues

1 John and Mike and their dear families and
2 friends they leave behind.

3 A CPW wrestling show will be held at
4 St. Mary's Center on Mifflin Avenue,
5 Scranton, on Friday, October 30, to benefit
6 the Scranton High School student, Deanna
7 Medina, who is suffering from leukemia.
8 Doors open at 6:30 and belt time is 7:00.
9 Tickets are \$10 for adults and children ages
10 five and under are free. Call 570-955-0923
11 for tickets or visit the website at
12 www.cpw2.webs.com.

13 The Fraternal Order of Eagles will
14 conduct a chicken dinner on November 7 from
15 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. There will
16 also be a DJ at 8:00 p.m., a 50/50 raffle,
17 and a chinese auction. Proceeds benefit
18 Friends of the Forgotten in honor of Army
19 specialist John Lucher.

20 The Interfaith Committee will hold
21 it's Friendly's Family Fun Night on
22 November 18th from 5 to 8:00 p.m. at
23 Friendly's Restaurant in Dunmore. Proceeds
24 will benefit St. Francis of Assisi Food
25 Kitchen.

1 The North Scranton Rotary Club will
2 conduct it's Ted Warholic Memorial
3 Scholarship Dinner on Sunday, November 22,
4 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Taurus Club in
5 Scranton. Tickets for the roast beef dinner
6 are \$15 and must be purchased by
7 November 18. Checks may be made payable to
8 Ted Warholic Scholarship Fund. Donations
9 can be mailed to Ted Warholic Scholarship
10 Fund care of Penn Security Bank, 150 North
11 Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18503. Ted
12 Warholic was a past president of the North
13 Scranton Rotary Club, a long-time store
14 manager the Sugarman's and an owner of
15 Bill's Sporting Goods, a fixture in North
16 Scranton.

17 And lastly, I want to wish all of
18 the children of our area a very safe and
19 happy Halloween this weekend. That's all.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

21 MS. GATELLI: I just have one
22 announcement. Victor Alfieri is having
23 their macaroni dinner tomorrow evening and
24 Thursday evening from 5 to 8 in the Victor
25 Alfieri Club on Main Avenue, and that's all.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Thank you.
2 Citizens' participation. Andy Sbaraglia.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
4 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
5 your 3-B, City of Scranton Independent
6 Auditor's Report for the year ending
7 December 31, 2008. I hope you all read it
8 before you come up with a new budget really
9 and -- the total long-term debt, a whole lot
10 of it, was \$182,884,864. Now, that's not
11 counting interest. You realize what's
12 happening, that's all of the authorities,
13 too, that was a total report on all of the
14 authorities. Somehow or someday you have to
15 get into that. The budget will come up and
16 you really got to find a way to cut the
17 costs, and the only way you can cut costs is
18 cut spending, because what's going to happen
19 as you were returned on the pension plans
20 you all were told about the pension plans,
21 what is going to curtail us when we have to
22 makeup a deficit in that plan, and it's
23 a tremendous amount of money that will go
24 for pensions of state and school teachers
25 for one thing. That's all in there, and

1 there is nothing you can do about it. It's
2 going to be mandated.

3 You also know about the Sewer
4 Authority being mandated another 200 million
5 plus, God knows how much more. That's in
6 there, too. Where are we going to start?
7 Some of these things are mandated, some we
8 can control. I went in there, even the
9 amount of vehicles we lease in that report
10 is tremendous. If you read all of the
11 vehicles we lease and we are going to keep
12 paying on it until the lease runs out or we
13 turn them in or release. There is somewhere
14 along the way we have to look at that. I
15 know a lot of the police bought their own
16 cars now, so we lease them, but I guess we
17 don't pay for them other than the upkeep.
18 But, we have to go. We have to look at
19 nickles and dimes. The best thing that you
20 can do is go back to that \$10,000 that we
21 used to have when somebody spends \$10,000
22 over that they have to come to bids. Now
23 it's 20,000, you don't even see it. I would
24 have to camp down there in the controller's
25 office really to keep track of that and

1 that's not something anybody should have to
2 do. And it's tough, it's really tough what
3 you got.

4 And the Redevelopment Authority and
5 their borrowing is tremendous too. They
6 borrowed what is it \$2,296,570 to by our
7 delinquent, okay, delinquent real estate
8 taxes and then they in turn resold it. Now,
9 why would that be done that way? These
10 deals got to stop. These buyback lease
11 back, back, back, back that that mayor has.
12 You got to stop this. This has to got to be
13 stopped and the only place it can be stopped
14 is here at your point because it has to deal
15 with finances, and you control the finances.
16 He may send the legislation to you, but you
17 can say, no. You cannot put it on the
18 agenda, you can do whatever you want
19 basically, but something has to be done and
20 it has to done soon. We can't go through
21 another four years of this or nobody in the
22 city will be able to live.

23 There is no way we can afford the
24 taxes as it is now and a lot of people, the
25 majority, there is 95 -- I think it was

1 9.5 percent unemployment rate around here
2 and all of these taxes and spending and so
3 forth and so on it just reaped on the
4 shoulders of the poor individual taxpayers.

5 Most of your money comes from I
6 think it's 511 Tax Act which is wage tax so
7 forth, so forth, so forth. Business taxes
8 are very reasonable, but most of the
9 businessmen don't live in the city, so they
10 pay their 1 percent, but they ain't paying
11 that 511 tax that the rest of us are and God
12 knows what the real estate taxes is going to
13 be. As you know, the county is sort of
14 going to hold it, but the school board is
15 going to be in real trouble and there is no
16 way out of the school board trouble because
17 the fact is they borrowed a lot of money and
18 they got to pay a lot back. Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mike Dudek.

20 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek,
21 608 Depot Street, I live down there in the
22 Plot. The election will change city council
23 in two weeks, but we will have a lame duck
24 council until the swearing in ceremony is
25 concerned, and it will be this council, this

1 lame duck council that's going to prepare a
2 budget. We know the mayor is going to
3 prepare his, we also know that Mrs. Evans
4 will also have some proposals, she will
5 probably have a formal budget like she
6 normally tries to do, please do it. Please
7 do it. We really need some sensibility
8 here.

9 I would like you to incorporate just
10 a couple thoughts besides what Mr. Sbaraglia
11 pointed out. New York City is a city of
12 about seven and a half million people, give
13 or take a handful, they have a police
14 department and they have a fire department.
15 They have a chief of police and they have a
16 fire chief. They are the top people in
17 those respective divisions, and when they
18 report to somebody, chief of police and the
19 fire chief report to Mayor Blumberg. Why do
20 we have a public safety director in a town
21 of only 70,000 people? For the life of me I
22 don't know why we are paying out that kind
23 of a salary for that kind of a position that
24 doesn't even exist in New York City.

25 If New York City can get along

1 without a public safety director, why can't
2 we? There is a nice little spot there to
3 save the city some petty change. The post
4 pays what, about \$70,000 a year? Does
5 anybody know what that position pays?

6 MS. GATELLI: I think 62.

7 MS. EVANS: I'd like to have look.

8 MS. GATELLI: I think about 62.

9 MR. DUDEK: Well, whatever you do
10 just look it up and see and just see that's
11 a position that could be totally eliminated
12 saving the city that amount of money. We
13 can do that.

14 Also, something that we could do,
15 and I have been talking about this in
16 councils for at least the last ten years,
17 why not bring back initial responders
18 ambulance service to the fire department?
19 Let the fire department operate the
20 ambulance for first response in the City of
21 Scranton rather than have private companies
22 do it. There is enough work out there for
23 private companies to do, but let the first
24 responders be the fire department. It was
25 like that all the way from I guess the time

1 that the automobile was invented until Mayor
2 McNulty was mayor. Then on a political
3 hissy fit he took that away from the fire
4 department and the city has been losing
5 income from that ever since the. The fire
6 department will be more than happy to show
7 you the numbers they have on restoring the
8 service and how much money you could make
9 for the city, so I think those are two
10 things we could look at.

11 And one little anecdote from a few
12 weeks ago, if you remember the parade of
13 people that came in here with their
14 sidearms? I couldn't -- it just occurred to
15 me last week, and I mentioned it to
16 Mr. McGoff last week, when the National
17 Rifle Association held their convention in
18 the Philadelphia Convention Center, you
19 remember that famous meeting? That was the
20 one where Charlton Heston held up that
21 revolutionary musket and pry it from my cold
22 hands? That meeting. Wayne LaPierre, the
23 president of the National Rifle Association
24 used his position as president to declare
25 that no person may bring a firearm into the

1 convention hall. The firearms were kept
2 outside of the convention hall and no arms
3 were allowed inside it except for Charlton
4 Heston's little demonstration for the
5 cameras. Just thought I would pass that one
6 onto you. Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, City
9 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton
10 rest tent, member of the Taxpayers'
11 Association. Jobless rate hits 9.5 percent.
12 Again, the Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton
13 area is ranked third from the bottom the
14 highest employment rate. On the brighter
15 side, Business Weekly magazine ranks
16 Scranton 21st for economic improvements.
17 Wow, this country must really be in bad
18 shape.

19 Only in Scranton do Republicans
20 endorse Democrats and Democrats endorse a
21 campaign for Republicans. The Scranton
22 Times endorse Republicans. Wow. Have they
23 forgotten that Janet Evans has been the
24 highest vote getter. She received more
25 votes than the mayor who, by the way, wants

1 to be governor. What is the difference
2 between Democrat and Republican in Scranton,
3 the spelling of the word.

4 I distributed a list to all council
5 members, I know you haven't had an
6 opportunity to look at it, but what it is
7 available industrial and office properties
8 in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I hope you
9 all take a chance to really look at this.

10 As you can see, we have more than
11 enough of empty office space and industrial
12 space in the city. We do not need more
13 taxpayers' money being spent to build more
14 empty office space and industrial space. On
15 a positive note, it was nice to see that
16 Kildare's will rent Brannigan's site. We
17 could use a Mexican restaurant in the city.
18 My hope is they do not ask for the
19 taxpayers' money. Some day there may be a
20 restaurant down town where you can get bacon
21 and eggs at 2:30 in the morning after you
22 leave Kildare's and the Mexican restaurant.

23 Empty office space: Kane
24 Distribution Center, 964,000 square feet;
25 Kane Distribution Center No. 2,

1 10,000 square feet; 300 Wilkes Street
2 2.63 acres; 40 Popular Street, 11.6 acres;
3 891 Providence Road, six acres;
4 127,000 square feet; Profera's building
5 80,000 square feet; 20,000 on Luzerne
6 Avenue, 4.3 acres; 1717 Capouse Avenue,
7 60,000 square feet; 1020 Hemlock Street,
8 12,000 square feet: Liberty Commons, 123
9 Wyoming downtown; Oppenheim's building
10 downtown; 321 Spruce Street downtown; 541,
11 Wyoming Avenue downtown. There are
12 approximately 30 more empty office spaces
13 and industrial spaces in the downtown and in
14 the city, but I am running out of time.

15 Good luck to all of the candidates.
16 Hope the voters see who is for real and who
17 are just playing political games. Remember
18 what so many candidates have said from this
19 very podium that I am speaking from. Get
20 out and vote, Scranton.

21 Mr. McGoff, can I ask Ms. Gatelli
22 the same question I asked you guys a couple
23 weeks ago?

24 MR. MCGOFF: You can ask.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, Judy, if the

1 budget comes in short would you vote for
2 city taking out more loans and buying more
3 bonds, how would you handle that situation?

4 MS. GATELLI: I have spoken to the
5 mayor and I told him I was not interested in
6 anymore loans or tax increases and that we
7 should cut some jobs as the county has.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Thank you very much.

9 MS. GATELLI: So I don't know, we
10 will see when the budget comes down.

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: Right. I just
12 wanted -- I has asked the other four council
13 people a couple of weeks ago, you weren't
14 here, so I didn't want to cheat you out of
15 it.

16 MS. GATELLI: Thanks, Bill. Are you
17 feeling okay?

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: Much better. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Nancy Krake.

21 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.
22 Mr. Courtright, Barry told me to say hello
23 to you.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Who?

25 MS. KRAKE: Barry.

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, okay.

2 MS. KRAKE: I am going to be
3 rebutting the Times editorial tonight. We
4 will be stating Mrs. Evans' record over the
5 past -- her past terms. It appears to me
6 that the Times either doesn't watch this
7 council meeting or that they are lying, one
8 or the other, probably both. This will be
9 the truth.

10 Janet Evans has effectively created
11 four budgets in six years, even a budget
12 with a tax decrease. PEL has renewed
13 reviewed those budgets and never disagreed
14 with them. Mrs. Evans firmly stood her
15 ground and voted in the best interest of all
16 Scrantonians when she voted against the
17 mayor's 26 percent tax increase. She voted
18 against the millions and millions of
19 borrowing which, by the way, was part of the
20 reason he needed to raise taxes. She has
21 voted against KOZ's and corporate welfare.

22 In fact, Mrs. Evans' budgets, which
23 added public safety with more police, were
24 all created without the tax increases,
25 without the borrowing and without freebies

1 for certain businesses.

2 She has supported long-standing hard
3 working businesses such as Buona Pizza and
4 Coney Island. Mrs. Evans, even the Times
5 says this, is an effective vote getter, but
6 that's because she consistently looks out
7 for the poor and middle class of our city.
8 Her record shows she obtains sewer bill
9 relief for flood victims in lower
10 Greenridge, she promoted and voted for free
11 swim for children. Mrs. Evans stood up
12 against crushing NCC fees and defended
13 senior citizens in battles with NCC.

14 Mrs. Evans has demanded
15 accountability from the Scranton
16 Redevelopment Authority. Janet Evans cried
17 foul over the tax office long before the
18 current tax collector and the missing
19 \$12 million.

20 Janet Evans, Pat Rogan and Frank
21 Joyce are independent of the mayor and all
22 of his policies. They will be bringing
23 checks and balances to city government.
24 They may not be endorsed by the Times, but
25 they are endorsed by the people. Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan. Les
2 Spindler.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.
4 Les Spindler, city resident and homeowner
5 and taxpayer. Last week Mrs. Williams
6 criticized Mrs. Evans and her candidates for
7 not being in the debate. Well, it's a good
8 thing they weren't in a debate because they
9 would have embarrassed Mrs. Williams'
10 candidate. First of all, he couldn't make
11 it through one semester at Lackawanna
12 College before flunking out. That's not the
13 person that --

14 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me --

15 MR. SPINDLER: I'm talking.

16 MS. FANUCCI: No, you are wrong.

17 MR. MCGOFF: I'm saying you are out
18 of order.

19 MR. SPINDLER: No, I'm not.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Yes, you are.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

22 MR. SPINDLER: That's not the kind of
23 person I want representing me on city
24 council.

25 THE COURT: Excuse me.

1 MS. FANUCCI: Les, I don't want you
2 representing anybody anywhere.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Fanucci --

4 MR. SPINDLER: Rules of council, she
5 is supposed to not say
6 anything/STPWHR-FRPBLTS.

7 MR. MCGOFF: -- please, let me handle
8 it. I asked at the beginning of the
9 meeting, and I should have stopped
10 Mrs. Krake, I asked that we not do any
11 politicking and --

12 MR. SPINDLER: It's not politicking.

13 MS. FANUCCI: It was.

14 MR. MCGOFF: When you start speaking
15 about who to vote for and who not to vote
16 for -- -

17 MR. SPINDLER: But you let
18 Mrs. Williams speak last week.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me. It's
20 inappropriate and we should not do it.

21 MR. SPINDLER: But you let
22 Mrs. Williams speak last week and you didn't
23 stop her.

24 MR. MCGOFF: It is inappropriate and
25 I would ask that you please refrain.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Then have you to treat
2 everybody like that.

3 MS. FANUCCI: I agree.

4 MR. SPINDLER: And I want all of my
5 time back. As I stated last week, some
6 people might not know I call the
7 Times-Tribune the Doherty newsletter because
8 they are so pro Chris Doherty they don't put
9 anything for anybody else in the paper.
10 Again, this person that writes on-line
11 called me a hypocrite again, and I sent a
12 response into that and nothing put in for
13 me, for the Times-Tribune, but the Doherty
14 newsletter, so I have to say my peace here
15 so it gets on the TV. The reason he called
16 me a hypocrite is because I don't go to the
17 commissioner's meeting, but he saw me at the
18 DiBileo announcement he said. Well, I work
19 until 3:30 and the DiBileo announcement was
20 at 4:00 in the afternoon. This creep is
21 obviously a Doherty puppet and coward who
22 hides behind the computer. I'm not hiding
23 anywhere. I'm here in public live and in
24 person every single week, so if this guy
25 wants to say anything to me he knows where I

1 am.

2 Okay, Doherty's primary campaign
3 Chris Doherty said he needed four more years
4 to get the job done. Well, he got elected
5 in the primary and the people are giving him
6 his four more years now he says he wants to
7 be governor. Are we going to be paying his
8 mayor's salary to be running around the
9 state and campaigning for governor? I don't
10 think he should be paid as he is campaigning
11 for governor. His salary should be held
12 back.

13 In Saturday's Doherty newsletter
14 what a surprise, building inspector
15 suspected of DUI, Carl Graziano crashed his
16 car, I spoke about this last week and a week
17 later it's in the paper. Maybe what I said
18 last week had something to do with it, but
19 what the Doherty newsletter didn't say is
20 that Mr. Graziano also had a loaded gun on
21 him, they didn't report that. They never
22 report all of the facts, and that's a fact.
23 I heard that from several police officers.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Which ones? Which
25 ones?

1 MR. SPINDLER: I'm not mentioning any
2 names.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Well, then if you can't
4 mention their names please don't bring it
5 up.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Look into it.

7 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me, I just have
8 to ask a question.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. McGoff, rules of
10 council, please. You said no one should --

11 MR. GATELLI: Please hold Les' time.
12 No, I just have to ask you a question, Les.
13 When Mr. Graziano/AOE had his accident was
14 he working?

15 MR. SPINDLER: No.

16 MS. GATELLI: He wasn't on work time?

17 MR. SPINDLER: No.

18 MS. GATELLI: That's my only
19 question. Thank you.

20 MR. SPINDLER: That had nothing to do
21 with it. If that was me I would be in jail.
22 I would be behind bars, but I'm not a
23 Doherty puppet and a crony so that's the way
24 it is. And in the same paper, two officers
25 suing city. There's a class action lawsuit

1 against the city and it's Chief Elliott and
2 Ray Hayes, Mayor Doherty and Lisa Moran.
3 You know, all of the women in this city
4 should be outraged. If this chief degrades
5 women the way he does, he should be fired.
6 It's reprehensible the way this man -- I
7 read the complaint, you can read it on-line,
8 it's reprehensible what this man said to
9 these women. Like I said, everybody --
10 every women in this city should be outraged.
11 The mayor should resign and Ray Hayes, Lisa
12 Moran and Chief Elliott should be fired. No
13 woman, nobody should have to be treated like
14 that on their job. It's just unbelievable
15 what goes on in this city that the cronyism
16 and nepotism, it's unbelievable, and
17 nepotism goes back to Carl Graziano. Like I
18 said, Chief Elliott should be -- that's not
19 my five minutes, Mr. McGoff, it was used
20 half up by arguing with you people.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Did you give
22 Mr. Spindler additional time for the
23 interruption?

24 MR. SPINDLER: And also, not included
25 there is also a --

1 MR. MINORA: How much time?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Give him another minute,
3 please.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Adding onto that,
5 there is also an age discrimination lawsuit
6 against the city. Like I said, Chief
7 Elliott, he is totally incompetent, he
8 should be fired, this lawsuit is going to
9 cost the taxpayers I don't know how much
10 money, and we are going to be the ones
11 paying for it. Every woman should be
12 outraged and I ask for everybody's
13 resignations.

14 Lastly, as Mr. McGoff said, Tuesday
15 is election day and if anybody plans on
16 writing people in they have to make sure,
17 you have blackened in the oval or the circle
18 or whatever it is, plus write in the correct
19 name. You have to do both things in order
20 to vote or it won't count. I just want
21 everyone to know that.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

25 MR. ELLMAN: Ronnie Ellman, member of

1 the Taxpayers' Association. Les used one of
2 my words reprehensible, he didn't even ask
3 me. Mr. McGoff, my brother, I heard a rumor
4 Sunday while I was eating a hot dog, I heard
5 Johnnie Superstar is going to run against
6 you in two years. Seriously. Of course,
7 it's just third or fourth party telling me.

8 MR. MCGOFF: And from who did you
9 hear that I was running?

10 MR. ELLMAN: Oh, I don't know. He
11 will be running himself. I might run. I
12 would rather run for the mayor's job if I
13 run under the corrupt ticket I guess. While
14 I've got your attention, I was talking to a
15 fellow at Gerrity's last week, he was
16 wearing a Doherty hat and he said, "Could I
17 come to the meetings?"

18 I said, "Sure, you could. There is
19 some people, you know, supporting
20 Mr. Doherty come."

21 He said, "Could I wear my hat?"

22 And I said, "I think Mr. McGoff
23 might make an exception in your case," but
24 he didn't show up. You know, I see this
25 commercial today Mr. Doherty says old

1 politics, he is the old politics up there.
2 I don't agree with him, then he starts at
3 6,000 jobs and all of the -- the commercial,
4 I don't know. It's not a good commercial.

5 You know, there is people in this
6 town that are hungry, that just don't know
7 where their next meal is coming from because
8 I have talked to them. They don't know if
9 they are going to have a roof over their
10 head in a week and now in today's paper
11 Mr. Doherty is talking about having to get
12 housing for 600 students. He said this a
13 few months ago and he had the people over at
14 Midtown apartments, you know, just about
15 ready to pack their clothes and move.
16 That's his intentions and I don't know how
17 he can do it, but it's just like the
18 apartments across the street that he left
19 vacant that should have been repaired in
20 weeks. Just weeks. I talked to people from
21 the city that told me those apartments one
22 side someone could have lived in and the
23 other side could have been worked on. They
24 are deliberately sitting all of this time
25 and it's senseless, it's just not right to

1 scatter all of those people to the winds and
2 play a waiting game with taxpayers' monies.

3 I didn't intend to be up here,
4 that's why I just have some little notes
5 instead of my envelope lie I usually do.
6 But, you know, it seems like have half of
7 the people in this city are supporting the
8 other half, a fourth of the city is -- goes
9 under the guise of being nonprofit. This is
10 just a bunch of nonsense.

11 The University of Scranton is taking
12 almost \$30 million in taxes just from the
13 school board and they keep on going now we
14 got another college doing it. That money
15 had to be made up to the school board. It's
16 not right for these two colleges they rent
17 rooms to the -- you know, the University is
18 the biggest slumlord in probably the state,
19 and you can ask anybody that is unfortunate
20 to live next door to one of the pieces of
21 property it's a bad deal. They got how many
22 dormitories rented out and they shouldn't be
23 nonprofit. The same with Friendship House.
24 If they can give \$241,000 to the city they
25 shouldn't be nonprofit. People took --

1 well, income tax deductions to give
2 Friendship House donations because I know
3 one that did and it was a large amount of
4 money. Then they gave it to the city, you
5 know, that just -- I wish the FBI would tell
6 us who they are investigating around here,
7 it's about time they send some. There is
8 some people that it's just time for an
9 investigation like they did down there.

10 You know, we are talking outside
11 when I came in here, Mr. Doherty could get
12 rid of me real easy. He could turn me one,
13 two, three if he gave me one of jobs at the
14 Sewer Authority, those \$1,000 a week jobs.
15 I would probably even show up once in
16 awhile. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

18 MR. ELLMAN: I used that
19 reprehensible. I got one other thing, and
20 this certainly isn't the polices fault, is
21 parking on the sidewalks. It just --
22 somebody that buys and rents a house with no
23 garage and no driveway and no parking they
24 are well-compensated by what they are paying
25 for a second rate piece of property and they

1 shouldn't be allowed to park on the
2 sidewalk, and there is times I left my house
3 and you can't go anywhere without going on
4 the street. It's just -- it's got to be a
5 habit. I can understand unloading your
6 groceries or something --

7 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Ellman, your time
8 was up.

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Thank you for
11 making us aware of that issue.

12 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I wish something
13 was done about it before someone gets
14 killed. Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Brett McCloe.

16 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening. My name
17 is Brett McCloe, Scranton taxpayer. First
18 off, I wanted to say, Mr. McGoff, it's good
19 that you want people to make informed and
20 educated decisions, but you have to
21 understand who is doing this informing them
22 and who is trying to educate and when it
23 comes down to that the endorsement by the
24 Times does come into play, that is a venue
25 where people are getting their information

1 from, so I think it is fair game that we --
2 that it could be discussed possibly without
3 using names and without endorsing anyone
4 from this podium, but it is -- it is fair
5 game, you know, because basically -- because
6 legislation is going to be based on that, on
7 the endorsement because they start off by
8 saying that some candidates are a instrument
9 of progress and others are going to be an
10 obstruction that will form a decision in
11 people's minds.

12 They aren't saying who is who, but
13 it's obvious, of course, so I changed their
14 values around a little bit, tried to look
15 underneath the issue because in my mind one
16 side wants to promote progress through
17 fiscal responsibility, cutting the fat of
18 management levels, being deliberative and
19 careful about expenditures of taxpayers'
20 dollars. The other side wants to obstruct
21 this fiscal progress, find ways to spend and
22 inflate budgets and possibly create is debt
23 that can exceed \$300 million over the course
24 of the next four years of a possible Doherty
25 reelection, and it's very expensive vision

1 for our city.

2 She talked about a team that is
3 short on solutions simply because the
4 majority of this council and the Scranton
5 Times does not agree with what has been put
6 forth does not mean that they are short on
7 solutions. Fiscal responsibility is always
8 a solution no matter what the issues are.
9 On the other hand, this administration and
10 the present council had treated city as if
11 it were their own private Mohegan Sun taking
12 our tax dollars and gambling away our future
13 in a Doherty slot machine.

14 Right now we are \$270,000,000 in the
15 hole and get willing deeper. There is no
16 reason to believe that a young council
17 member won't rubberstamp and toss our
18 dollars into it any different than the
19 current majority. As far as someone being
20 an ineffective council person with a 3-2
21 vote that regular dismisses any fiscal
22 responsibility or fiscal responsibility of
23 anything, I guess they are probably right.

24 She is ineffective at pulling the
25 majority of this council away from the

1 Doherty slot machine. She is ineffective at
2 convincing that a budget based on --

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. McCloe.

4 MR. MCCLOE: I'm talking about the
5 budget.

6 MR. MCGOFF: I asked you to not do
7 this.

8 MR. MCCLOE: All right. I'm not
9 saying anybody's name. It could be her.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

11 MR. MCCLOE: Who are we talking
12 about?

13 MR. MCGOFF: But you are.

14 MR. MCCLOE: Okay, I'll -

15 MR. MCGOFF: Please stop.

16 MR. MCCLOE: How shall I continue?
17 How shall I continue? This has to be said
18 because here is the thing --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Then you say it in a
20 venue where it's appropriate and not here.

21 MR. MCCLOE: I'm trying to stop you
22 from making other decisions that will effect
23 the budgets of future budgets. Some of the
24 things that I'm saying here are totally
25 about what's going to be passed in the next

1 couple of weeks.

2 MS. FRANUS: Point of order, Mr.
3 McGoff. He has the right to say --

4 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

5 MR. MCCLOE: Never mind. You know
6 what, never mind, Folks.

7 MS. FRANUS: Point of order.

8 MR. MCCLOE: Never mind. I have
9 nothing to say.

10 MS. FRANUS: He had every right to
11 say that.

12 MR. MCCLOE: You know what, never
13 mind. I have nothing to say.

14 MS. FRANUS: You have no right to
15 tell him he can't.

16 MR. MCCLOE: All I just wanted to say
17 is that it's the mindset of the people of
18 this city that will change the legislations
19 that are passed up there. It is very
20 important that people think about how they
21 are doing it, not just take everything at
22 face value. If that's what you want them to
23 do is to take everything at face value,
24 that's fine. That's fine. Have a good day
25 and have a good night.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Jim Stucker.

2 MR. STUCKER: How you are doing,
3 Courtright?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Jim, how are
5 you?

6 MR. STUCKER: Good.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thanks for the tea.
8 Jimmy brought me an ice tea. Thank you.

9 MR. STUCKER: I found my bike today,
10 the one that was stolen they found it.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Found what?

12 MR. STUCKER: My bike.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Your bike. Very
14 good, Jim.

15 MR. STUCKER: Over the Luzerne bar?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Where?

17 MR. STUCKER: The Luzerne Bar,
18 Luzerne Street. I see a guy riding it
19 today.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: You got it back?

21 MR. STUCKER: No, I had the cops go
22 over there and see.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, okay. Good.

24 MR. STUCKER: I got a problem with
25 one person in East Mountain, everybody is

1 going to bring this up, one guy has a
2 tractor trailer blocking East Road off on
3 East Mountain, blocking it off with his
4 tractor trailer, the lady can't get down to
5 the house and the city what I heard the city
6 can't do nothing about it to move his
7 trailers. He's just doing this -- he's just
8 being a goof and hurting anybody else
9 because he wants to be mayor, he's hurting
10 everybody in Scranton to be a mayor even
11 though he can't make it.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm not quite sure
13 what you are talking about, Jim.

14 MR. STUCKER: Bob Bolus.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, geez. Okay.
16 All right.

17 MR. STUCKER: Yes.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can't help you
19 with that one, Jim.

20 MR. STUCKER: He is blocking it off
21 and everybody -- it's in the paper and on TV
22 and they are trying to make him move the
23 tractor trailers and he doesn't do it. He
24 has no reason to do it. He doesn't own the
25 road. He doesn't own the road, he doesn't

1 own the property up there and they can't
2 finish their house on East Mountain.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: The police will
4 handle it, Jim.

5 MR. STUCKER: I'm glad I found the
6 bike.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm glad you found
8 the bike, too.

9 MR. STUCKER: Okay. Hey, Janet,
10 where is them dinners at, I'm trying to find
11 out?

12 MS. EVANS: Where is?

13 MR. STUCKER: Thanksgiving dinners
14 and turkey and ham and stuff and roast beef?

15 MS. EVANS: Well, the roast beef
16 dinner I think is going to be on
17 November 22, and I can tell you more about
18 it after the meeting.

19 MR. STUCKER: All right. All right.

20 MR. MCGOFF: David Dobrzyn.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
22 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton and
23 member of the Taxpayers' Association. On
24 prior weeks I brought up the issue of
25 Washington and Lackawanna Avenue, well,

1 there was a woman with a baby carriage
2 nearly run down there. I heard that from a
3 police officer's wife Sunday, so if we could
4 start -- one of the suggestions of another
5 speaker is to time the lights, well, maybe
6 we could time the lights and make them
7 four-way stop at one point. No left turn,
8 no right turn on any other way because it's
9 run for your life down there. Now, there
10 has been a couple of people hit I think up
11 the street one block and it can't keep going
12 on.

13 Now, on fiscal issues, I'm going to
14 make a general statement once again, please,
15 if you want to be taken serious as a
16 candidate no deficits and wait until you see
17 what you are up against before you talk
18 about tax cuts.

19 Fox news business, the most
20 conservative station on television, they
21 have been stating for months about a
22 commercial space bubble, so when
23 Mr. Jackowitz speaks maybe you should
24 listen. And this tax office business,
25 please do something, Bill, get after the

1 commissioners and get a tax office. I think
2 that was the start of the last guy's
3 troubles, you know, he was walking into a
4 tax office that is in total disarray and
5 being moved around. Personally I think it
6 should go right back to where it could. All
7 you would have to do, Bill, is clean out the
8 magazines racks that have been sitting there
9 for four or five years, you know what I
10 mean?

11 And after the election, we are all
12 busy right now, but food drives for some of
13 these needy people. It's getting worse and
14 worse and worse and we have heard a couple
15 of stories about homeless and so forth, I
16 have been close in my life so I'm
17 sympathetic to them. I had a fire a couple
18 of years ago and I lucked out because a
19 neighbor was offered a house for rent on a
20 temporary basis and he said, "I own my own
21 house, why don't you rent it?"

22 Two days later I was back in the
23 house, but you know, it's no fun sleeping
24 with your dog out in the car. No fun
25 whatsoever, they move around too much and

1 whine and wake you up.

2 These nonprofits, you know, a
3 thought occurred to me, they are not paying
4 any fees for city maintenance, and I was
5 wondering if some day we can look into the
6 viability of as long as it's not a tax why
7 can't it be charged in the city maintenance
8 fee. We have to remove their snow, we to
9 produce police, fire protection. We have to
10 have a Sewer Authority and all kinds of
11 other authorities so that they could have a
12 town to exist in, why can't somebody come up
13 with a city maintenance fee so that they
14 could pay their fair share, at least. They
15 don't have pay school taxes, but when it
16 comes to maintenance a city is a tough place
17 to maintain and deal with and they are
18 certainly not much of a help.

19 So, on a final note, good luck with
20 everybody and hopefully we will be seeing
21 the right people in next year. Have a good
22 night.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Phyllis Humphries.

24 MS. HUMPHRIES: Praise be Jesus, Mary
25 and Joseph and may the moon hit your eyes

1 like a big pizza pie. I have a list here.

2 MS. GATELLI: That's amore.

3 MS. HUMPHRIES: Mayor Connors, Mayor
4 Doherty, Chief Elliott, West, David Hill,
5 William Mehalick, Jake O'Hein, Mr. David
6 Darowitz, his staff, Brenda, Lori, Bob and
7 Mrs. Lawrence, his two daughters, Joan and
8 Hope, Jim Davis, two unknown, one jumped me
9 in front of the police, Mr. Workin, the
10 Valley View -- the Valley View, Scranton
11 Housing, Mr. Lynett, Todd O'Malley, Hugh
12 Humphrey, Sue Humphrey, Alan Aponick,
13 Scranton Counseling Center, one woman from
14 the New York police department.

15 As an American citizen, what I have
16 to say, first I'm going to jump one thing
17 then I'm going to go back. Some of the
18 elderly are being used, they are taken
19 advantage of by numerous people taking their
20 items and it came upon my attention. My
21 house is like a storage bin and my car
22 because the people that want to throw away
23 their stuff and they are forced to by some
24 of these people.

25 You are under arrest. Anything that

1 you say will be held against you in a Court
2 of law. You have a right to an attorney.
3 If you cannot afford an attorney one will be
4 issued to you. Tomorrow I will go to meet
5 with the District Attorney and the Bishop of
6 the City of Scranton and many people the CIA
7 and the FBI, I am sure are going to back me
8 up because what's happened is unholy, it's
9 disgraceful and it's inhuman and I will not
10 stand this in the United States of America,
11 in the City of Scranton or in the world.

12 Pro Choice and the church that
13 portrays itself to be a Christian that
14 minister, too, this goes for him, too.
15 Thank you, God bless you and may God reign
16 and the proper people reign in our country.
17 This is it. It's done. This is it.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Morgan, did you wish
19 to speak? We went past your name? .

20 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
21 Yeah, I stepped out in the hallway for a
22 discussion on the Scranton Times article
23 today. You know, I just find it so very
24 troubling for politics to even be injected
25 into in a decision by editors of a

1 newspaper. We have -- we are faced with so
2 many problems here and the long-term debt
3 continues to spiral out of control. And,
4 you know, I appreciate everybody's opinion
5 who comes to this podium, but I've really
6 come here a very long time, longer than
7 anybody in this room, and my perspectives
8 are a lot different than everyone else's.

9 And I would like to say without
10 turning this into a political conversation,
11 including the Scranton Times gentleman that
12 I spoke to, it's my opinion, strong opinion
13 that it's the council's fault that this city
14 is where it is. It's not the mayor's fault,
15 you are the legislators. The problem that
16 have come upon the Scranton Sewer Authority
17 the Parking Authority, every one of the
18 council members on this council has standing
19 and can go into the Court if they have to.
20 Have they? No.

21 We have talked about illusions of
22 budgets presented and, you know, in lieu of
23 the mayor's. Has anybody on this council
24 ever broken down the whole budget and
25 prepared a new budget? I don't recall that.

1 I don't recall anybody ever going to
2 the Scranton Sewer Authority or going to the
3 Court to try to fight the Sewer Authority's
4 rate increases even though the Scranton
5 Sewer Authority is a municipal utility. I
6 have never seen anyone on this council offer
7 to sell the assets of the Scranton Parking
8 Authority. I remember when the Scranton
9 Sewer Authority came here for an extension
10 of their charter and they didn't need it to
11 receive the Pennvest funding for the work
12 that's being done in this city.

13 I think what's happened here is
14 politics is completely out of control and
15 people are under an illusion that certain
16 individuals are bringing change here, and I
17 have sat here and watched many individuals
18 sit at this council and they all promised to
19 change, but our debt is, if I may use Andy
20 Sbaraglia's figures, \$182 million.

21 Now, when I sat with the editors of
22 the Scranton Times I only used \$170 million
23 as a figure and they all agreed that the
24 residents of this city cannot pay that debt
25 and my question is can we ever stop talking

1 about politics here? Can we ever get
2 leaders on this council who are independent
3 thinkers, five individuals voted at large in
4 this city without forming a team to the
5 detriment of the residents of this city?
6 Can we? I haven't seen it yet and I have
7 been here a long time.

8 The other thing that I think is
9 troubling is we elect people to council who
10 never sat in this chamber, never spoke from
11 this side of the podium. Mr. Jackowitz made
12 a comment today about people speaking from
13 this podium. We have never had anybody
14 elected from this podium to council. That's
15 a problem. People get elected to council,
16 have no clue what they are doing there and
17 propel very dangerous agendas forward in
18 this city. The debt, okay, various
19 ordinances in the city. You know, there is
20 even a time up by the University of Scranton
21 that the city vacated the alley, one block
22 down on Mulberry Street heading towards town
23 on the left side, didn't even come to
24 council yet because all the votes were
25 there. Teams and teams and teams. I really

1 think it should happen -- it should stop and
2 what I really think is whoever gets elected
3 on Tuesday, so be it, but we need
4 independent thinkers who aren't afraid to
5 take issues and present them at council.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

8 MR. VITRIS: Sam Vitris, homeowner in
9 Scranton. An issue last night took place
10 where I feel the citizens of this city were
11 punished, homeowners in this city with no
12 warning at all where they -- in other words,
13 if you park your car on the street that's
14 narrow, and it's very serious situation that
15 if you park -- your street is narrow and
16 your sidewalks butt up against the street
17 and there is no curbs and a car, so to speak
18 is a foot or two on the sidewalk but still
19 plenty of room for a pedestrian to walk down
20 the sidewalk people were given tickets last
21 night.

22 Now, it didn't happen at 9:00 in the
23 morning or 12 in the afternoon or 6:00 at
24 night, at 4:00 in the morning they gave out
25 tickets to homeowners, people who live on my

1 street, I'm there 25 years, longer than me.
2 Residents, taxpayers who some people have a
3 hard time just putting money in their gas
4 tanks let's alone paying a \$10 ticket
5 because their car, they are trying to
6 protect their car from being sideswiped
7 because it's a narrow road.

8 Discretion, common sense to the
9 officer who walks up the street in the
10 middle of the night when everybody is
11 sleeping and not to even take a walk and
12 take a look, can a pedestrian fit down this
13 sidewalk or I could see if a car was
14 blocking the whole sidewalk so that a
15 pedestrian had to walk out into the street
16 because the car was blocking their pathway.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Vitris -- excuse
18 me, Mr. McGoff, is it okay if I ask him a
19 question?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Just hold the time.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sam, I think you
22 have been around long enough that most of
23 the time when they come out and do something
24 like that there was a complaint and they
25 were dispatched. I know where you live, I

1 will find out why that person did that
2 because you have been around as long as I
3 have, there ain't nobody coming out 4:00 in
4 the morning for the fun of it. Somebody
5 must have called and complained or he must
6 have been told by his supervisor, I will
7 find out why.

8 MR. VITRIS: Billy, I understand
9 that, but the truth is --

10 MS. GATELLI: And I want to interject
11 something too because I go on that road
12 every day on my way to work, I go up Eynon
13 Street, and if those cars parked where they
14 should park my little Volvo would not even
15 get through there, let alone an ambulance or
16 a fire truck. There is a serious, serious
17 problem on Eynon Street as there are on
18 probably many of the streets in the City of
19 Scranton, but I was -- I saw Sam here this
20 morning on my way to work and, you know, he
21 flagged me down and I got out of the car and
22 looked around, that's appalling that the
23 police officer would do that at 3:00 in the
24 morning to go to a neighborhood and ticket
25 cars, why isn't he on Main Avenue where the

1 crimes are or down at Tom and Jerry's or,
2 you know, places where this is high crime?
3 To ticket neighbors, I don't think it's
4 right. Should you park on the sidewalk?
5 No, probably not, there is an ordinance, but
6 to do that at 3:00 in the morning and ticket
7 a whole neighborhood when they can't park on
8 the street. It's impossible.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Courtright said that
10 he would look into the incident tomorrow.

11 MR. VITRIS: I realize that and I
12 have, too, and from what I can understand it
13 wasn't just Eynon Street and it was --

14 MS. GATELLI: It was a block in North
15 Scranton, too.

16 MR. VITRIS: It was a city --

17 MS. GATELLI: I got a complaint from
18 North Scranton.

19 MR. VITRIS: Apparently there were
20 other sections in the city it was done in,
21 so after work I just happened to ride around
22 and I noticed, I feel bad for a lot of the
23 people in the city, that they would have to
24 put up with that at that time in the morning
25 where there is so many streets, believe me,

1 people are just trying to protect their cars
2 because over 25 years I had my car
3 sideswiped twice, so after that happens to
4 you, you start inching -- everybody has --
5 I'll use Eynon Street as an example, has a
6 retaining wall in front of their home so you
7 kind of inch your way toward the retaining
8 wall because you are afraid that your car is
9 getting sideswiped and then the school buses
10 when they are coming up the street, when
11 people are parked out too far into the
12 street, well, now the school bus is slamming
13 it's brakes on, he is inching his way
14 through, not to mention we didn't get
15 into -- if they start doing this on narrow
16 roads and snow plows can't get through we're
17 going to -- I mean, there is going to be
18 issues here.

19 And that's why I only said
20 discretion and common sense judgment that if
21 you are a police officer and you walk and
22 you are going to ticket somebody you need to
23 walk over on the side of the sidewalk and
24 see if the pedestrian can fit through. Now,
25 if the pedestrian can't fit through then

1 it's justified but --

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sam, I don't think
3 it was the individual officer, if you are
4 saying --

5 MR. VITRIS: No.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Was it part of the
7 city -- there must have been a directive or
8 an order sent down. I will find out tonight
9 when that shift comes on who gave the order
10 and why they gave it.

11 MR. VITRIS: I agree, Bill, and I'm
12 not blaming --

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: And see that we
14 can't --

15 MR. VITRIS: Trust me, I'm not
16 blaming the officer, but it's the whole
17 situation needs to be addressed because
18 people are scared, now they are parking
19 their cars out in the street now because
20 they are afraid they are going to get
21 tickets.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll find out.

23 MR. MCGOFF: We'll find out, Mr.
24 Vitris. Anyone else?

25 MR. PATILLA: Good evening,

1 Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans. I
2 intentionally stayed away from council until
3 this day. Okay, now within the coming week
4 Scranton is going to face a situation where
5 we can actually finally start moving
6 forward, all right? I had a heated
7 discussion with Lee Morgan out in the
8 hallway in regards to independent thinkers,
9 all right? Scranton doesn't need
10 independent thinkers, we need taxpayer first
11 public servants. We need people elected to
12 these offices who are going to look out for
13 the taxpayer, for the homeowner, for the
14 school children, for our seniors, all right?

15 Now, I recently heard on the news on
16 the radio where the mayor again has hired
17 another individual who has no qualifications
18 for a position he was hired for. These are
19 the type of things that are putting Scranton
20 in the financial bind that she's been in for
21 the last 40, 50 years, all right? You can't
22 survive especially as second class citizen
23 with a work force of unqualified,
24 uneducated, unknowledgeable individuals.
25 This has nothing to do with anybody

1 personally, has nothing to do with their
2 political affiliations, but it does have --
3 I have 15 years in the building -- the home
4 building industry. There is nothing that
5 anybody in this city can tell me as far as
6 code goes, insulation, windows, wood, the
7 framework, I could care less because I know
8 this, and this is when I come to the
9 building -- the building -- the inspection
10 station that's who I want to address. I
11 want somebody that has that knowledge that
12 can converse with me why the fiberglass
13 insulation isn't up to code. Why the
14 plumbing isn't up to code. I don't want
15 somebody that's been hired and said, okay,
16 well you can study on the taxpayers' dime to
17 pass a certification or any test that might
18 be forthcoming, I want somebody to have that
19 experience already, be it school or be it
20 working knowledge. I don't want to pay for
21 somebody to go through college or to take
22 classes to learn what I already know, what I
23 have learned through hands on experience.

24 When I need my grass cut I don't go
25 to my butcher, all right? And it's time for

1 the Scranton public to understand we don't
2 need crony handpicked has-beens representing
3 us. We need people who are going to
4 represent us, not the people who put them
5 there, not the political affiliation that
6 they back.

7 Now, granted, I'm all for OJT, but
8 there is a time and place for everything. I
9 don't want the come to this council and have
10 a million dollars budget put in the hands of
11 a 19-year-old kid. I don't want to face
12 another 25 percent increase in taxes in
13 2010, and that decision lies with somebody
14 who never paid a damn property tax in their
15 life.

16 I don't care who the Times endorse.
17 I don't care who they don't. Endorse. I
18 have been a friend of Lee since I have moved
19 into this city and I don't believe in half
20 of the things he says, but I will vote for
21 him before I vote for somebody just because
22 they are Democrat or their political
23 affiliation. It's time for the two sides to
24 come together. There is only one side in
25 this city, that's the taxpayers, not

1 Republicans, not the Democrats, there is
2 hardly any Republicans in the city anyway,
3 it's the people. The seniors, the
4 homeowners, the small business owners, the
5 people who can't afford to feed their
6 children because of the idiotic mercantile
7 wage taxes. It's the people that can't
8 afford to buy a new home because we are
9 straddled with taxes and if we don't pay our
10 taxes we have to deal with NIC and some
11 other crony that the mayor handpicked.

12 This election is very important,
13 people. You have to come out and vote. You
14 do not need Chris Doherty breaking the tie
15 because we got two of this team on one side
16 and two of this team on the other side. We
17 need five individuals up there who are for
18 us. Not Doherty, not the people who put him
19 there, but the taxpayers. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Joanne Williams, home
22 owner. With all due respect, Mr. McGoff,
23 you let Nancy Krake come here first speaker
24 and speak a candidate's name several times
25 and then even though I don't agree with

1 Mr. Spindler, you cut him off. I don't
2 think that's right. Mrs. Evans, you stated
3 last week that you are were unable to
4 campaign due to a back injury. If so, how
5 will be able to perform your council duties?

6 There are so many bogus lies being
7 used and scare tactics and signs of
8 desperation against your opponent, but the
9 taxpayers know the truth. What worries me
10 is another candidate who is part of a team
11 that has serious issues that need to be
12 addressed within the next week.

13 Mrs. Evans, you wouldn't attend
14 along with your team a debate that was
15 scheduled for this evening. Why? Why
16 wouldn't you want to debate your opponents?
17 Sounds like something is being hidden
18 somewhere. I mean, the time of the negative
19 and the false accusations will come to an
20 end next week as our Mayor Doherty is moving
21 this city forward and has begun since his
22 first day in office.

23 You know, Mayor Doherty has restored
24 this city, the city parks, the medical
25 school coming, University of Scranton is a

1 neighbor of mine and I'll tell you they are
2 a good neighbor. They have restored the
3 pride to our city. They bring students in
4 from all over the area and they are very
5 respectful. They make the city a better
6 place.

7 Also, by the way, have you noticed
8 streets have been paved lately, but we don't
9 hear that here tonight because it's a
10 positive thing for the city, but if the
11 streets weren't paved we would definitely
12 hear they are not being paved.

13 The time for the negativity and the
14 false accusations will come to an end next
15 Tuesday and keep the city moving forward as
16 Mayor Doherty has begun. There's a candidate
17 who has a vision and a love for this city
18 and even though he is young -- no,
19 Mr. McGoff --

20 MR. MCGOFF: I asked other
21 candidates --

22 MS. WILLIAMS: No, Mr. McGoff --

23 MR. MCGOFF: I asked other people not
24 to speak on behalf of --

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. McGoff, I'm sorry,

1 but you have left other people come up here
2 and speak and you let them go.

3 MR. MCGOFF: I tried to stop them as
4 well.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: No, you did not try
6 and stop Mr. Krake. You did not stop her at
7 all and in all fairness that wasn't fair to
8 the other speakers who came up here to try
9 to speak, okay? I mean, if you are going to
10 do right by one you need to do right by the
11 other, okay?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Then I made a mistake
13 with Mrs. Krake. I was trying to --

14 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, it's too late
15 now. It's too late.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: It's too late,
18 Mr. McGoff, because you let her get her say
19 in but you won't other people get their say
20 in; am I right? Am I right there?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not going to argue,
22 Mrs. Williams. I'm just asking if you would
23 please refrain from --

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, you know what,
25 Mr. McGoff, you can get that hammer ready

1 because I'm telling you it's time that the
2 voters woke up, and you can smile all you
3 want, Mr. Courtright, you can smile all you
4 want, but when it's someone who is positive
5 about this city and comes down and talks and
6 loves this city and has a vision for it, and
7 it tired of the negativity in this room and
8 the goings on that goes on in here and the
9 accusations that are not only made in this
10 room but on a website, it's time that it
11 stops. And it's time that it stops and it's
12 time whoever is going to sit in that
13 president seat needs to gavel at the right
14 time, and I'm very concerned about that
15 issue with that team member, very concerned
16 because it was never investigated and --
17 thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: You are out of order.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: See, this is a
20 perfect example of what goes on here. This
21 is a perfect example because where was your
22 gavel then, Mr. McGoff?

23 MR. MCGOFF: I was using it.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: I didn't hear it,
25 Mr. McGoff.

1 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Uh-huh. The taxpayers
3 know who to vote for and --

4 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

5 MS. FANUCCI: You should have brought
6 your family with you then you would have had
7 a better cheering section.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah, you know. But
9 you know what, this isn't our chambers
10 anymore, it belongs to Mrs. Evans' group
11 that's who it belongs to. Mrs. Evans'
12 group. Thank you. Thank you.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Let the chaos begin.

14 MS. WILLIAMS: I'll be gone next
15 week, Mrs. Jennings. I want to know what
16 your qualifications are, too, and I'm going
17 to find that out. My husband is deceased.
18 Excuse me, she is telling me I killed my
19 husband, isn't that nice? My husband died
20 of leukemia. That's what my husband died
21 of.

22 MS. MCCALLUM: That's why I don't
23 attend these meetings.

24 MS. GATELLI: Oh, I don't blame you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: I would prior to

1 starting I would once again ask, there is no
2 need to be rude to people, to anyone.

3 MS. MCCALLUM: I'm not being rude.

4 MR. MCGOFF: I wasn't speaking -- I
5 was just speaking to people in general.

6 MS. MCCALLUM: I've lived in 38
7 cities and I have never seen the likes of
8 this. That's all I'm saying.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I am just asking that
10 people be respectful of everyone.

11 MS. MCCALLUM: I have always been,
12 sir. I've just --

13 MR. MCGOFF: Ma'am, I'm sorry, I was
14 trying to say something before you came to
15 the podium, I'm not speaking to you
16 directly. I thought that the behavior was
17 inappropriate from people clapping and being
18 rude to other.

19 MS. MCCALLUM: No point taken. No
20 point taken.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

22 MS. MCCALLUM: My name is Jeanine
23 Eagen-McCallum. Good evening to all of you.
24 I am not here for anything whatsoever
25 political, unfortunately, it's personal. I

1 happen to be one of the millions of this
2 so-called city. I was a little curious as
3 to if anybody is familiar with Shakespeare's
4 merchant of Venice? No? Portia's speech.

5 MR. MCGOFF: The quality of mercy is
6 not strained.

7 MS. MCCALLUM: Everybody has to
8 memorize it in the eighth grade. Anyway,
9 I'll get to it at the end of this. I
10 suggest you read it. It would be very
11 helpful in serving the less fortunate which
12 there are many, many of us in Scranton. I
13 think some of you are aware of the fact that
14 I own Eagen's Pub. Mrs. Gatelli?

15 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I'm sorry.

16 MS. MCCALLUM: Yes, I know you didn't
17 hear me.

18 MS. GATELLI: I can't hear hardly
19 anybody up here because it echos.

20 MS. MCCALLUM: I think some of you
21 are aware that I own Eagen's Pub.

22 MS. GATELLI: Yes, you have been to
23 our meetings.

24 MS. MCCALLUM: Yes. The building is
25 currently up for sale. My neighbors and it

1 seems every city agency does not want the
2 bar at this location. Fine. It took me
3 four years to accept it, but I accept it.

4 I only wish that someone had the
5 gumption to come to me as an adult to
6 discussion this paradox, particularly after
7 I had gone up and down Prospect Avenue to
8 introduce myself to my neighbors before I
9 closed on the property. Believe me, had I
10 had known what I was about to experience
11 four years in Leavenworth would have been a
12 kinder and wiser experience and being raped
13 for four years, that would have been better
14 than what I have been through.

15 I am a retired special ed teacher,
16 my son is a Gulf War veteran and a 9/11
17 survivor. We are conscientious,
18 hard-working people who deserved a chance
19 and a modicum of respect. Being negative
20 New Yorkers does not immediately translate
21 to thugs, thieves, rude, impolite or
22 disrespectful. By contrast, I find it
23 amazing that what I have -- what has been
24 done to us with absolutely no retaliation,
25 never lifted my voice in retaliation, people

1 probably regard the two of us as simple
2 minded.

3 The Zoning Board, Health Department,
4 Housing Authority, Sign Commission and Noise
5 Commission, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera,
6 have visited us many times. At one point
7 over a period of seven months the Liquor
8 Control Board received 13 complaints. There
9 are bars in South Side that haven't received
10 13 complaints in nine years. All unfounded
11 and dismissed.

12 Our first year here the Scranton
13 police were summoned I lost count. No
14 charges were made, I was told by a city
15 official, if you want his name I will
16 provide it, I was told by a city official I
17 could not park my own licensed state
18 inspected vehicles on my own property
19 without being towed. Therefore, I have a
20 36-foot motor home that I have to pay \$125 a
21 month to park elsewhere.

22 I have spent every spring, summer
23 and fall picking up litter along both sides
24 of Prospect Avenue from Orchard Street to
25 River Street and the same length of Donnelly

1 Court, which is the alleyway behind me, to
2 have a neighbor almost attack me for being
3 in the alley.

4 I have also been admonished for
5 having trash on my property. Pizza boxes,
6 Pampers, old tires, we don't sell these in
7 the bar, Burger King trash and refuse or
8 whatever anyone wants to dump there. Tires
9 I have to pay to have taken -- I have a
10 brand new Hyundai. I get free tires. I
11 apologize for all of my rantings -- may I
12 finish, please?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

14 MS. MCCALLUM: I apologize for all my
15 rantings. I tried to attend neighborhood
16 meetings and found them somewhat hostile.
17 My only input at one meeting was to request
18 a litter basket to empty the bags of trash I
19 collected. That never happened, I never got
20 it. In the spirit of the Golden Rule I will
21 not do to Scranton what has been doing to my
22 son and me. My life savings and my son's
23 retirement pales in comparison to the loss
24 of our trust in others, my compassion and
25 empathy for others and is now something --

1 my compassion and empathy for others is now
2 somewhat compromised. Worst of all, my son
3 is a different man. I want to leave here.
4 Hopefully in time, the man he was will
5 return.

6 As far as Eagen Pub goes I am
7 selling the license and property separately.
8 Scranton will prevail, okay. Piece of
9 history 135 years old down the tubes, that's
10 okay. Excuse me. That has me more upset
11 than anything because I'm a history and buff
12 and so is my son. All I ask -- all I ask of
13 city council and the City of Scranton and
14 all of the neighbors who are friends of city
15 hall and Scranton and whatever all I ask is
16 to allow me to do this without further
17 interference as a perspective buyer has
18 already been confronted by a neighbor. My
19 real estate agent is not very happy with
20 that.

21 I am leaving next Tuesday, I'm gone,
22 and my son will follow me in two weeks. I
23 many facing two surgeries before Christmas.
24 Is it too much to ask to leave us alone?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

1 MS. MCCALLUM: And everybody in city
2 hall, leave us alone. I have only scratched
3 the surface and, Mrs. Gatelli, you know it.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

5 MS. GATELLI: There's a neighborhood
6 meeting tomorrow night at 6:000.

7 MS. MCCALLUM: I don't want to go. I
8 opened my statement asking you about
9 Shakespeare. If you don't remember the last
10 line of Portia's speech it is, I will recite
11 it for you, it's very apprapot --

12 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. --

13 MS. MCCALLUM: Consider this, that in
14 the course of justice -- will you please
15 listen?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Well, you've gone --

17 MS. MCCALLUM: It's only one
18 sentence.

19 MR. MCGOFF: You have gone well past
20 your time.

21 MS. MCALLUM: Excuse me?

22 MR. MCGOFF: You have run well past
23 the time allotted to speakers.

24 MS. MCCALLUM: Well, I can finish a
25 sentence. Considered this, that in the

1 course of justice we do pray for mercy and
2 that same prayer does teach us all to render
3 the deeds of mercy. You have it in you.

4 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn. Taxpayers'
5 Association. As president of the Taxpayers'
6 Association I've been listening to Mrs.
7 Williams for the last couple of months
8 coming up here with the allegations of some
9 candidate that shouldn't be on the -- slated
10 to run, so I called the Department of State
11 and talked to the attorney in the Ethics
12 Commission there and I was told that Mrs.
13 Williams is in the wrong venue coming here
14 and coming to the Taxpayers' Association,
15 her recourse is in court, so all she is
16 trying to do is through that whole thing
17 against the wall as much as she can,
18 something will stick and it's tainting
19 somebody and it's bad.

20 Okay, I do want to do, also, with
21 all due respect to Lee, the fact is that
22 Mrs. Evans, as a Taxpayers' Association we
23 are grateful for the fact that she did four
24 budgets, one was a tax decrease, you know,
25 and the majority of council just spoofed it,

1 right? And the other thing is I don't know
2 of any loans that she approved since I was
3 coming here, again, the majority passed
4 them; am I right? So I don't think that --
5 I don't think we need -- when he classes
6 everybody into one that's not right, okay?

7 And the fact is that 2007 we were
8 \$170 million and now we are 182, so that's a
9 difference of \$156 million that Mr. Doherty
10 has tacked upon on us and you three
11 councilmen, whether you were here or not,
12 okay? But the fact is also that when
13 Mr. Connors left office there was 26
14 million, now it's 182 million. That's how
15 much, \$156 million Mr. Doherty put on us?

16 And also now he said he wants to
17 leave before even election -- that he wants
18 to leave us holding the bag and run for
19 governor. Now, come on, let's go here. You
20 know, the fact is that the other thing, too,
21 is that he signs proclamations, he's a liar.
22 He signs proclamations about he is a Pro
23 Lifer and then when he runs for governor he
24 is Pro Choice. Again, a liar. How can we
25 elect a mayor like that?

1 MS. FANUCCI: This is all political,
2 you are right.

3 MR. QUINN: Unemployment rate
4 9.5 percent. First 16 years unemployment
5 rate. Now, I watched two commercials today
6 on Mr. Doherty; right? And we have an
7 unemployment rate of 9.5 and he -- and not
8 only here in the commercials but in the news
9 media, printed news, he says that he has
10 created thousands of jobs. I know people
11 that's walking around the streets going to
12 food pantries. Now, that's a blatant lie
13 and yet you sit there, the majority, and you
14 don't address it. Shame on you.

15 You know, you are pathetic for what
16 you are doing to the poor people in the City
17 of Scranton, and I have to praise for Mrs.
18 Evans for getting up there and standing up
19 and against the three of you. Thank you.

20 MR. TALIMINI: Good evening, Council.
21 Joe Talimini, citizen of Scranton. I have
22 heard both sides of the fence tonight, I'm
23 glad we are not discussing politics in any
24 way, shape or form.

25 MS. FANUCCI: You are so right.

1 MR. TALIMINI: And I'm so glad that
2 the council abstained from doing the same
3 thing, but one of the things I'd like to
4 know is this lady here who represented
5 Eagen's Bar, it's been a pretty reputable
6 place. There are some dives in this town.
7 There are real dives in this town that have
8 never once been cited. This lady is being
9 driven out of Scranton. There is shame in
10 that. That shame is on the shoulders of
11 everybody in this community, but especially
12 the city officials who let it happen.

13 Now, there is also shame in this
14 city when we talk about 6,000 jobs which
15 were created and nobody can show us one, not
16 one, but they talk about 6,000 jobs created
17 in this city. I am not talking about 80 and
18 \$70,000 jobs created at city hall, I'm
19 talking about for the people of this
20 community.

21 Now, I get it through all walks of
22 life, people not only in Scranton, people in
23 Pittston, people in Clarks Summit, people
24 all over who watch these proceedings on the
25 TV and who read very faithfully what's going

1 on in the City of Scranton they find it, as
2 I do, deplorable. That this situation is a
3 load to exist and it's incumbent upon the
4 Scranton City Council and the mayor to do
5 what's right.

6 ECTV, for example, airs these
7 proceedings at 3:00 in the morning. The
8 Taxpayers' meetings are shown at obscene
9 hours when most people can't see them. I
10 can't go into a store in this area, be it
11 Walmart or Price Chopper's at Taylor Hill
12 where I don't encounter somebody who says
13 the same thing, what in the hell is going on
14 in this city?

15 Well it's about time you people took
16 a good look in the mirror and asked yourself
17 the same thing, what is going on in this
18 city and why am I allowing it to happen
19 because you are the people had charge. You
20 don't hear us, you don't listen to us. Our
21 voices are unheard. You sit there and you
22 snicker, you stare, you feign indifference,
23 but you don't give a damn about the citizens
24 of this town, it's about time you did, and
25 that is why this political situation is in

1 such an uprising as it is now and I hope it
2 continues until something changes. Thank
3 you very much.

4 MS. CHALIPKO: Mary Chalipko,
5 resident of the City of Scranton. I don't
6 usually come to these meetings, but I felt
7 that it was time with all of the turmoil in
8 the city, and I just want to say that the
9 only thing we have seen other than in the
10 Pinebrook Section again in the last eight
11 years are tax increases, more potholes, two
12 burned out buildings in the 800 block of
13 Capouse Avenue and not one change for the
14 better.

15 And I only hope when change comes in
16 January that whatever is done in this city
17 is done fairly, whether it be help for the
18 neighborhoods, whether it be code
19 enforcement, and it does sound like you,
20 Mrs. Gatelli, sending the dogs out in South
21 Side after that lady, right or wrong doesn't
22 matter.

23 MS. GATELLI: No, it wasn't.

24 MS. CHALIPKO: Right or wrong doesn't
25 matter.

1 MS. GATELLI: We met with that woman
2 at our neighborhood meeting.

3 MS. CHALIPKO: All I'm asking -- I've
4 been to a lot of neighborhood meetings, they
5 can be just as brutal. I just hope that --

6 MS. GATELLI: If you don't know the
7 other side of the story then you really
8 shouldn't comment.

9 MS. CHALIPKO: I have been involved
10 in our neighborhood association in Pinebrook
11 for almost 30 years.

12 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, well, so I have.

13 MS. CHALIPKO: Right, and you know --

14 MS. GATELLI: So the other side of
15 the story.

16 MS. CHALIPKO: And I know your quote
17 you never received a cent.

18 MS. GATELLI: Right.

19 MS. CHALIPKO: Right. Jobs,
20 whatever, they don't matter, but you have
21 never received a cent. Most recently, we've
22 watched the mayor try to give away part of
23 the Chick Feldman Complex to Lackawanna
24 Junior College and as I stand before you
25 that will not happen. So thankfully when

1 change comes in January I hope that things
2 are just done fairly for the future of
3 Scranton, my neighborhood and the rest of
4 the city. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

6 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hello, Bill.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Billy, this is going
9 to change next year, you know, Buddy?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: What's that?

11 MR. SLEDENZSKI: This is all changed
12 next year, Bill. Hey, Bill, remember, how
13 was your vacation?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Very good.

15 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Bill, how is
16 Butch --

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Danny?

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Yeah. The bird man
19 and the cat man, Bill. Thank you.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,
21 city resident and member of the Taxpayers'
22 Association. First question I have tonight
23 is two weeks ago Mrs. Gallagher-Hahn was
24 here and she said she was told by a DPW
25 employee an unpaved street could not be

1 paved as there had been a theft of funds.
2 Now, Mrs. Fanucci reacted, but I'm wondering
3 whether anyone investigated this incident
4 and if you have a report on how much, who?

5 MS. GATELLI: Where was it at, Mrs.
6 Schumacher?

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Department of Public
8 Works.

9 MS. GATELLI: What street?

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't know. The
11 woman lives on I think she said the 800
12 block of Gibbons Street and it was by
13 Connell Park or her son had built some
14 townhouse. But, I mean, I find that
15 appalling that somebody says there has been
16 a theft and nobody on council --

17 MS. FANUCCI: Because it's a --

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Wait, during --

19 MS. FANUCCI: You are asking a
20 question, do you want an answer?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, during
22 motions, yes, not on my five minutes.

23 MS. FANUCCI: For the love of God,
24 you either want the answer or not. You
25 drive us crazy with the questions. If you

1 want the answer --

2 MS. GATELLI: It IS a street. It is
3 a street so how could it be theft of
4 services. It is a street. It's a city
5 street.

6 MS. FANUCCI: No, she is saying that
7 the money was missing.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Anyway, may I
9 continue?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

11 MS. GATELLI: How could the money be
12 missing, it's a street?

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: With the price of
14 gas going up daily it is very frustrating to
15 sit at a red light and have absolutely no
16 other traffic on the road and you have to
17 wait and wait and then you go another block
18 and the same thing happens and you another
19 black block and the same thing happens.

20 For ten years we had money in this
21 city to do a timing project and properly
22 time the lights throughout the city, at
23 least on the main thoroughfares, and I have
24 asked this before and I'm going to ask it
25 again and maybe keep asking it until you

1 a pothole at the corner of Adams and Spruce
2 that you really can't avoid when there is a
3 traffic because you have to make -- if you
4 are maybe being the right turn you are going
5 to hit it. I don't know if it's, again, if
6 it's a Sewer Authority project that needs to
7 be fixed or if it's just a DPW, but that's a
8 terrible hole.

9 If you go up toward Connell Park on
10 Gibbons Street there is a horrendous,
11 horrendous pile of asphalt with a humongous
12 hole besides it that I'm surprised -- I'm
13 surprised anybody can sell a new car. I
14 drive a ten-year-old car and a 20-year-old
15 car and I'm going to put off buying a new
16 car as long as I can because the damage
17 that's done to your car just driving on the
18 city streets and obeying the traffic rules
19 are just horrendous and something need to
20 and done.

21 And speaking of holes, I would like
22 to know if during motions again if there are
23 any ideas on how the humongous hole in the
24 2010 budget is going be filled. The 2009
25 budget was filled with a \$5.5 million

1 windfall, hopefully it will be windfall from
2 the Single Tax Office. What's going to
3 replace that? How are we ever going to stop
4 the flight to the suburbs when we have --
5 when we don't have parody with all of the
6 surrounding municipalities when it comes to
7 what we charge people to live here. More
8 next week. Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

10 MR. JONES: My name Bob Jones.

11 Hello, Council, Scranton resident. I won't
12 talk about politics, I will just quote
13 George Carlin, no foul language though.
14 It's a great city, you know, you got your
15 rich, they do none of the work, pay none of
16 the taxes and have all of the money it
17 seems, right? You got your middle class,
18 they do all the work, they pay all of the
19 taxes, and you got your poor. They are just
20 here to scare the hell out of the middle
21 class so they keep showing up to their jobs.

22 Like before I was going to address
23 somebody about a traffic problem, I went to
24 Main and Parker at the light, and it seems
25 the first person to pull up to the light has

1 a boombox about the size of something you
2 see at Tinks and it's playing at all hours
3 of the day. Not just one person, but pretty
4 much anyone, but as he is playing it the guy
5 in the motorcycle behind him gets jealous
6 about how loud he is so he's got to outdo
7 him. So there is the motorcycle, there's
8 the boombox, boompitty, boompitty, boom, and
9 there's the motorcycle, vroom, vroom, vroom.
10 He's got to outdo that. Then, of course,
11 the truck that pulls up behind him with the
12 jake brakes, he's got to outdo the guy on
13 the motorcycle and the guy with the boom
14 box. Well, it seems this happens about
15 24/7, you know, three in the morning you
16 hear the boombox and the motorcycle, about
17 6:00 you hear the jack brakes starting and,
18 well, I'd like to see more cops out there.
19 That would be cool. The first time I would
20 ever welcome cops around my house. Anyway,
21 they are always out there --

22 MS. GATELLI: Maybe we'll send the
23 one that gave all the parking tickets last
24 night to you instead.

25 MR. JONES: Yeah, that'd be perfect.

1 Put his power to good instead of evil.
2 Okay, thanks. Good luck with the election
3 and have a good one. I got rid of the
4 Comcast so I don't have to look at my face
5 on the replay so that's why I came up here.

6 MS. GATELLI: You do a good George
7 Carlin, too.

8 MR. JONES: Oh, yeah. I used to
9 look like him. That's my George Talimini
10 George Carlin.

11 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, City
12 Council. Charlie Newcomb, homeowner,
13 taxpayer. First I have to say that I love
14 this city also and I'm not going to say
15 anything negative and I was going to come
16 here with the election was Tuesday or it was
17 seven months from now because I'm here on
18 the issue that I said I'm going to come
19 every four or five weeks and ask what you've
20 got done about it, and if anything got done
21 about it and that's the Washburn Street
22 Cemetery, but before I get into that I heard
23 somebody before say that the pothole and it
24 mentioned the thing to me do we know where
25 that pothole machine is? I heard like -- I

1 remember sitting here five years ago and
2 talking about this pothole machine and I
3 have never seen it.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: It was beached down
5 at the DPW. I don't know if they removed
6 it.

7 MR. NEWCOMB: Well, they can come to
8 Keyser Valley because there's a lot of
9 streets over there that can use the pothole
10 machine because my street is not paved.

11 I sent e-mails to all of council as
12 far as the Washburn Street Cemetery goes. I
13 sent letters to the mayor's office,
14 Mr. Seitzinger in the director of LIPS
15 department to get no response. The only
16 person that responded to me all of the time
17 was Mrs. Evans and it's very frustrating to
18 know that this is a true concern of mine and
19 nobody will respond to me.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Charlie, there is a
21 woman, I was on vacation, when I came back
22 she left me message, I believe she said her
23 name was Shirley. She has been very active
24 in that and she is looking to do some kind
25 of a fundraiser, so she told me that

1 Pevasanto's --

2 MR. NEWCOMB: Monuments.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Monuments, right,
4 they will match her dollar for dollar to fix
5 the stones and she is going to try to start
6 with the Veteran's stones first, so she is
7 working on something. I'm going to try to
8 help her out and --

9 MR. NEWCOMB: My point is, I know
10 what you are talking about and I was over
11 there last weekend to help, but there wasn't
12 many people over there, but the cemetery has
13 been cleaned up.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: It looks a lot
15 better.

16 MR. NEWCOMB: It looks 100 times
17 better because people that have family
18 members there are doing it. My point is why
19 aren't you going after the owner of this
20 cemetery to do this? No individual should
21 have to do that. We paid, and when I say
22 "we", my family paid money for these people
23 to do this, so everybody that is over there
24 can't be commended.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's supposed to be

1 perpetual care.

2 MR. NEWCOMB: Right. But how is it
3 not happening? That is my question. Why is
4 everybody ignoring this? I mean, it's just
5 a terrible thing and I have called the owner
6 myself, didn't get a return call. Many
7 people have called not getting response. I
8 don't want to say who he is friends with,
9 but when you put the pieces of the puzzle
10 together it really doesn't look too good and
11 as far as the neighborhood that he lives in,
12 really doesn't look too good, and the size
13 of the house that he is in, and you pay a
14 landscaper to cut your own grass I think he
15 should send them over to the Washburn Street
16 Cemetery to cut the grass that people paid
17 for because I really think it's disgusting
18 to put it bluntly, but the people that are
19 cleaning up, again, need to be commended for
20 that.

21 November 7, the weekend of
22 November 7 I will be over there with my
23 lawnmower because I love this city, also,
24 but anybody that wants to come over to the
25 Washburn Street Cemetery I'm going to donate

1 flags to put, my grandfather was a veteran,
2 there hasn't been a flag on his stone, every
3 time we put it there it gets taken away or
4 whatever, but anybody that wants to come
5 hopefully if the weather is pretty good we
6 will be over there cleaning it up.

7 But I really want to thank Mrs.
8 Evans because every single time we go on she
9 makes the effort to do it and she sent me a
10 copy of the letter that she sent to LIPS and
11 to get no reply and it's really, really sad
12 that the people that run this city can't
13 even do something of this nature to help and
14 that every single e-mail and every single
15 letter in this city that you send to people
16 go ignored. That's truly a crime, so have a
17 good day.

18 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Nelson
19 Ancherani, First Amendment Rights. All of
20 those people, everybody that sits back and
21 does nothing, that's fine if that's what
22 we're comfortable with, but these are times
23 of extreme importance, everybody should if
24 they can attend council meetings. We as
25 taxpayers of the City of Scranton were faced

1 with 25 percent tax increase in 2007.
2 Bankers, PEL puppets and city officials came
3 before city council and begged for a
4 \$44 million loan, 25 percent tax increase
5 for 2007, two more for 2008 and 2009.
6 2008-9 council found the fortitude to stand
7 up and opted out of passing a \$44 million
8 loan, but they passed the first 25 percent
9 tax increase and three council members, Ms.
10 Fanucci, Mrs. Gatelli and Mr. McGoff voted
11 in favor of it.

12 Even though had in 2008 and 2009 the
13 taxes did not increase to 75 percent, we
14 still continue to pay the 25 percent each of
15 those years and will pay them until 2010.
16 So think about that when you are sitting
17 back in your easy chairs and too lazy to get
18 out and attend council meetings and let
19 people, council members know what your
20 feelings are. We have a right that our
21 forefathers and soldiers gave us to vote, so
22 I hope everybody gets out and vote. To sit
23 back and do nothing is unconscionable.

24 Record budgets, since 2002 we have
25 had records budgets, every one of them was

1 more than the Connors' administration. We
2 paid for the record budgets totaled
3 \$556,443,224. With all of the loans it's
4 approximately 750 million dollars you could
5 say is revenue. That's three-quarters of a
6 billion dollars. The increases of the loans
7 is \$110,110,480. That's the increases from
8 the Connors' budget.

9 The slimes said that, for example,
10 we had Ms. Evans almost annually has failed
11 to follow-through on her promise to deliver
12 a comprehensive budget to counter the
13 mayor's. I'm just reiterating what other
14 people have said. She has. They called
15 council speakers Halloweeners, but it seems
16 like this is only when they come out. They
17 are Halloweeners themselves.

18 Issues, you know, we have forgotten
19 a lot about them, but union busting, the
20 25 percent tax increase while 12 million was
21 found in the tax office but why was it
22 there? Two million lost to accounting
23 errors. 5.5 million American Anglican
24 arbitration loss. That means we get a
25 56 percent -- or, I'm sorry, yeah,

1 56 percent rate hike. \$300 million in
2 long-term debt; 20 million given out in
3 raises and new hires.

4 Names were called to council
5 speakers, labor strife eight years, 61
6 forged off the air, exorbitant B & S,
7 borrowing and spending, recovery Plan
8 violations, returning soldiers from Iraq not
9 made whole, an undersized police building,
10 health care increased when 100 city
11 employee's union workers were forced out of
12 their jobs with 100 replacing them. Full
13 benefits. PD parking lot, police department
14 parking lot, not finished, paved. Last used
15 during snow removal. 722,000 defaulted
16 loans. Gangs where no gangs existed. A
17 green fish pond at Nay Aug 1.2 million.
18 Undersized bathhouse. Raw sewage on the
19 Davis trail. Over one million paid for
20 attorney fees to fight the unions. 267,000
21 wasted on the Casey Parkway renovations only
22 to have the building torn down. Connell
23 building reservation sitting idle. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Before you leave,

1 Mr. Ancherani, can I have the exact year you
2 started with -- on the force. The exact
3 year you became a detective, just for the
4 record.

5 MR. ANCHERANI: Which? Became a
6 juvenile --

7 MS. FANUCCI: No, from the beginning
8 when you first --

9 MR. ANCHERANI: There is a lot of
10 dates. I became a reserve in 1970, so
11 that's approximately 40 years.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Okay.

13 MR. ANCHERANI: I started with CETA
14 in 1976. I got a vacancy in 1983.

15 MS. FANUCCI: So 1970 was your
16 beginning; right?

17 MR. ANCHERANI: Yeah.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. ANCHERANI: Forty years and
20 kicking.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Mrs.
22 Evans?

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I would
24 like to begin tonight by reading a letter
25 that was sent to city council just this

1 afternoon, Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at
2 4:28 p.m., and each council member received
3 a copy of this letter and the reason I'm
4 reading it is to respond to an issue that
5 was raised earlier by a speaker.

6 "To be clear, regarding an assertion
7 by a speaker that Janet Evans chose not to
8 participate in a debate among city council
9 candidates, neither Janet Evans nor any
10 other council member is responsible for the
11 canceling of the debate for city council
12 candidates. The original date for the
13 debate was mistakenly set for a Tuesday night
14 by a noncity resident that was not aware of
15 the regular council meeting. When it was
16 brought to the attention of the League of
17 Women Voters of Lackawanna County, that date
18 was immediately withdrawn.

19 While I am a member of the Board of
20 the League of Women Voters of Lackawanna
21 County, I am not acting officially on behalf
22 of the League, however, I am aware of the
23 details regarding this and I do want to make
24 it clear that Janet Evans is not the person
25 responsible for their not being a debate.

1 The League itself is responsible. Thank
2 you. Tom Welby."

3 Last week council received the
4 independent auditor's report for 2008. As
5 expected, the city's debt grew in 2008. The
6 total principle debt of the city, it's
7 municipal authorities for which the city has
8 guaranteed either bonded debt or debt and
9 capitalized leases is \$183,261,478. This
10 total represents an increase of \$24,000,099
11 over 2007 audit figures.

12 The total long-term debt of the
13 city, it's municipal authorities for which
14 the city has guaranteed either bonded debt
15 or debt and capitalized leases is
16 \$316,107,741, an increase of \$42,767,513
17 over 2007 audit figures. This long-term
18 debt extends to the Year 2043 for the
19 Parking Authority alone. A 22-year-old
20 college graduate who wishes to remain in
21 Scranton will be 56 years old when this debt
22 is completely paid. Have our children and
23 grandchildren's futures been mortgaged? You
24 better believe they have.

25 In addition, it is important to

1 remember that these figures do not include
2 fiscal year 2009. It seems the Parking
3 Authority may be trying to obtain another
4 line of credit or a loan to make it's debt
5 payments and at this time I don't know what
6 financial avenues the mayor will propose in
7 his 2010 budget outside of cuts to workers
8 rather than management, another sale of real
9 estate tax receivables to the Redevelopment
10 Authority and Municipal Revenue Services,
11 and possible increased parking fees.
12 Further, these 2008 figures do not include
13 the city's looming 2011 increased pension
14 obligations.

15 It is important to note that the
16 city may well use January 1, 2007,
17 valuations for the 2010 budget. What this
18 serves to do is to postpone the big hit, the
19 big financial hit to 2011. It is also
20 crucial to your quality of life in Scranton
21 to remember that our long-term debt, total
22 long-term debt is over \$316,000,000, well
23 over a quarter of a billion dollars.

24 Do you want to pay down this debt or
25 continue the status quo of borrowing and

1 depression or pothole at the corner of Adams
2 and Spruce and I believe I asked for that as
3 also, several weeks ago and, in fact, I
4 spoke to Mr. Vitris personally about it, he
5 told me it would be taken care of the next
6 day, but unfortunately, I am hearing tonight
7 that that was wasn't the case, and that's
8 all.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Fanucci.

10 MS. FANUCCI: I am going to respond
11 to a few of the question from tonight.
12 First, let me say that the word not
13 political went really well tonight. It was
14 a downright disgrace as always. This forum
15 is beyond corrupt. Everything that has been
16 said here and pointing fingers to other
17 people it's so funny because it seems to be
18 okay when it's your people. Amazing to me.
19 Absolutely amazing. As long as you use it
20 to your advantage I guess it works.
21 Remember that everything that is wrapped in
22 a pretty bow is not always a great package.

23 We hear here all of these solutions
24 constantly, they sound great, they really
25 do. When you pick them apart piece by piece

1 about the tax increase. Yeah, terrible
2 decision. Hard to take. Didn't want to do
3 it. Would never want to do it, but guess
4 what? What's going to happen in the future,
5 you don't raise taxes. It's going to go to
6 a judge, they are going to declare
7 bankruptcy, it's going to go to a judge and
8 the judge is going to raise it three times
9 as much. Why? Because that's exactly
10 what's going to happen. You are taking it
11 out of your elected officials and into
12 somewhere where it's a Court making
13 decisions about your taxes. Mark my words
14 you go into bankruptcy that's what going to
15 happen.

16 Please, I'm going start being like
17 Mr. Ancherani and I'm going to start making
18 predictions, that's one of my predictions.
19 If you let this go these are the problems.
20 You can't ignore them. You can't ignore
21 them. Just like you can't say let's take
22 the budget and cut half of it out and still
23 function as a city. Not feasible, and you
24 can't do it. You can't do it. Its sounds
25 wonderful. I would love to. Four years ago

1 I would have sat here and said, you know
2 what, I'm going to get rid of every tax in
3 this city, I'm going to cut the budget in
4 half and we are all going to live in this
5 wonderful fairytale, but you know what the
6 whole entire United States of America
7 couldn't do it. Why? Because it's the way
8 we are functioning as a country. It's
9 awful. It's awful.

10 I sit here week after week listening
11 to how I am corrupt. I'm corrupt. It's a
12 disgrace. I'm corrupt because I sit and
13 discuss and try to figure out solutions
14 instead of just putting out the anti? It's
15 so easy to be anti, you don't have to do
16 anything. I would love that job. I have
17 been saying it for four years. Give me a
18 place where I could say, you know what, you
19 are wrong, you are wrong, you are wrong and
20 sit back. It's a perfect storm. I want
21 that. In fact, maybe some day that might be
22 me, but for now I'm still trying to figure
23 it out and trying to make good decisions,
24 decisions that aren't just about the ten
25 people in this room because the ten people

1 in this room still have agendas. Even after
2 the elections, after all of that we still
3 have taxpayers.

4 Some people come here and represent
5 people who aren't paying their taxes for
6 years and years and years and that's okay.
7 Why? Because they are our friends. That's
8 different. It's okay. They are running a
9 website for us and we are thrilled. We
10 don't care about taxes. We don't care they
11 are not paying the firemen or the policemen
12 standing anywhere in this city or the
13 workers who are in city hall or all over,
14 it's okay. Let's not worry about paying
15 them, they are our people. It's awesome.
16 It's not right. It's not right.

17 You talk about independent thinkers,
18 you talk about being anti everything, it is
19 your taxpayer and you who are suffering. I
20 sit up here as a taxpayer, we all do. Week
21 after week we make decisions because of the
22 way we feel and think and beliefs.

23 I had a speaker come up tonight and
24 say they can't find one job that was
25 created. I don't know where you weren't

1 paying attention. Every time we give out a
2 loan there is jobs created. It's part of
3 the program. You have to create the job so
4 there you go. You want your one job, there
5 was two last week, so if you don't
6 understand where these things are happening
7 or how they are happening it's okay.

8 We also have a big company right now
9 who actually are increasing I think to like
10 165 jobs paying \$90,000 a year salary.
11 Yeah. Check it out. You might want a job.
12 Well, I wouldn't think you would, really.

13 But the thing is you can't sit here
14 and say and accuse people and point the
15 finger without all of your facts. This is
16 not about elections, this is about your
17 government and you have hijacked it to the
18 point of insanity, quite frankly, and I'm
19 not saying you are insane, don't go off on
20 your website tonight and all get all
21 nervous, I am saying that you have really
22 duped the public into a real sad, sad
23 situation.

24 Another question from one of the
25 speakers, why aren't we investigating?

1 Personnel issues are personnel issues. When
2 it is a personnel problem personnel has to
3 take care of it, just like the unions have
4 that same deal like -- there is a lot we
5 can't do because they are union protected.
6 Personnel has the same, they have to take
7 care of it in the way that they have, we
8 can't do that, that's us. We can't. So
9 that is why we didn't have a big
10 investigation for you.

11 Maintenance fees, one of the things
12 that came up tonight, sounds great. Still a
13 tax. Still can't do it. Still illegal.
14 I'm so offended by what it is that you think
15 you know. On a daily day basis I'm offended
16 because you have no clue what goes into this
17 job. You have no clue. You have a clue of
18 what you want out of in job and why you are
19 here what you want out of it, what you want
20 to get, and I hope when you get it you are
21 as responsible as you claim to be because I
22 actually feel sad. I feel sad for the city
23 because protecting and going against
24 everything is not making anyone any better.
25 You will be a stalemate, instead of four

1 years ago I'm going to say it now, you will
2 actually just keep going backward and that's
3 what you want.

4 Do I believe that any of this should
5 take place in this forum? No. But I have
6 lost that battle four years ago. This has
7 been -- this is nothing but politics at it's
8 worst. When you go out there and vote do
9 your homework, and remember if it's wrapped
10 pretty and it looks nice doesn't mean that
11 it's going to do the job and sometimes the
12 job is not easy, but just going against the
13 job all of the time is also not the answer.
14 Working and actually pretending are two
15 different things, and that is all I have.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. GATELLI: I just have a few
18 items. I wanted to thank the DPW for taking
19 down the houses at 518-520 Emmett Street.
20 It was done today by our own DPW.

21 I would also like to see if we can
22 send a letter to Jeff Brazil. They are
23 having a problem on the corner of Cedar and
24 Genet Street. There is a bus stop there in
25 the morning and the cars are speeding down

1 Cedar Avenue so if we can't put some signs
2 on both sides saying "School Bus Stop," you
3 know, "Drive Slowly Children" in the area
4 there or something to that affect that Cedar
5 Avenue does not have many traffic lights and
6 people tend to speed down that hill rather
7 quickly and they are having the problem with
8 the children.

9 I would like to announce a meeting,
10 I don't know if this is the proper forum,
11 but I'm going to do it anyway. St. Francis
12 Church, which I have talked about in the
13 past, is where I am a parishioner and our
14 church has been made a worship site. We
15 have been consolidated with two other
16 parishes. We are meeting on Monday evening
17 at 6:30 at the Dante Club. We have been
18 meeting for several weeks now. We are
19 trying to get a different mass at our church
20 and we are trying to prevent our church from
21 being closed, so I wanted to make the
22 announcement because we don't see all of the
23 parishioners anymore and we want to get it
24 out to them that we are having these
25 meetings on Monday evenings at 6:30 at the

1 Dante Club and any parishioner of ST.
2 Francis of Assisi Church is certainly
3 welcome to come.

4 The only other thing I have to say
5 is I know Mr. Ancherani likes to talk with
6 all of his numbers and his borrowing and,
7 you know, I like to answer him back and he
8 won't make the bet for the lunch this year I
9 don't know why he won't make that bet with
10 me, he did every other year but this year he
11 won't make it. I know that quite a few of
12 you in this particular audience right now
13 don't care for Mr. Doherty and your choice
14 for mayor will be Mr. DiBileo, but I wanted
15 to bring out the fact that the three people
16 sitting here whose name are brought up all
17 of the time for borrowing Mrs. Gatelli,
18 Mrs. Fanucci and Mr. McGoff, I could say
19 your speech in my sleep, Nelson, I have
20 heard it so many times, but he fails to tell
21 you that Mr. DiBileo borrowed money, too.
22 They don't want to tell you that. In 2002
23 he borrowed \$7.7 million, in 2003 he
24 borrowed four million, in 2004 he borrowed
25 nine million and in 2005 he borrowed

1 14.5 million for a total of 35.2 million
2 dollars. So I just want the public to know
3 that this isn't all about us borrowing
4 money. It's about who they want to pick for
5 their mayoral candidate. He also borrowed
6 money and they don't bring that issue out
7 into the public and I think the public
8 should know that, that he also borrowed
9 money over the years that he served on
10 council.

11 It's not always an easy decision
12 when you are sitting up here to raise taxes,
13 that's not an easy thing to do to tell
14 people you have to pay an extra \$75 a year
15 tacked onto your bill, but sometimes you
16 think you are doing the right thing.

17 Would I have liked the police
18 contract to be settled, yeah, sure I would.
19 And if it was settled and they needed a
20 raise I would vote to raise the taxes for
21 that, I'd have to be honest with you, and I
22 told you that to your face, Nelson, that
23 that's the only reason I would raise the
24 taxes again would be to fund the police and
25 fire department. So, yeah, sometimes we

1 have to raise the taxes. They weren't
2 raised in 12 years. The school district
3 raises them every year and I don't see any
4 of you up there saying anything up there.
5 You are only down here. You don't go to the
6 county, of course, they are doing a great
7 job, you know, cutting their budget and
8 laying people off which is what we plan to
9 do in the city this year. There is going to
10 be layoffs because we are not going to raise
11 the taxes again and we are not going to
12 borrow anymore money, so we can promise you
13 that, there will be layoffs in this budget.

14 Use your head when you are going to
15 the polls and see what people have done and
16 what they are all about and whether they
17 will answer the public's questions or
18 whether they won't. I'll still be around, I
19 told you that. I always tried to do what I
20 thought was best for the community. I never
21 intentionally wanted to hurt any poor people
22 or put them out of their house, I only
23 wanted to do what I thought in my opinion
24 was the right thing. I will continue in my
25 neighborhood and I will continue to work

1 with the city council that's elected and
2 home this they will have the same idea for
3 my neighborhood as I have had for the last
4 30 years, and that's all I have. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Courtright.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: First, Mrs. Krake
7 referenced Barry, I hope -- I think she is
8 referencing Barry Pierce. If it is Barry I
9 hope you are feeling well.

10 I think I spoke on this last week
11 about the lots and somebody brought up about
12 it tonight, just because the city tears down
13 a property and the lot is empty doesn't mean
14 that the city owns it and so, therefore,
15 they wouldn't be able to just put parked
16 cars on it and if, in fact, they did own it
17 then in order to park a vehicle on it where
18 there was a house they would have get a
19 variance to come across the sidewalk and
20 neighbors aren't too pleased with you doing
21 that, but just a little information.

22 Oh, I'm glad Mrs. Williams stepped
23 back in, I was not laughing at you, Mrs.
24 Williams, what I was laughing at was the
25 situation we find ourself in this evening

1 because in the back room we said we weren't
2 going to allow any politics and I guess that
3 went to the wayside. That's what I was
4 laughing at, I wasn't latching at you. I
5 think I have tried not to laugh at anybody
6 here since I have been here. You got to --
7 my mother used to yell at me when I first
8 got on council for that. "You can't laugh,
9 that doesn't look good."

10 You got admit, sometimes there is
11 some funny things that happen here and I
12 just can't help but laugh, you know, so I
13 hope I haven't offended anybody by my
14 laughing.

15 And Sam Vitris came, when we get
16 done here I'll call down to roll call and
17 see if the shift commander is there, if they
18 went out and they ticketed at 4:00 in the
19 morning, believe me, unless it was some
20 rogue officer I don't think at 4:00 in the
21 morning they're happy things calm down at
22 that time, they are not looking to ticket
23 people. There must have been a directive or
24 an order coming down. How do I say this
25 without offending anybody? Sometimes you

1 will get a neighbor that just keeps on
2 calling and keeps on calling and keeps on
3 calling and maybe you parked your car that
4 way for the last 25 years but this neighbor
5 just keeps on and they finally say we got to
6 go out and ticket to do something about it,
7 so I'm sure it was an order or a directive
8 came down, I don't think it was one rogue
9 officer running around the city the other
10 night, but I will find out tonight and I
11 will report back to Mr. Vitris next week.

12 And lastly, when I do work the
13 polls, and I'm going to say for any
14 candidate not even for myself, I work at
15 Keyser Valley, and we have been fortunate, I
16 haven't seen anybody have any trouble at
17 this poll arguing or fighting even though
18 obviously there are opposing sides there,
19 but I have seen it or heard of it anyway at
20 other polls and, you know, whoever is going
21 to win is going to win and I just hope that
22 election day we don't see any of that, there
23 is not going to be anybody fighting or not
24 getting arrested and if your candidate wins
25 great. If your candidate loses life goes on

1 so try to not carry it with you forever and
2 although we won't see you next week we will
3 see you the following week, and that's all I
4 have. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: I believe that we as a
6 council, and me in particular, made a huge
7 mistake this evening. Instead of barring
8 all political talk I think in the future I
9 would suggest that we just give everybody
10 five minutes to speak about whatever
11 candidate they want or candidates and just
12 let it go. Trying to -- trying to stop
13 people from making political speeches here,
14 as I found out this evening, is an
15 impossibility and a no-win situation.

16 Council is not meant to be -- the
17 podium is not meant to be a political
18 podium, it's meant for business, but
19 unfortunately, since everyone here is
20 elected it becomes -- it becomes part of the
21 electoral process and I guess maybe
22 unavoidable that people will speak on behalf
23 of their candidates, so in the future
24 perhaps I would suggest that whoever has to
25 sit in the seat that they make no attempt to

1 try and stop it, they simply allow it to
2 happen and move on. And that's all. Fifth
3 Order.

4 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE BY
6 SEALED BID OR AUCTION A VACANT LOT LOCATED
7 AT 2935-2937 PITTSTON AVENUE ACQUIRED
8 PURSUANT TO A GIFT TO THE CITY, AS MORE
9 PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED DEED.

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

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
24 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 92,
25 2009 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF

1 COUNCIL NO. 49, 2008, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
2 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2009"
3 BY TRANSFERRING \$17,100.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
4 01.040.00040.4201 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION-
5 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO ACCOUNT
6 NO.01.040.00040.4190 (BUSINESS
7 ADMINISTRATION- UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE) TO
8 PROVIDE FUNDING TO COVER QUARTERLY PAYMENTS
9 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

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

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

14 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
22 have it and so moved.

23 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER. NO
24 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to adjournment, I

1 would just like to mention that there will
2 be no meeting next week due to the election.
3 H the next council meeting will be held on
4 November 10th at 6:30.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Motion to adjourn.

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

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER