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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MS. SUE MAGNOTTA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

4 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Here.

8 MS. MAGNOTTA: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

10 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

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

15 MS. GARVEY: 3-A. MINUTES OF THE
16 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON
17 OCTOBER 28, 2009.

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

20 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. ANNUAL FINANCIAL
21 REPORT OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR
22 ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008.

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

25 MS. GARVEY: That's it for Third

1 Order.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Any announcements from
3 council?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just have one, I
5 I'd just like to congratulate school
6 director Chris Phillips and his wife on the
7 birth of their new baby boy and both are
8 doing fine, so congratulations to them.

9 MS. GATELLI: I just have one. In
10 October I failed to mention someone's
11 birthday, it's a person that has devoted
12 their life to Connell Park Little League and
13 he is not feeling well and I promised him
14 that I would say happy birthday to him from
15 a council meeting, so I'd like to wish a
16 happy birthday to Marty McDonough, the
17 backbone of Connell Park. Happy birthday,
18 Marty. That's all I have.

19 MS. EVANS: Please remember in your
20 prayers all those who are died this last
21 week, particularly Christine Pica and her
22 dear family and friends she leaves behind.
23 Her son, Joe, is a Scranton firefighter and
24 her brother-in-law Richard is retired
25 Scranton fire chief. Our prayers and

1 condolences go out to Joe, his father and
2 her family.

3 The Interfaith Committee will
4 conduct it's Friendly's Family Fun Night
5 tomorrow, November 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. at
6 Friendly's Restaurant in Dunmore. Proceeds
7 will benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Food
8 Kitchen.

9 November is pancreatic cancer
10 awareness month and a fundraiser "Pancakes
11 for Pancreatic Cancer" will be held in
12 Saturday, November 21, at Appleebee's
13 Restaurant near the Viewmont Mall from 8 to
14 10 a.m. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00
15 for children and can be purchased at the
16 door or in advance by calling Mary Cooligan
17 at 570-343-5223. 343-5223.

18 Also, the Pancreatic Cancer Action
19 Network will conduct a night of the
20 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins at Wachovia
21 Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre on
22 November 28 at 7:05 p.m. For just \$23.25 you
23 will receive lower level seating, a baseball
24 cap, hot doing, popcorn and soda. For more
25 information contact Mike Chapburn at

1 570-208-5415.

2 Also, Pizza by Pappas in Scranton is
3 donating 20 percent of all customer bills on
4 Sundays and Wednesdays during the month of
5 November to the Pancreatic Cancer Action
6 Network and TGIF Restaurants in Scranton and
7 Wilkes-Barre will donate 15 percent of all
8 bills on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9 during November. Coupons must be presented
10 at both Pappas Pizza and TGIF to qualify for
11 donations. For coupon information please
12 call Terry Rabowski-Jones at 570-498-9488.

13 Scranton police officer Nelson
14 Ancherani's son, Michael, is undergoing
15 extensive cancer treatments. A benefit will
16 be held this Saturday, November 21, at 7
17 p.m., at the Keyser Valley Community Center.
18 The \$15 donation includes food and
19 beverages. In addition, there will be a
20 50/50 raffle and baskets and gift
21 certificates will be raffled off.
22 Entertainment is donated by Johnny D. Nelson
23 Ancherani is one of the finest gentleman I
24 have ever known in my life and I ask you to
25 please help his son.

1 Finally, the Invader Mat Boosters
2 will conduct a fundraiser on November 21st
3 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Haggerty's Tavern.
4 Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the
5 door. A 50/50 raffle and penny drafts will
6 be available. Proceeds will defer the costs
7 of summer wrestling camp for the West
8 Scranton Invaders Wrestling Team, and that's
9 it.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Citizens'
11 participation. Todd Hartman.

12 MR. HARTMAN: Good evening, Council.
13 I'll be very short with you. I am having a
14 little problem, maybe you guys can help me
15 out with it, whoever is familiar with it.
16 My name is Todd Hartman, I'm from East
17 Mountain section of town. I reside at 107
18 Moltke Avenue and I'm building a new home in
19 the 1600 block of Birch Street, okay?

20 As you know, there is an ongoing
21 property dispute between me and Mr. Bolus
22 here over a deeded easement between Bob and
23 myself and my wife and the property dispute
24 is currently making it's way through the
25 Lackawanna County Court system. Colleen and

1 I are aware where it needs to be worked out
2 is there, however, Bob has decided to make
3 it into a childish game like he does with
4 many things. I am certain from this that
5 many appearances here you can all sympathize
6 with me because Bob usually does.

7 My concern is that he is turning the
8 1600 block of Birch Street into a junk yard,
9 okay? He has junk tractors there on the
10 side of my house, okay, that have been
11 sitting there for just about three months,
12 okay? You know, the neighbors are
13 complaining to me, Mrs. Slotterback is my
14 next door neighbor, there is litigation with
15 them two. It's a terrible eyesore for the
16 people that live in the 1600 block of Birch
17 Street, okay? What I'm asking you Council
18 to do is have the zoning officer investigate
19 his blight property.

20 I'm trying not to involve council in
21 my -- into my property dispute, however, I
22 do firmly believe that the taxpayers,
23 including myself, should not have to look at
24 junk lining their streets on the City of
25 Scranton and, like I said, I will be very

1 brief, I won't hold you up. I do have a
2 couple of pictures if you guys would like to
3 take a gander at them. Mrs. Slotterback
4 would like to have a word, also.

5 MS. SLOTTERBACK: I'm Carol
6 Slotterback. My husband is Michael Oaks.
7 We have lived on East Mountain for 13 years.
8 We recently purchased an undeveloped lot
9 1625 Birch Street, which is right next to
10 our property 1527 Birch. It was purchased
11 two years ago, we pay the taxes. I even
12 successfully appealed the taxes when we
13 first bought the lot and we maintain -- the
14 deed is in our name.

15 Mr. Bolus -- there is an easement on
16 the property, Mr. Bolus has permission to
17 use that easement to go back and forth to
18 the property behind us, but he has turned it
19 into a parking lot. There are these huge, I
20 don't even know what you call them, they
21 look like tractor-trailer ends without the
22 wheels on them and they are that big. He
23 also has a car parked on the property and he
24 does not have permission to have these
25 things on our property. We have asked them

1 to remove them, he will not remove them.

2 Because of the placement, he can't
3 get dump trucks back to his property. We
4 don't know what he is doing back there, but
5 he constantly has dump trucks going back and
6 forth.

7 On Monday, November 16, my husband
8 found Mr. Bolus bulldozing our property on
9 the other side of the easement knocking down
10 small trees, damaging larger trees and then
11 he put down gravel essentially enlarging the
12 area for the his trucks to go back and
13 forth. This was done without other
14 permission. It was not on the easement, he
15 is encroaching on our land.

16 We called the police, they did
17 nothing to stop Mr. Bolus and, in fact, they
18 told him to continue with what he was doing
19 and he doesn't own the property and it
20 just -- this is driving me insane. We want
21 the city to enforce their own laws. Give
22 the police officers the power to arrest the
23 transgressors, develop a spine and arrest
24 him for damaging our property, and that's
25 about all I can think of you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Andy
2 Sbaraglia.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
4 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
5 6-B, this has to deal with setting up a new
6 authority for our library system. Now, I
7 don't -- nothing is worth sitting up there
8 when we transfer the deed for the South Side
9 complex to the SRA under the impression they
10 were going to take care of the South Side
11 Complex, but they had no intention of taking
12 care. They were already talking to the
13 University about them buying it.

14 Now, let's look at this,
15 Mrs. Fanucci wanted to know when they borrow
16 if they have to come before council, she was
17 going to ask her lawyer, but I tell you, the
18 better question to ask is if the deeds are
19 transferred to this authority do they have
20 the right to sell it without --

21 MS. FANUCCI: I did ask. I asked
22 that also last week.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: And what did he say?

24 MS. FANUCCI: We got the answers. In
25 fact, he is looking at them tonight, we just

1 discussed that in caucus, but I also did ask
2 him that because that is concern for all of
3 us.

4 MR. SBARAGALIA: That's more of a
5 concern --

6 MS. FANUCCI: I agree.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: The paper already
8 months and months ago, I gave Janet the
9 copy, where they said Scranton/Lackawanna
10 College was interested in buying that
11 building and they are probably still
12 interested in buying it.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Attorney Minora is
14 checking that out now for us and he should
15 have an answer by the end of the meeting.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Now, you also know
17 this is a lame duck session of the
18 legislature, two of you will not be here
19 come -- that's voted for this in January, so
20 hence that's what they call a lame duck, and
21 the laws of the Commonwealth do have
22 recourse in things like this.

23 Now, if one of the council that's
24 newly elected that's going to serve there
25 should bring this up in Court, which they

1 have all the rights to, because this is very
2 controversial, maybe they can stop it, and I
3 would think that would be the better thing
4 to do because we can't trust this mayor.
5 The South Side Complex has shown this, not
6 only he did that, but he went down to
7 Harrisburg and hired a company to talk all
8 of the legislatures how bad that complex was
9 and it wasn't bad. There is no reason for
10 it, it's not bad even today. We still own
11 it all because I guess Mr. Pilchesky filed a
12 lawsuit and that's the reason we didn't lose
13 it completely yet. How that may turn out, I
14 don't know, but it's in litigation with the
15 federal.

16 But this with the library is not a
17 good thing. It shouldn't be brought at this
18 session, it should be left for the next
19 session and let them handle it. That's more
20 prudent. If you really care about the
21 library system let the new council handle it
22 because people are going to remember you
23 long after this happens. You can laugh all
24 you want.

25 MS. FANUCCI: I think it's funny.

1 You're saying if I really care let other
2 people handle it.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't think you do
4 care.

5 MS. FANUCCI: That's a --

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Mrs. Fanucci, you
7 don't care about anything or you wouldn't
8 have voted for 90 percent of the things you
9 voted for, but I don't want to get into that
10 with you.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, that's very sad of
12 you to say and very inaccurate.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Please, let
14 Mr. Sbaraglia --

15 MS. FANUCCI: Keep going, Andy,
16 you're always on a roll, and it's pretty
17 good --

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, you try to break
19 it up all the time.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Break it up?

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: But my job doesn't
22 depend on how I talk before you, I don't
23 know if yours does.

24 MS. FANUCCI: I don't know.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't know anything

1 about you and could care less, but how you
2 vote does make a difference and I believe
3 you should let this go to the new council.
4 There is no reason for you to be voting on
5 it now. That's why it was brought up at
6 this time only because the new council would
7 not be there and he is afraid it wouldn't go
8 through the new council, so don't give me
9 any of this bull. I'm quite familiar with
10 what happens at this council, I have been
11 coming here for ten years, I understand how
12 it works.

13 MS. FANUCCI: I will continue to do
14 my job until I leave, Andy.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, you're not doing
16 your job.

17 MS. FANUCCI: I will continue to do
18 my job until I leave.

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: Forget it. There is
20 no sense talking to you.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Exactly.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Ozzie Quinn.

23 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, I'm
24 president of the Scranton/Lackawanna County
25 Taxpayers' Association, Incorporated. When

1 Mr. Doherty came into office there was a
2 deficit and indebtedness of 26 million. He
3 has now increased it seven fold, we are now
4 in debt \$182 million principle only. Can
5 you fathom that, \$182 million?

6 Now, I just got the new debt from
7 the school board and it's \$142 million, the
8 county has -- I've gotten October, it's
9 \$221 million so I had to prorate that based
10 on the housing and so on and I figure that's
11 about another \$77 million, so we are talking
12 about over \$400 million the taxpayers in the
13 City of Scranton is in debt. That's
14 principle only. How the heck are we going
15 to get out of that? You know, we are
16 presenting a budget here and it's got a hole
17 in it, okay? Everything, too, in the budget
18 is based on presupposition, okay?

19 You have the fact that you have a
20 golf course, you know, that's going to be
21 ironed out because when the golf course was
22 supposed to be for recreation and parks and
23 now he wants to plug it in as a one-time
24 infusion to help with the last year's
25 budget. You have real estate, he again

1 wants to hire the Draconian real estate --
2 the collection agency that is raping our
3 people in the City of Scranton and putting
4 them out in the street. He wants to give
5 them another \$2 million of revenue in the
6 city.

7 He has the parking tickets, parking
8 meters raised up to \$750,000. I was glad to
9 see the Scranton Times not support that
10 today and the fact is, too, that you know,
11 PEL says it should be a dollar fifty. Now,
12 who in the heck is PEL? They are not
13 elected by us, actually we elect the state
14 representatives, the local representatives
15 and the federal representatives. PEL is a
16 bunch of cronies that operate an agency who
17 are cronies of Rendell, okay? And they
18 should have nothing to say about the City of
19 Scranton. Comcast, that's got to be bid
20 out, it's \$3 million in there.

21 Now, I want to mention a point, I
22 tried to get a meeting with the oversight
23 committee, Mr. Welby, Tom Welby, and he
24 agreed to meet with us but he said he wanted
25 to talk to John Darcy, okay, from ECTV and

1 John Darcy told Tom Welby that the mayor
2 calls the shots and they will not meet with
3 the oversight committee, subsequently, they
4 won't meet with us, okay. Because what's
5 the sense of meeting with them, okay? Now,
6 this is bizarre. We all know the mayor
7 calls the shots. You look at ECTV and they
8 don't have a program listing.

9 We had a forum with the city
10 council, we had a forum with the judges and
11 it was shown -- no program listing, it was
12 shown at 3:00 in the morning. I mean, is
13 this fair to the people in the City of
14 Scranton. Does Mr. Doherty own that?

15 Now, the wage taxes, the wage tax
16 has decreased from last year from
17 \$34,041,181 to \$28,421,107, well, round it
18 out \$5,600,000. Now, Mr. Doherty is going
19 around the state saying he has created
20 thousands of jobs. Why is this wage tax
21 lowered if he's created thousands of jobs?
22 You know, he's delusional. The man is
23 delusional and we are suffering because he
24 doesn't care. All he cares about is getting
25 a resume out there, getting his budget

1 passed, no matter if it's all -- if it's all
2 axiomatic and he wants to get it out there
3 so that he can say, "I have a budget out
4 there," when he goes over to Fall Spring out
5 there by Allegheny County where people don't
6 know him. He is not going to fool me, he is
7 not going to fool the Taxpayers'
8 Association.

9 Now, I hope he is not going to fool
10 the city council and I hope at this time you
11 will consider looking at this budget very
12 closely, all right? And, you know, if you
13 have to put it on hold because he wants to
14 cut jobs as a way of doing things, my God,
15 you know, if he is going to cut jobs let him
16 cut the managerial jobs where all of the fat
17 is, you know? I want to point out that he
18 has hired so many people, millions of
19 dollars that he has given for new hires in
20 this city hall and the ones he didn't hire
21 in city hall he sends down to the Sewer
22 Authority and to the Parking Authority. He
23 has hired 38 people down in the Sewer
24 Authority, average wage is \$35,000.

25 Now, why do I say that? Because

1 every expenditure that the Sewer Authority
2 might effect the rate of the taxpayers, so
3 we are looking at the budget that's coming
4 up and we are looking at the Scranton Sewer
5 Authority who is leaning over our shoulders
6 in regards to the Chesapeake Bay and the new
7 rate for the Sewer Authority. Thank you
8 very much.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Bob Bolus.

10 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
11 Bob Bolus, Scranton. I'm kind of glad I
12 attended tonight to listen to Hartman come
13 in here whining and crying. We own property
14 on East Mountain since 1984. I have a
15 right-of-way to go in and out of there, it's
16 a deeded right-of-way. Slotterback bought
17 the lot, they have to accept what's in the
18 deed. I'm not going to try and challenge
19 the council here tonight or dispute anything
20 they are doing. We are in Court, we will
21 let a Court of law to determine who is right
22 and who is wrong.

23 I will say, however, on the other
24 part that Slotterback came in and complained
25 about is on an adverse possession where the

1 roadway had been since -- well, almost the
2 last 100 years. The merits of the case will
3 be determined in a Court, not by the city
4 council. I am protecting my asset that I
5 invested in. When the trees and everything
6 were cut infringing on my right-of-way, I
7 protected myself by putting containers there
8 to prevent Hartman from coming across on my
9 Property. As simple as that. The Court
10 will determine whether they stay or they go.

11 However, since he come in here
12 whining and crying, the subdivision that was
13 granted by the city has allowed Mr. Hartman
14 to build his home on a deeded right-of-way,
15 a waterway owned by the City of Scranton
16 that goes right under his house. In fact,
17 16 1/2 half foot of his home, the center of
18 his home, is on the deeded right-of-way that
19 this city allowed him to do. The city was
20 notified, the solicitor was notified and
21 they permitted him because of his political
22 connections in the city, he has got a
23 featherbedding job at the Sewer Authority,
24 used Sewer Authority equipment up on his
25 house, sat there on city time and watched

1 his house being built and I took pictures of
2 it.

3 So this goes on with your
4 authorities, but Hartman wants to come in
5 and cry and I want this council to enforce
6 the law that he is crying about to remove
7 his home from the 16 1/2 foot right-of-way
8 that this city owns. It's land and water of
9 the Americas. I have been in contact with
10 the Army Corp, the DEP and the other bodies
11 out here who simply say the City of Scranton
12 turns a blind eye and allowed the
13 subdivision to happen when they shouldn't
14 have.

15 So that's what before the council,
16 too, to enforce the laws that Hartman is
17 crying about and Slotterback when they
18 infringe on my privacy and my quiet
19 enjoyment, charges are being filed tomorrow
20 for the destruction of my personal property
21 by Slotterback's husband that removed dirt,
22 not dirt but fill that we put in to protect
23 the road that had been damaged by Hartman
24 and everything else, so that's what's before
25 council and I'm glad I came tonight. More

1 importantly, as you are about to vote --

2 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Bolus, I do
3 understand that there is a dispute between
4 you and Mr. Hartman --

5 MS. BOLUS: Is this losing my time,
6 Judy?

7 MS. GATELLI: No.

8 MR. BOLUS: Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: No, of course not.
10 However, when I look at these pictures and I
11 see these tractor trailers, you know, the
12 one has no wheels or these --

13 MR. BOLUS: They are containers,
14 Judy, they are considered containers. They
15 are no longer tractor trailers, they are
16 containers and you will see them parked at
17 Target and --

18 MS. GATELLI: My question is why
19 would you park these there? Why are they
20 parked there?

21 MR. BOLUS: To protect Hartman from
22 crossing from his property where he built
23 his home thinking that he could go from his
24 garage and drive right out into the easement
25 that's my easement. They are there to

1 protect me. We put up signs that said -- -

2 MS. GATELLI: My point is why do you
3 have to do that? Why can't you just let the
4 Court decide it?

5 MR. BOLUS: Because Hartman wouldn't
6 pay attention when I said, "Please don't do
7 it," he intended to continue.

8 MS. GATELLI: Well, because he thinks
9 he is right. You know --

10 MR. BOLUS: Well, he gets --

11 MS. GATELLI: And the Court --

12 MR. BOLUS: He gets --

13 MS. GATELLI: Listen to me. Listen
14 to me for a minute, the Court will decide
15 it.

16 MR. BOLUS: Absolutely.

17 MS. GATELLI: That's what you said.

18 MR. BOLUS: That's correct.

19 MS. GATELLI: Your own words said the
20 Court will decide it so why are you being
21 spiteful and leaving these junk trailers
22 there?

23 MR. BOLUS: They are not junk, first
24 of all. Number two, Judy, they are used all
25 over and I'll show you we got over 300 of

1 these that are at stores and warehouses all
2 over, number one. Number two --

3 MS. GATELLI: I don't think so, Bob.

4 MR. BOLUS: Let me finish, Judy, so
5 you understand --

6 MS. GATELLI: Two wrongs don't make a
7 right.

8 MR. BOLUS: -- he took it upon
9 himself to trespass over and I asked him to
10 stop, he threatened me physically, and I can
11 go into the language he used and everything
12 that he was threatening me to do there,
13 okay? The police were up there, he called
14 the TV cameras, he brought attention to what
15 he was doing and he infringed on my privacy.
16 Remember, he moved into my neighborhood, I
17 didn't have move into his. I never
18 infringed on anybody. He cut all the trees,
19 the barrier between his property and my
20 easement. I'm entitled to my privacy. He
21 decided to continue to come over there. He
22 threatened and told me off my own privacy by
23 calling DeNaples he said to come move the
24 stuff, but we have bigger trucks than
25 DeNaples as you know our records.

1 MS. GATELLI: I just don't think
2 that's the way to solve an issue.

3 MR. BOLUS: The way I solved it is
4 he continued to keep doing it and the only
5 resource I have was the protect my property
6 rights and that's what I put there in lieu
7 of a fence or a wall at my expense I put
8 there to protect my rights and my privacy
9 that they were infringing on and the Court
10 will determine whether they stay or they
11 leave. It's not a city ordinance that
12 controls that, and if the city ordinance is
13 going to worry about that, then the city
14 ordinance should worry about him building
15 his house on a federally mandated waterways
16 that goes from East Mountain Lake, the dam
17 there if there is a disaster you cannot
18 drain the dam now because he infringed on
19 waterway to release the water. That should
20 be more than important than the dispute we
21 have right here, but -- you had taken my
22 time --

23 MS. GATELLI: Go ahead.

24 MR. BOLUS: -- on that and I would
25 like to continue what I really came here

1 for.

2 MR. MINORA: I included the time.

3 MR. BOLUS: Judy had given me time,
4 by the way.

5 MR. MINORA: I included the time.
6 You had six minutes.

7 MS. GATELLI: He included it.

8 MR. BOLUS: Well, I didn't know that
9 or I would have stopped when we were
10 discussing that with Hartman. I'm here
11 about the golf course money that's in the
12 budget that we fought to put in there, the
13 \$3 million dollars, a million five went out,
14 there is a million five left. Four members
15 of this council voted to leave it in the
16 budget, leave it there and never touch it
17 again. I don't believe three members of
18 this council can now vote to take that money
19 back out and give it to the mayor. That was
20 put away for the people of this city for the
21 parks and recreation and only the interest
22 be used, and I don't believe you now have
23 the authority after the last time you put it
24 in here to now try and take it and put it in
25 the budget.

1 There are other revenue sources
2 other than taking from the people of this
3 city and taking from what their future is
4 and to give to a mayor who has just
5 squandered money hand over hand at the
6 expense of the taxpayers in this city.

7 You've got a library authority that
8 shouldn't even be considered because the
9 next thing you will see the library sold to
10 Lackawanna College or the "U" and for
11 purpose? We had the chance to buy Southern
12 Union's building and make that a library for
13 a quarter of the cost, so people don't seem
14 to see the issues here by looking for new
15 ways to create fees and bringing additional
16 revenue to the city.

17 This mayor has run rampant, he has
18 got to be controlled and you can no longer
19 take this golf course money without a legal
20 challenge from the people in this city to
21 protect our interests. Thank you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Lynn Bloom.

23 MS. BLOOM: Oh, fun, fun, fun. I
24 find it interesting that so many laws -- oh,
25 first I'd like to say thank you to

1 Mr. Courtright for providing the legal
2 answer onto when why there can't be a change
3 of venue for these meetings.

4 MS. FANUCCI: State your name.

5 MS. BLOOM: I already did. Lynn
6 Bloom. The word law is thrown around in
7 these chambers an awful lot, but yet we have
8 one council member who was upset because a
9 police officer actually did his job. I
10 looked at properties on Eynon Street, I
11 wouldn't buy on Eynon Street. These people
12 pay less property taxes because of Eynon
13 Street, but you felt it was inappropriate
14 for a police officer within his scope of
15 duties to ticket cars, but I am expected to
16 follow the laws. Humm, really makes me
17 wonder.

18 Mrs. Fanucci, about two weeks before
19 Veteran's Day you criticized the taxpayers'
20 involvement in these chambers. I want to
21 let you know as the wife of a career
22 serviceman you have offended me and everyone
23 who has ever worn the uniform. The 21st
24 century has less people involved in our
25 political process in the United States than

1 almost at any other time in history and you
2 have the audacity to sit there and because
3 you simply disagree put people down. People
4 don't understand, you don't want solutions,
5 maybe it's your job as elected official to
6 educate them on the process instead of
7 saying they simply don't understand it.

8 MS. FANUCCI: I'd like say you
9 haven't been here for the last four years --

10 MS. BLOOM: Excuse me.

11 MS. FANUCCI: You would understand
12 that's what I've been trying to do.

13 MS. BLOOM: Excuse me. This is my
14 time.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Did you address me?

16 MS. BLOOM: It's --

17 MS. FANUCCI: Do you want an answer
18 or not? Do you want an answer? Keep going
19 then. You just keep badgering me and I'll
20 sit here and --

21 MS. BLOOM: I'm not badgering you at
22 all. You are a very rude woman.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

24 MS. FANUCCI: See, there you go.

25 MS. BLOOM: You don't think what you

1 just did is rude?

2 MS. FANUCCI: You're setting a better
3 example. Go ahead.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Please, continue
5 Mrs. Bloom.

6 MS. BLOOM: You are an elected
7 official. If you are personally offended,
8 take a training class, learn to deal with
9 it. There is something called professional
10 presence. I have lived all throughout this
11 country and around the world and I have
12 never seen, except in Japan where they break
13 out in fights, anyone take things that are
14 said to heart and attack their own critics.
15 If you can't handle it, you shouldn't have
16 ran. That's political life in the United
17 States. It's nothing unique to this
18 council, it's nothing unique to the City of
19 Scranton, and how dare you, you don't now
20 long I have been watching it on TV or how
21 long I have been reading the Scranton Times.
22 I planned for six years before I moved into
23 in city. A lot of planning goes into
24 everything I do, something some of you
25 should benefit before you pass legislation.

1 And as far as this library
2 authority, give me a break. It is the only
3 recourse you guys have to transfer a deed is
4 to create a new authority? You got an
5 attorney, there has to be another way. Are
6 you all going to sit there and deny that the
7 other two authorities have run amuck? You
8 did not listen to anything any of the people
9 that take the time and come here to say.
10 It's like they are beneath you. You seem to
11 think that you upon high on know so much
12 more.

13 Well, the fact is we are all adults,
14 we stopped relying on our parents a long
15 time ago and it's not up to any of you to
16 chastise other adults. If they are acting
17 inappropriately or using hostile language
18 then you have a right, but until then you
19 have to sit here and take. Unfortunately,
20 that's what you get paid to do.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

22 MS. BLOOM: You are a rude human
23 being.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

25 MS. GATELLI: And you are not?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Mr. Jackowitz.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: I'm coming. Give me
3 a break. I'm an old man.

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
6 South Scranton resident, member of the
7 Taxpayers' Association. I would like to
8 thank Councilman Courtright for attending
9 the Veteran's ceremony on Veteran's Day. It
10 was the largest crowd that they have had in
11 a few years. Last January Scranton City
12 Council attempted to raise their pay to
13 \$20,000 per year. Thankful, it was voted
14 down. They also wanted to raise the mayor's
15 pay and the city controller's pay. The
16 public safety director, which is not even a
17 legitimate position, also was in line for a
18 \$10,000 fine pay raise. The police chief
19 and fire police received \$13,000 pay raise,
20 all are either appointed or elected
21 officials who, by the way, are servants of
22 the people.

23 Military pay. The assistant
24 director for national security in the
25 congressional budget office and appointed

1 political position of \$100,000 a year wrote
2 a piece for the Washington Times denouncing
3 the pay raise coming for service members
4 away this year citing that she stated a
5 3.4 percent wage increase was more than they
6 deserve. A young airman First class grade,
7 E-3 in Kabul Air Force in response to the
8 article, you've got to give him a bonus for
9 this, by the way E-3 is at the bottom of the
10 pay scale. "I just had to the pleasure of
11 reading your column our GI's earn enough and
12 I'm bit confused. Frankly, I am wondering
13 where this long overpayment is going because
14 as far as I can tell it disappears every
15 month between DFAS, the defense finance and
16 the county service and my bank account.
17 Checking my last earning statement I see
18 that I made \$1,649.07 before taxes per
19 month. After taxes, I take home \$1,237.75.
20 When I run through the calculator I come up
21 with an annual salary of \$19,796.40 before
22 taxes and \$14,853,000 after taxes."

23 Scranton City Council members make
24 \$12,500 year for a part-time job.

25 "Given the tenure of your column, I

1 would assume that you never had the pleasure
2 of serving your country in the Armed Forces.
3 Before you take it upon yourself to once
4 more ask the Congressional and DOD
5 leadership for attempting to get the
6 families in the military, lowest paid off
7 the WIC and food stamps and suggest that you
8 join the deploying soldiers headed for
9 Afghanistan. I leave the choice of service
10 branch up to you. Whatever choice you make
11 though opt for the six-month rotation. It
12 will guarantee you the longest possible time
13 away from your family and friends thus
14 giving you a full deployment experience.

15 As your group prepares to board the
16 plane, make sure to note the spouses and
17 children who are saying goodbye to their
18 loved ones. Also, take note of the several
19 families who are still unsure of how they
20 will be able to make ends meet when the
21 primary bread winner is gone, obviously
22 they've been squandering the vast piles of
23 cash the government has been given them.

24 Try to declare over a major holiday
25 and Thanksgiving Christmas, our perennial

1 favorites, when you're sitting in a foxhole
2 shivering against a cold desert night and a
3 fight sergeant tells you that they are short
4 people to relieve you. For chow, remember
5 this trait, whatever MRE, meal ready to eat
6 you mange to eat for the tuna noodle
7 casserole or the cheese tortellini and you
8 add Tabasco to everything just to give it
9 some flavor.

10 Talk to your loved ones as often as
11 you are permitted. It won't nearly be as
12 the long or often enough, but take what you
13 can and be thankful for it, but tomorrow
14 from Kabul I will defend to death your right
15 to say it," but Scranton speakers are
16 constantly gaveled down and told that they
17 are out of order for saying what they
18 believe or think. I did that for 20 years
19 myself in my career, and you had the gaul to
20 say that we make more than we deserve. You
21 can kiss my royal red "A". Fill in the
22 blanks.

23 If by chance this airman first class
24 happens to be from Pennsylvania, he will
25 have a surprise waiting for him. Governor

1 Ed Rendell cut funding for all Veteran's
2 programs, possibly Governor Doherty will
3 reinstate these programs.

4 By the way, do all of your shopping
5 at the mall where you can park for free.
6 Either the Steamtown Mall or the Montage
7 Mall.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mike Dudek.

9 MR. DUDEK: Good evening, Council.
10 Mike Dudek, 608 Depot Street, Scranton, I
11 live -- I still live down there in the Plot
12 and I certainly hope I don't add to what I
13 feel is somewhat of a hostile room today,
14 but I did come to reiterate and to if
15 anything strengthen my opposition to a
16 library authority.

17 Throughout the history of the City
18 of Scranton going back at least to 1957 and
19 1958, with the Scranton Redevelopment
20 Authority and looking at all of the other
21 authorities that have been created in this
22 city since then every one of them has
23 committed a tremendous amount of mischief
24 and there is absolutely no control that city
25 council has over an authority once it is

1 created. Let me repeat that. There is
2 absolutely, positively no control a city
3 council has whatsoever over any authority
4 once it is created. It becomes a monster
5 unto his itself.

6 Now, when I look at -- you know,
7 last week it was Mr. Sbaraglia who beat me
8 to the punch and today Bob Bolus beat me to
9 the bunch. Mr. Bolus pointed out that a new
10 library would fit quite well into the
11 Southern Union building. My God, what a
12 perfect location. The New York Public
13 Library, Midtown Manhattan. Philadelphia
14 Public Library, downtown Philadelphia. The
15 same thing in Pittsburgh, the same thing in
16 most important American cities, a convenient
17 location for a large centralized public
18 library. Why not? I was thinking in terms
19 of just the current housing across the
20 street from Lackawanna Junior College,
21 Mr. Bolus has a better idea. The Southern
22 Union building would be magnificent and you
23 don't need an authority to do that.

24 MS. FANUCCI: It's already owned by
25 someone.

1 MR. DUDEK: Well, one thing about --
2 okay, if it's already owned by someone then
3 as a city council you've got two options:
4 The first option would be buy it back from
5 them and the second option would be look for
6 another location. But, you know, again too,
7 the area that I had talked about last week,
8 that decrepit housing could be irreplaceable
9 with a new library building, but in any case
10 we don't need an authority to do this. A
11 created authority will have created waste to
12 raise our taxes. Our taxes have gone up
13 enough as they are. The authority method is
14 the absolute positive wrong way to go about
15 this.

16 Please, please, understand where I'm
17 coming from on this, I'm not just an
18 ordinary citizen without any kind of
19 background in this. I have a background in
20 government, I have an academic background in
21 it, and from everything I have ever learned
22 about government the biggest problems that
23 have been created since the enabling of the
24 legislation was passed in 1946 in this
25 country was that authorities tend to cause

1 more problems than they will ever solve and
2 this one is just a looming monster that will
3 have an awful lot of power that we will not
4 control once it's created. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Joe Dwyer.

6 MR. DWYER: Good evening, members of
7 council and citizens of Scranton. I would
8 like to share with you what's going on with
9 the working poor and the homeless situation
10 in our community. We have been taking
11 kerosene heaters and fuel to the encampments
12 providing a heating source for the people
13 who are living in the woods and along the
14 rivers and railroad tracks in our community
15 and today we are just blessed by somebody
16 who heard about what was going on and
17 offered us four apartments to use as we feel
18 the need, so the word is getting out.

19 And some people after the meeting
20 last week asked or offered their help and
21 offered to donate certain things and what
22 had happened out of that as well is two
23 people were able to go back to work.
24 Somebody needed a pair of shoes because
25 their soles were completely off their shoes.

1 We provided a pair of shoes and now they
2 have work. They still don't make enough
3 money yet to get into an apartment because
4 they require first month, last month and
5 security deposit to get into a house. We
6 are trying to work on that.

7 There is money appropriated through
8 the President Obama and the homeless
9 stimulus program -- initiative, I'm sorry.
10 Homeless Initiative Program, that program is
11 specifically designed and said to facilitate
12 the people who are on the edge of losing
13 their house or have recently lost housing.
14 The Department of Community Development has
15 access to those resources, they didn't
16 disburse all of these funds to the local
17 community support groups. What they are
18 doing is squandering the money buying homes,
19 sitting on some of homes, but what they did
20 with one is they invested \$300,000 into it
21 and sold it to somebody who didn't need a
22 house for \$95,000. That's the type of stuff
23 that needs to stop. They don't --

24 MS. FANUCCI: They put \$300,000 into
25 a home?

1 MR. DWYER: Yes.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Do you know what home
3 that is?

4 MR. DWYER: Over in South Side.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Really? \$300,000 from
6 OECD.

7 MR. DWYER: They paid \$185,000 for
8 the house, paid \$95,000 to renovate the
9 house and then sold that house for \$95,000.

10 MS. GATELLI: Do you have an address
11 for that?

12 MR. DWYER: We can get that.

13 MS. FANUCCI: I can't imagine that.

14 MS. GATELLI: Was it Lackawanna
15 Neighbors?

16 MR. DWYER: No, the Office of
17 Community Development.

18 MS. GATELLI: They don't do houses.

19 MS. FANUCCI: They don't do houses.

20 MR. DWYER: That's how -- they are
21 the ones who did the house.

22 MS. FANUCCI: No, they don't do that.

23 MR. DWYER: The Office of Community
24 Development did the house.

25 MS. FANUCCI: They couldn't do that

1 without coming through us, so we'll take the
2 address and we'll check into it, but they
3 certainly could not have done that, it had
4 to go through this.

5 MR. DWYER: In fact, I'll bring the
6 information next week because it needs to
7 stop. They won't get out and visit the
8 people in the community that are living
9 along the woods. Reverend Phil Schultz from
10 the Scranton Rescue Mission this past
11 Sunday, man, there were -- if there weren't
12 200 people down at this church this Sunday
13 night just looking for -- just looking for
14 help. They weren't looking for a handout,
15 but the people that were working, they are
16 not looking for a handout, they are just
17 looking for a hand to lift them up, to take
18 them over that bridge with a guy with a pair
19 of shoes.

20 We called up a temporary employment
21 agency and they said, "Send the people up,
22 we will give them jobs."

23 All they need is a hand. They are
24 not looking to be a burden on the community.
25 They want to -- the ones who are working are

1 paying taxes and living in the woods. That
2 isn't right. I thank you for your time.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Les Spindler.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.
5 Les Spindler, city resident and homeowner
6 and taxpayer. Job cuts in the budget, I
7 think these job cuts are a joke. Cutting
8 clerical people, I think it's five vacant
9 fire positions, a couple of other vacant
10 jobs, I think it's an insult to the
11 taxpayers' intelligence here. We are paying
12 those vacant jobs? How is that cutting
13 jobs? How is that cutting money out of the
14 budget? If I can get paid for a vacant job
15 I'd love that. The jobs that should be cut
16 were cronies at the top of the line. Like,
17 for instance, Ray Hayes and his whole office
18 should be gone. PEL wouldn't let Mayor
19 Connors have a public safety director, that
20 office should be gone.

21 Jeff Brazil is making the same
22 salary as George Parker was, George Parker
23 was an engineer, Jeff Brazil is not. His
24 salary should be cut in half, and I could go
25 and on, but I only have five minutes. There

1 is many other ways. The job cuts Chris
2 Doherty made -- they're an outrage.

3 I have to echo what everybody else
4 said about the library. The Albright
5 library is a beautiful historic building,
6 there is no reason why we can't have it
7 there. It's centrally located, to make a
8 library authority is, like I said, everybody
9 else said it, it's just another way that
10 Chris Doherty will be able to steal money
11 like he has been.

12 Last week when he announced his run
13 for mayor -- or governor officially, he said
14 he created 5,000 jobs. That's a lot. It's
15 an out-and-out lie. Is he going to go
16 around the state saying that he created
17 5,000 jobs lying all of over the state.
18 This man is just -- he is unbelievable. How
19 people can believe all of the lies that this
20 man says is beyond me.

21 Okay, Carl Graziano, Jr., again. He
22 cited Joe Pilchesky for doing work on
23 someone's work, he told him he wasn't
24 supposed to be doing. It went to a
25 magistrate, the magistrate said Mr.

1 Pilchesky was not guilty. Just another
2 example of an incompetent crony hire and
3 this is another person who shouldn't have a
4 job. The only reason he has got a job is
5 his father is a police captain and he's just
6 another example of the incompetence in this
7 administration.

8 And speaking of incompetence, it
9 brings up Chief Elliott again. Unless -- if
10 anybody missed it in the paper, as of this
11 moment there is a female detective training
12 in Florida and her hotel room is three miles
13 from the training site. When she asked the
14 chief for a car he said, "Why, so you can
15 take your kids to Disney?"

16 This man is an insult. He's a
17 sexist, he's incompetent and he should be
18 fired because I know for a fact that male
19 officers have been sent to that same
20 training and their hotel was two blocks from
21 the training center, so something has got to
22 be done about this man. Like I said, he is
23 a sexist.

24 I think I only have one more thing
25 here. As everyone knows, at the end of

1 Tripp Park not too far from the Tripp Park
2 Community Center for years we've had trouble
3 with ATV's cutting through the parking lot,
4 I know you know about it, Mr. Courtright.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I took care of it
6 today. I got -- you mind me talking?

7 MR. SPINDLER: No, as long as I keep
8 on talking.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I got a call from an
10 individual back there and he was asking for
11 either cement dividers or something put up
12 because they were ruining the development
13 there.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, I spoke to
15 Frank, too, I know what you're saying.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right, and I called
17 Mark Dougher, he said he would go back there
18 and do whatever he could. I just think,
19 Les, that, you know, they are ATV's and
20 whatever you put up there they are going to
21 go around them and jump over them.

22 MR. SPINDLER: There are fences
23 there. I brought up putting a chain or
24 something, but they said because of
25 liability issues.

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: He said he'd go up
2 there. The police can't chase them because
3 if somebody gets hurt --

4 MR. SPINDLER: I know. We bring it
5 up in our neighborhood meetings all the
6 time.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: But I talked to Mark
8 Dougher this morning, he said he would go
9 out there and the best he can.

10 MR. SPINDLER: If he could put a
11 fence or something across the entrance to
12 the parking lot.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: You guys -- maybe
14 you guys can get your suggestions and put
15 them on paper and give them to Mark Dougher
16 and see if --

17 MR. SPINDLER: We bring them up all
18 the time at our neighborhood meetings.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Send them down to
20 him. He seemed very willing to help you
21 guys.

22 MR. SPINDLER: I go by there all the
23 time walking my dog and they fly up and down
24 Dorothy Street. It's ridiculous. They are
25 off road vehicles. They shouldn't be on the

1 road and they come up Dorothy Street --

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: A lot of them have
3 plates, Les, right? If you get the plate
4 off of any of them then we can do something.

5 MR. SPINDLER: I never see plates on
6 them.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Some of them have
8 them now so they ride on the road, I'm being
9 told they are coming from another town, they
10 are riding the railroad tracks all the way
11 up from here, I don't know what to say the
12 town, but they are coming from another town
13 riding the railroad tracks, but they can't
14 chase them, but if you see them --

15 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, I know that.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: But if you see a
17 plate, give me the plate.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I'm going to
19 bring something up, at our picnic that we
20 had in the summertime in the parking lot
21 there, I don't know who they were, but a
22 couple officers stopped one on Dorothy
23 Street and they just let him go, they didn't
24 cite him. They should have cited him.
25 Maybe citing these kids will stop them from

1 doing it, because they are damaging property
2 now. They are digging up the lawn and the
3 side of the building so something has got to
4 be done. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

6 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Pilgrims. I say
7 that because it's close to turkey day. I
8 still don't have my card back.

9 MS. FANUCCI: She wouldn't give it
10 back to you yet?

11 MR. ELLMAN: In fact, I got two more
12 weeks.

13 MS. FANUCCI: That's long.

14 MR. ELLMAN: You probably won't
15 believe this, but I got poor Ms. Rosie so
16 infuriated she kicked something and broke
17 her ankle, her foot and everything, so it's
18 bad around my house right now.

19 Well, I have been trying to find out
20 about Mr. Burke's project and they keep
21 putting me off and putting me off and
22 wouldn't tell me nothing and yesterday I
23 phoned -- I said, it's in the paper that you
24 finally doing something I want to know what
25 the building permit is. You all ready for

1 this one? Burke's multi-million dollar
2 medical deal over there paid \$19 for a
3 building permit. It was waived. The
4 secretary told me that the mayor felt this
5 was the best thing for the city. The best
6 thing for the city if they paid their money
7 like everybody else does when you put up a
8 fence and a garage and so forth. There is a
9 menu when you walk in the door right there
10 that tells what everything should be. There
11 shouldn't be a double standard because
12 somebody wants to give him \$1,000 or \$2,000
13 down the road to run for governor or mayor
14 or whatever he wants to run for. He
15 wouldn't make a good dog catcher.

16 Right here in Saturday's paper Stu
17 Renda says he can generate six to seven
18 hundred thousand dollars through increased
19 fees for licenses and permits and here we
20 have the mayor waiving it to all of these
21 big million dollar concerns, he has a
22 responsibility to the people of this city.
23 You know what, he is laughing at all five of
24 you. He is laughing at me and these people
25 back there because he thinks he is getting

1 away another one of his damn deals. It's
2 time this stop double standard stops. It's
3 disgusting what goes on around here.

4 I got an ear that talks to me from
5 Harrisburg once in awhile that I run into
6 and he told me about two weeks ago he said,
7 "The mayor has done it to you guys again,
8 made you the laughing stock of the state.
9 8,500 people with nothing between their
10 ears, you know, voting for him."

11 It's just -- I just -- I just give
12 up on this guy. Why should he be able to
13 waive it? Is it legal? Doesn't he have to
14 go to council before he does that? It's a
15 practice. He is waiving it for the
16 University of Scranton I was told for their
17 dormitories. It's not bad enough they are
18 taking \$50 million off the school taxes, you
19 know, they are not even building -- paying
20 building permits. I will get of this before
21 I get arrested for a potty mouth.

22 I had somebody -- every once in
23 awhile somebody asks me why I don't write
24 letters to the editor, and that's because
25 this jerk Pat McKenna when the school was

1 being built, that multi-colored -- it's an
2 architectural disgrace to me, it looks like
3 a cartoon school from Roger Rabbit, but
4 anyway, when it was being built I was
5 opposing it and he wouldn't print my
6 letters, so finally he printed a letter and
7 it was so chopped up it looked like a
8 four-year-old wrote it. And I went down
9 there and we had a heated argument and to
10 make a long story short he told me never to
11 submit anything else to the paper, so I
12 wrote three or four or five letters and he
13 didn't print them and then finally one got
14 sneaked through about something that wasn't
15 wasn't important.

16 I got one other question, I thought
17 I saw in the paper last week or the week
18 before that we are paving two to five miles
19 of street a year; is that right? Two to
20 five miles?

21 MS. FANUCCI: For the last three
22 budgets.

23 MR. ELLMAN: There is 200 miles of
24 streets here. You know, none of us will
25 live long enough, two to five miles. Well,

1 I'm serious, two to five miles a year. I
2 thought it was a mistake. I was just
3 wondering.

4 And about the library, I was at
5 Redner's -- this will just take a second,
6 and a lady that can't hardly speak a word of
7 English she was asking me -- she was
8 commenting if they built this new library
9 would it have Spanish books in it, too, and
10 of course, I don't know and I use the world
11 out of the library downtown, I go twice a
12 month, and I think it's something to
13 consider for all of the expense.

14 You know, Doherty tore down the
15 building that should have been used for the
16 city, that was the old post office, a
17 building built in the 50's and it was good
18 because I have been in there several times.
19 It's just -- this city is so mismanaged from
20 top to bottom it's just pitiful. I know
21 what you are going to say -- it's just --

22 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Ellman --

23 MR. ELLMAN: He is a disgrace to the
24 City of Scranton. He is not -- I just don't
25 understand two to five miles, wants to build

1 a \$16 million library in an 80 year old
2 building. It's just completely incompetent
3 the way the city is run. Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Jim Stucker.

5 MR. STUCKER: About the
6 four-wheelers, a lot of them are on the
7 highways, a lot of them around, I seen them
8 a lot. They have a couple of cars I seen
9 with loud mufflers, real loud.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: We have taken care
11 of it, Jim.

12 MR. STUCKER: And the skateboards
13 now they are across the street tonight at
14 the garage, at the bottom of the garage.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: We are going to
16 tell the cop when he leaves to chase them
17 out of there.

18 MR. STUCKER: Just tell them.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

20 MR. STUCKER: What about that Army
21 Navy building on Lackawanna Avenue? What
22 are they going to do with it, tear it down
23 or --

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: They tore it down,
25 didn't they?

1 MR. STUCKER: No, they didn't tear
2 that down on Lackawanna Avenue. They tore
3 the --

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's gone, Jim. You
5 better take a walk down there, Buddy. I
6 think it's gone.

7 MR. STUCKER: They had the -- the
8 bakery shop that was on fire they tore that
9 down.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah.

11 MR. STUCKER: And the Army-Navy
12 store never got taken down, I went by there
13 last time and I seen it wasn't down. Okay,
14 we have -- on Mulberry we have the people
15 running red lights again. We need more
16 cops. The other day me and my buddy, Pat,
17 right, and we are coming up from the South
18 Side, a cop pulled right out in front of a
19 Blazar the other day and he almost got
20 clipped. He didn't stop or nothing. He was
21 just going right through and almost got hit
22 by a Blazar, so when is your -- when are you
23 having your vacation?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: My vacation?

25 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, when you're off,

1 when you're done here?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think when I'm
3 done here that will be my vacation.

4 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. I'll come and
5 see you.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're going to
7 come to the Christmas party; right?

8 MR. STUCKER: Oh, Butchy is not
9 having it.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: He is not. I think
11 you should tell Ronnie to pick you up.

12 MR. STUCKER: Ronnie -- no, they are
13 not having it at all. Yeah.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Too bad.

15 MR. STUCKER: I don't care.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: You don't care?

17 MR. STUCKER: Nope. So I might
18 being going to Thanksgiving dinner at St.
19 Francis.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Good.

21 MR. STUCKER: Go there, Jim. My
22 buddy Pat said to tell all of to say hello.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

24 MR. STUCKER: I'm getting more to
25 send around. So I'm supposed to be have a

1 job with the city doing leaves, never got
2 back to me, to pick up leaves and put them
3 in bags, but they never got to me. So our
4 garbage has been picked up a lot.

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

6 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Now I'm going
7 out. Maybe tonight I will go out for
8 awhile.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: You got to go to the
10 hospital, don't you?

11 MR. STUCKER: No.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I thought you were
13 getting your leg operated on?

14 MR. STUCKER: No, they give me --
15 they told me today, they took x-rays, that
16 my knee is doing good.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Good.

18 MR. STUCKER: They gave me a shot
19 today.

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

21 MR. STUCKER: So I might not have to
22 go. So have a good Christmas and good
23 Thanksgiving.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: You too, Jim. So
25 long, Buddy.

1 MR. MCGOFF: David Dobrzyn.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
3 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, member of the
4 Taxpayers'. I see on our budget, hopefully
5 it can be revisited, Bill, you are in
6 trouble.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm sorry, I wasn't
8 paying attention. What did you say?

9 MR. DOBRZYN: You are in trouble.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Someone doesn't
11 like me.

12 MR. DOBRYZN: The county is going to
13 put you out of the building and then they
14 are going to lay off your work force.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm popular, huh?

16 MR. DOBSON: Yes, you are a popular
17 guy, man. I don't know. I don't know.
18 It's very concerning because I feel that we
19 are laying off the worker bees and, you
20 know, everybody needs a job nowadays, but
21 there should be some other way of doing it
22 other than to cripple the tax collector
23 office. That's crazy. I think half of the
24 trouble with the last one, the guy, was them
25 moving him around. He no sooner walked into

1 that office and they are shipping him
2 around, you know, all of these computers
3 unplugged and, you know, nothing works. I
4 don't know, Bill. Maybe you should stay on
5 council, Buddy.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: No thank you.

7 MR. DOBSON: Let council pick the tax
8 collector, okay. On this library business,
9 I said it once, I'll say it again, no more
10 authorities, please. It's just once they
11 are in it's like everybody else, they are
12 out of control and they do what they want to
13 do or what they have agreed to do or
14 whatever and I don't want to insult the
15 people. But, also, you know, it might be
16 helpful if we got maybe Jack Finnerty or
17 somebody down to explain things and get some
18 stuff out in the open here, and we don't
19 have a caucus on this and this is one of the
20 major pieces of legislation, so irregardless
21 of who votes for it, there is not enough
22 information there to decide if it's worth
23 it.

24 And on a final note, I would also
25 like to say shame on every state legislator

1 that voted to withdraw money for museums and
2 libraries on so forth. It's really ashame.
3 They should be ashamed of themselves and
4 they don't deserve -- they don't deserve a
5 job as dog catcher and with any luck the dog
6 would bite them. Have a good night.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening. Marie
9 Schumacher, member of the Taxpayers'
10 association. Tonight I would like to take a
11 trip down memory lane. Let's start around
12 100 years ago when the Albright Memorial
13 Library was deeded to the City of Scranton.
14 There were criteria for selection of the
15 board of trustees including members of the
16 clergy. This was the will of the giver,
17 which some don't like, however, accepting
18 the property the city accepted the
19 conditions. I have even heard it said that
20 selecting clergy from a specific Protestant
21 denominations is unconstitutional. Clearly,
22 this person does not know the constitution.

23 The 6-B item notes that the deeds
24 specifies the management and control above
25 provided for may be changed at any time to

1 conform to any general laws passed by the
2 Commonwealth regulating free public
3 libraries. Now, unless you can provide the
4 bill number of the law passed by the
5 Commonwealth there is no legal basis for his
6 change of management.

7 On December 14, moving to more
8 recent times, of 2006 Mrs. Gatelli said,
9 "I'm also working next year on another
10 revenue item that we think can bring in
11 1.5 million. It's a new rental registration
12 program. We will add inspectors and clerks
13 that will be strictly assigned to this
14 program. All properties will be registered
15 including single family homes that are not
16 owner occupied."

17 The legislation passed in July 2007.
18 Last year, one of Mrs. Gatelli's amendments
19 was to add two health inspectors to help
20 with the rental registration, and still
21 quoting, "We are going to have someone, a
22 company, do the registration part."

23 The budget for the revenue from
24 rental registration in the current budget,
25 despite approval of the two inspectors, was

1 not that \$1.5 million, but \$120,000.
2 Revenue for this item is further reduced in
3 the proposed 2010 budget to \$33,000.
4 Something is very, very wrong.

5 Let's move up another year to
6 April 12, 2007. Mrs. Fanucci said, "What's
7 happening, they are actually expanding to
8 two floors, the first and second floor and
9 the third floor. They believe a more
10 realistic number of positions that would be
11 created will be 15, and that would be the
12 first year. These positions will result in
13 additional professionals, staff meetings.
14 I'm sorry, needed for medical spa. What
15 they are going to do, the first floor will
16 be the salon, second floor will be a new
17 fitness center, third floor is going to be a
18 medical spa."

19 That was, of course, about the
20 Alexander's loan. Why then did the
21 November 8 Times-Tribune offer 3,600 square
22 feet of nicely appointed office space
23 available on the third floor above
24 Alexander's Salon and Dayspa? I don't think
25 they are meeting the parameters.

1 Still in 2007, the David Wenzel
2 treehouse opened on May 2005 -- or May 25,
3 excuse me. Why then just one year and four
4 months later was it necessary for the VA to
5 advertise exterior cleaning and wood
6 finishing of the treehouse? Is this going
7 to be an expense every 16 months? Why
8 wasn't this in the capital budget?

9 Let's move up to 2008, that was the
10 year the city provided \$100,000 to ECTV,
11 90,000 directly and 10,000 laundered through
12 a business association. Last I heard the
13 county commissioners were paying ECTV \$1,000
14 per month. They get steaming video on their
15 website. Why doesn't Scranton get streaming
16 video of meetings as does the county? It
17 seems to me, again, something is wrong.

18 Nixel. It's advertised on the city
19 website as "A service that allows you to
20 receive trusted up to the minute
21 neighborhood information."

22 Now, according to the Nixel website
23 public information such as crime patterns
24 and police -- I can't read my writing,
25 excuse me, police law-type posting. When

1 will this information be available for
2 Scranton? It's on the website, but while on
3 the safety issues, also has anyone followed
4 up to affect a meeting between Dunmore and
5 the city to see how the pact will be
6 impacted if our firefighters and our public
7 public safety when Dunmore cuts back on
8 their firefighters? Mr. Courtright?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I didn't know if you
10 wanted me to answer that.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Either of these?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know if
13 they had communication, I haven't talked to
14 the fire chief. I would hope so.

15 MS. FANUCCI: We have been operating
16 with that for the last year, so I would
17 imagine it would be the same because the
18 positions that are eliminated have not been
19 filled in a year, so we could probably find
20 that out what they have been doing for the
21 past few months.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, it's Dunmore
23 that's cutting back, so we are going to have
24 field --

25 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah, they are cutting

1 back, too, but we have been cutting back,
2 also, so I would imagine they are doing some
3 type of together --

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I would
5 something a lot better than just warm and
6 fuzzy I would imagine they are doing
7 something. I would like to know what has
8 been doing and how it affects my person and
9 property and the persons of our
10 firefighters.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: To the best of my
12 knowledge nothing so far.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

15 MR. PATILLA: Good evening, Mrs.
16 Evans and Mr. Courtright. What's the real
17 Scranton? Is it the one being advertised.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Please state your name
19 for the record.

20 MR. PATILLA: Sam Patilla.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

22 MR. PATILLA: Scranton homeowner,
23 taxpayer, member of the Scranton/Lackawanna
24 County Taxpayers' Association and totally
25 anti-Doherty administration. What's the

1 real Scranton? The one advertised in
2 Business Week as a place to raise your
3 children and your family or the one we hear
4 that we have individuals living alongside of
5 the train tracks or 60 percent of our
6 children are at or below the property level.

7 Now, for years now I have come
8 before the council and I have stated and
9 requested that they stop taking money from
10 two programs, the Emergency Shelter Program
11 and the First Time Home Buyers Program.
12 Now, I haven't seen either one of those
13 programs listed on the agenda in the last
14 month or so, I guess maybe because they ran
15 out of money, but those programs were set up
16 to prevent those very same people and
17 individuals and families that came upon hard
18 times and hardships from being forced to
19 live in those type of conditions, but
20 everybody turned a blind eye to that and
21 they allowed your mayor to continue to bilk
22 those programs. That money was not meant to
23 be diverted to anyone else. It was
24 allocated to help people and families that
25 met hard times.

1 You know, that's the real Scranton,
2 not this baloney that I'm hearing about on
3 the news and printed in Business Week where
4 Scranton is such a lovely place to raise
5 your family and your children. You know,
6 like I stated, 60 percent of our school age
7 children are on or below poverty level.

8 Now, I actually for the past week
9 have been reading the deed in regards to
10 Albright, and I take my hat off to Mr. and
11 Mrs. Albright because they had the foresight
12 to put in writing the necessary stop gaps to
13 prevent the very thing that certain
14 individuals in this city are trying to
15 accomplish right now by removing the deed,
16 the title of that deed, and putting it in
17 the hands of certain individuals.

18 The way he had the trustee board
19 made up it was a diversified board, he put
20 it in writing so that one individual, one
21 group could not gain control of that
22 property. That's the way he wrote it, they
23 wrote it almost 100 years ago, and there was
24 a purpose for that. You know, he gave that
25 to the citizens. He didn't give it to a

1 mayor, he didn't give it to a political
2 group or a political party, he gave it to
3 the people and it was his dream and her
4 dream that that property always remained in
5 the hands of the people.

6 Now, after Veteran's Day Bill
7 Jackowitz took me down to South Side and I
8 actually met a long-time Scranton business
9 owner which leads me to the next topic of
10 discussion here. I have never had so much
11 fun in my life, but in reading the agenda
12 item where it states: "5-E, Neighborhood
13 Housing Revitalization Initiative," all
14 right, you are revitalizing houses. What
15 about small business owners? I have never
16 in my life since I have been -- the 50 years
17 I have been on this planet ever seen a
18 neighborhood be refurbished or renovated
19 without including small business owners, all
20 right? Scranton is becoming a renter city
21 and I have never seen a block of renters
22 that took care of their property like a
23 block of homeowners do. Maybe it's just the
24 wording, which wouldn't surprise me, but I
25 am under the impression that you are not

1 going to include the backbone of any society
2 that are small business owners because is it
3 just certain individuals who are friendly
4 with certain individuals going to be privy
5 to this money or is it United Neighborhood
6 Community Development or the way of the
7 first time homeowners buyers program and
8 emergency shelter program, all right?

9 Doherty has got to stop, okay,
10 revisiting the library, one more time, you
11 know, the agenda item. Signifying the
12 intention and the desire of the council of
13 the City of Scranton to organize an
14 authority to be known as the Scranton Public
15 Library Authority.

16 If this was the intention of the
17 council, all right, the vote would have 5/0
18 not 3/2, so this is misleading. We know,
19 those of us in the general populous know
20 that this is a dream and aspiration of a few
21 individuals. It's not the dreams and
22 aspirations of the Scranton taxpayers, all
23 right? Most of this I could live without
24 because I know hopefully the people's
25 council will revisit all of these items come

1 January, but like I stated before, you sit
2 there and you allow that man to milk the
3 Emergency Shelter Program and the First Time
4 Home Buyers Program don't do him the same
5 thing with that Cedar Avenue project.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? No other
7 speakers?

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Bill.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: These are for next
11 year, Billy.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Buddy. Oh,
13 we got the football schedule already.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hope they are all
15 the same, right? I hope. I hope they are
16 all the same now.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yep.

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: A little higher.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Put it a little
20 higher.

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Is it okay, Bill?
22 Can I say happy birthday to somebody I know?
23 Can I say happy birthday, Bill?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah.

25 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Happy Birthday,

1 Candace. Happy birthday. Thank you.

2 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, Nelson
3 Ancherani, First Amendment Rights. The
4 budget has been presented to council. Just
5 some comments and observations about the
6 budget. It's less than the last two years,
7 which is good, but it's still higher than
8 the five previous years. The raises and new
9 hires are still in the budget, over
10 \$20 million for this year so it's going to
11 be maybe four or five million more. The
12 expenditure pie chart percentages are still
13 inflated. The percentages, if they follow
14 the previous years, will be inflated by the
15 amount of the TANS or tax anticipation
16 notes. This makes it appears that the cost
17 per employees is more than it actually costs
18 the city per employee. The mayor and Stu
19 Renda said it cost \$80,000 per new
20 patrolman. At that amount they are saying
21 it costs the city 37,000 more per employee
22 over their wages which is preposterous. If
23 that is the case, Stu Renda would be making
24 37,000 more than his 85,000 salary putting
25 him at 122,000 per year, one of the highest

1 paid in the city.

2 There will be no tax increase
3 supposedly, but I have a question about the
4 garbage fee -- or tip fee. We have been
5 paying \$178 per year per unit but reading
6 page 11 of the budget I believe we are
7 getting a \$20 rate hike or tax hike,
8 whatever way you want to interpret it.

9 Page 11, landfill refuge fees,
10 account description: The city has
11 established a residential refuge fee. This
12 fee was required in order for the city to
13 maintain essential public works services at
14 their existing levels. This is an annual
15 fee of 198 per unit for per week year. Then
16 it has here landfill tipping fee for 2009,
17 \$4,050,000; 2010, \$4,156,960, that's 157,000
18 more than 2009 for 20010, a three percent --

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. Ancherani, if I could
20 interrupt for just a second, to my knowledge
21 the refuse fee has not been increased.
22 Council was given a proposed budget last
23 Friday that contained a number of pages with
24 incorrect information and since then council
25 has received the corrections, so the fee

1 remains at 178.

2 MR. ANCHERANI: Okay. The total of
3 the budgets from 2002 through 2009 is at
4 least over \$600 million. That's a lot of
5 money. 132 million is extra from those
6 budgets. More. That's -- if you divide it
7 by two we got \$61 million budgets, two
8 extra, \$61 million budgets.

9 Mrs. Evans presented budgets and
10 they were ignored, they weren't addressed by
11 most of the people on council. Now we are
12 using -- we are filling the budget gap using
13 1.8 million from the sale of the golf
14 course. I thought that money was supposed
15 to be used for something else.

16 Going back to the pie chart, the
17 question I asked last year and never
18 received an answer for was why does
19 nondepartmental expenditures which total
20 \$23,190,000, not be reflected in the pie
21 chart by having a slice of it's own, but I
22 guess I answered the question previously
23 when I said inflating the pie charts and the
24 pie slices makes it look like the employees
25 get more than they actually cost the city.

1 Scranton Parking Authority citation
2 issuers on page 29, 2009 the total was
3 \$879,830 that we gave the Scranton Parking
4 Authority. 2010, it's been dropped to
5 \$650,000 and the difference is \$229,830, but
6 now we are going to have two less SPA
7 citation issuers. Does that mean that their
8 salary was \$115,000 per year? That's a lot
9 of money.

10 Public safety, page 54, there were
11 three housing inspectors last year, but it
12 shows five this year.

13 Page 57, there is one juvenile
14 officer still in the budget. We only have
15 four officers.

16 Nondepartmental expenditures, page
17 79, we have \$60,000 for First Night. That's
18 a lot of money, but I guess we have it to
19 give out. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

21 MS. DESANDO: Good evening, Council.
22 Marie DeSando, I work at the tax office, I
23 so don't want to be here, but here I am. I
24 am so far still at the tax office, one of
25 the few. I just have a couple of questions,

1 I'm not very knowledgeable about the whole
2 budget process and I didn't really write
3 anything down, just some notes, but I
4 noticed that there is a decrease in wage tax
5 revenue in this budget and I'm kind of
6 curious as to why that would be and if it
7 has anything to do with the two wage tax
8 positions that are being eliminated in the
9 tax office, one of which bills for tax
10 that's due and one that claims money from
11 outside collectors for Scranton residents
12 that don't work in Scranton, those will both
13 be gone.

14 I am also wondering about there is
15 business privilege revenue in this budget,
16 but the only job in the tax office that
17 collects business privilege tax for the city
18 is eliminated in this budget, so I'm kind of
19 curious as to who is going to collect what
20 they are claiming there is going to be in
21 2010.

22 And I think -- well, I don't want to
23 get into rumors, but -- so I'm not. I
24 just-- can I get the answers on these now or
25 do we have to ask someone specific? Like I

1 said, I'm not very --

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: One question I was
3 going to ask, Marie, when it came my turn to
4 speak and I'll give people time to think
5 about it before my time comes to speak, I
6 was just going to ask this council here, be
7 it for some of us it will be the last budget
8 we vote on, to really think hard because I
9 don't know, I would like to know if anyone
10 on this council knows, anyone on this
11 council knows how they arrived at these
12 cuts? My understanding is they did not go
13 to the current tax collector and ask her so
14 I do not know how they arrived at these
15 cuts. They just said we need a dollar
16 amount and started hacking, I don't know.
17 So does anybody on this council know how
18 they arrived at these specific jobs and
19 these specific cuts? Anyone?

20 MS. EVANS: No.

21 MS. DESANDO: And it seems what they
22 are saving in these cuts in the tax office
23 is just a small portion of \$5 million
24 decrease in revenue. So, you know, if I
25 could get some kind of answers I'd

1 appreciate it.

2 MS. GATELLI: Bill, when they take
3 some of the power and make a new tax office
4 are some of those positions going to be
5 what's collected by who they appoint as the
6 person?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: If at the time when
8 they decide who is going to collect the wage
9 tax in the county if it's the single tax
10 office, which I'll say right now I think it
11 should be, if it's the single tax office I
12 think there would be an increase in
13 employees. If at that time they give it to
14 another entity then I'm sure there will be a
15 decrease in employees at that particular
16 time. I mean --

17 MS. GATELLI: And I just have one
18 question --

19 MS. DESANDO: But that's more than
20 two years away, and if I can since you
21 brought this up, the rumor that I heard was
22 that the city was interested in giving the
23 countywide tax collection to NCC. Did any
24 of you hear that information?

25 MS. FANUCCI: No. I don't know how

1 they could do that.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would hope not.

3 MR. DESANDO: I would certainly hope
4 not.

5 MS. GATELLI: You might as well say
6 it, you know, you could just say it, but I
7 just have a question for you --

8 MS. FANUCCI: It would have to come
9 here.

10 MS. GATELLI: The people in the tax
11 office are not cross-trained to do other
12 jobs?

13 MS. DESANDO: Yes, they are.

14 MS. GATELLI: Oh, they are. Okay.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. DESANDO: Thank you.

17 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.
18 My name is Nancy Krake, and they are
19 cross-trained which just proves that they
20 are currently now doing several jobs so when
21 you eliminate them you are also eliminating
22 many other jobs, not just the one named.

23 I would like to know how much of the
24 \$12 million sitting in the bank has the city
25 received and is any of that revenue plugged

1 into the 2010 budget? If so, how much of
2 it? I'd also like to echo some of the
3 statements of the previous speakers. Per
4 the mayor there are 6,000 new jobs, which is
5 like five Mercy Hospitals, and I can't
6 believe the Mayor Doherty wouldn't be
7 telling the truth, so either we are not
8 interested in collecting the wage tax
9 because it's so much decreased in the budget
10 yet we are eliminating people or he isn't
11 telling the truth.

12 We are also eliminating the grants
13 writer for the police and fire. If the
14 police chief and the mayor would allow the
15 grants writer to do her job the last problem
16 with procedure would never have happened.
17 That was for the Justice Assistant Grant,
18 JAG, and it would have been read before
19 council, she has done it in the past, she
20 had it her notes. She would have followed
21 the requirements to the letter as she does
22 in everything.

23 Some of the examples of her work,
24 she straightened up all of the reports and
25 filed them that were scattered. She filed

1 quarterly financial reports which the city
2 had been lacking, and she brought to light
3 the Colfax Avenue Complex and got the ball
4 rolling on that. I believe it was Officer
5 Martin that brought it to her attention,
6 that would be the Army Reserve Center on
7 Colfax Avenue, she then contacted the
8 federal government which then lead to the
9 city and then forwarded to the Redevelopment
10 Authority being able to take applications to
11 determine who would utilize the property to
12 it's fullest. This opportunity could have
13 easily been lost if we did not have the
14 grant's writer that we have now.

15 Once again, the administration is
16 doing a gross injustice to all citizens and
17 taxpayers when they do not fully utilize the
18 grant writer and her potential for bringing
19 dollars and projects to the city and then
20 everyone would benefit by it. In fact, if
21 you take a look at your agenda under 5-E, we
22 have a grant right there. Amazing. And I
23 would also like to know who prepared this
24 grant because apparently we can do it for
25 some parts of the city just not for police

1 and fire. Thank you.

2 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
3 council. My name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a
4 firefighter with the City of Scranton. I
5 want to echo what Mrs. Krake said. I never
6 had a chance to write a grant with our grant
7 writer, but a couple of our members have.
8 The city has failed over and over trying to
9 receive grants for different programs from
10 the Department of Defense, Department of
11 Homeland Security, but a year and a half
12 ago, and you should realize this, that we
13 notified the city probably for two or
14 three years in a row that our SCVA, our
15 self-contained breathing apparatus, our
16 cylinders and our equipment was so outdated
17 that they didn't make parts for them anymore
18 and we told the city for a few years that
19 they are going to run out within a few years
20 and the city would be stuck with about a
21 \$730,000 bill to revamp our entire SCVA, but
22 the grant writer that was just eliminated
23 did so well at writing that grant along with
24 two of our members, two of our unionized
25 members who helped her with it, that the

1 city received I believe about \$400,000
2 toward that grant.

3 So I would really, really think
4 about, according to my members, this is a
5 very, very capable person and she has
6 brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars
7 to the city with her successful grant
8 writing and I would just contemplate that.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

11 MS. EVANS: Good evening. Two
12 significant issues appear on city council's
13 agenda tonight, the mayor's 2010 proposed
14 operating budget and the creation of a
15 library authority, both of which require
16 equal study and attention.

17 Although, I am pleased this budget
18 contains no tax increase and no borrowing, I
19 do have questions that must be answered
20 before this legislation can be considered
21 for final approval. I ask that all
22 questions will be answered in writing by Stu
23 Renda on or about Monday, November 23, 2009.

24 (1). What is the total savings
25 realized for any and all clerical union

1 employees who do not work a 40-hour week?

2 (2). Why has the contingency
3 account decreased from the \$995,486 in the
4 2009 operating budget to \$274,706 in the
5 2010 budget? For what purpose was the
6 \$718,080 used?

7 (3). For what purpose was the
8 \$1 million included in the 2009 budget for
9 police contract increases used? If it was
10 not used, where does it appear in the 2010
11 budget?

12 (4). Included in the 2009 budget
13 was an expenditure of \$100,000 for a South
14 Side Library which no longer appears in an
15 account number 01.401.15315.4299 in 2010.
16 For what purpose was this money used? If
17 \$100,000 remains, where does it appear in
18 the 2010 budget?

19 (5). What is the total dollar
20 amount to date received from the Scranton
21 Single Tax Office for 888 funds due to the
22 city and placed in the 2009 budget at
23 5.5 million?

24 (6). Why has a position been
25 created at a salary of \$32,000 in OECD? The

1 limited duties of the newly created stimulus
2 reporting assistant can be absorbed by one
3 or more of the 11 current OECD employees.
4 Will this position be filled by a current
5 employee whose position is eliminated in the
6 2010 budget and if so, by whom?

7 (7). It appears that some of the
8 figures included in the controller's office
9 are not correct. Please make connections.

10 (8). The elimination of the
11 position of grant manager for the police
12 department appears to be in violation of a
13 police SIT clerk's arbitration award since
14 the grant manager is one of the original SIT
15 clerks which the city was ordered to
16 reinstate. Provide justification for this
17 apparent violation of an arbitration award.

18 (9). Explain in detail the \$879,830
19 expenditure for citation issuers in the 2009
20 budget and the \$650,000 expenditure for the
21 same in the 2010 budget. Provide a specific
22 accounting for each budget's expenditure for
23 this line item.

24 (10). On page 38 of the 2010
25 proposed budget, you state that the 2010

1 balance for citation issuers does not
2 include capital expenditures. Provide a
3 detailed list of all capital expenditures
4 within SPA citation issuer's account for
5 2009, 2008, and 2007.

6 (11). When will legislation for a
7 new payroll service be presented to city
8 council? You indicate that a request for
9 proposals will be prepared during the fourth
10 quarter of 2009. Provide a copy of the
11 proposal submitted that includes a \$74,944
12 decrease in payroll service for 2010.

13 (12). Provide information regarding
14 outsourcing of work previously performed by
15 a grant manager for the police department
16 and the DPW traffic maintenance division.
17 Include the names, locations and owners of
18 companies that will perform these duties and
19 responsibility. Include the annual cost for
20 each service and/or contract. Was this work
21 put out for bid or proposals? If so,
22 provide copies of all bids and/or proposals?

23 (13). Explain specifically how the
24 duties and responsibilities for each of the
25 staff cuts made to the Single Tax Office

1 will be carried out in the future.

2 (14). Did PEL approve of the 2010
3 budget? Does it meet all requirements of
4 the revised Recovery Plan.

5 (15). How does the administration
6 intend to provide sufficient funds for
7 salary increases for the police and
8 firefighters if contracts are settled in
9 2010?

10 (16). On page 24 cable TV revenue
11 is listed at \$780,000 for 2009 and \$826,000
12 for 2010. The cable franchise agreement
13 expires in December 2009 and to date there
14 is no new contract agreement. Also, what
15 percentage of the cable franchise fee will
16 be allocated to the peg channel? Does this
17 figure listed on page 24 of the 2010
18 proposed budget include funding for the peg
19 channel?

20 (17.) Are proceeds from the Nay Aug
21 Christmas light show included in the
22 operating budget? If so, in what account
23 does the money appear. If not, why are
24 these monies not included in the operating
25 budget?

1 (18). Since mortgage foreclosures
2 have increased while earned income taxes
3 have declined, how did you project no change
4 in 2010 real estate taxes and an increase in
5 2010 delinquent real estate taxes on page
6 ten?

7 Kay, please be sure to forward
8 these questions to Stu Renda tomorrow.
9 Also, Mr. Renda has refused to provide
10 management information which was requested
11 under the Right-to-Know law on September 25,
12 2009. Attorney Minora, I would like you to
13 pursue this matter legally and immediately
14 and if you have any questions about it we
15 can discuss them following tonight's
16 meeting.

17 Next, I will address the creation of
18 a library authority during the voting
19 portion of tonight's meeting.

20 Finally, I have a few citizens'
21 requests for the week:

22 Number one: Please collect leaves
23 in the 200 block of North Garfield Avenue.

24 Two, a city resident requests that
25 the following potholes be repaired: The

1 intersection of Cedar Avenue and River
2 Street; the intersection of Linden Street
3 and Arthur Avenue by CMC and in front of the
4 Penn Security Bank on Spruce Street.

5 Third, and I'm not sure that city
6 council has the influence that this city
7 resident believes us to have, but
8 nevertheless, if we could send a letter to
9 the Scranton Postmaster. A resident of
10 Mulberry Towers in downtown Scranton reports
11 that mail service at this highway rise has
12 been changed from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., making
13 it impossible for the elderly and disabled
14 to make same day banking deposits. Because
15 this has been a great cause of concern and
16 anxiety for these elderly residents, I
17 respectfully request that mail deliveries
18 might occur earlier in the day if possible,
19 and that's it.

20 MS. GATELLI: Next week Mr. Renda
21 will come to caucus to discuss the budget. I
22 just have a few other items. I attended a
23 hearing yesterday for what most people know
24 as Tom and Jerry's Restaurant on Pittston
25 Avenue. It does have a different name now,

1 but that's what most people know it by.
2 They are violating the zoning law by
3 operating a tavern rather than a restaurant
4 for which it was originally zoned. The
5 gentleman plead guilty at the hearing and
6 was ordered to go before the zoning board at
7 next month's zoning hearing, so I would like
8 to notify all of the people in South
9 Scranton that I won't be able to notify
10 personally that the zoning hearing will be
11 the second Wednesday of December at 6:00
12 p.m., and I will keep you notified if they
13 are on the agenda.

14 Also, on December 3, we are going to
15 reinitiate our Community Justice Program in
16 South Scranton to coordinate with our Elm
17 Street Program. Our first meeting will be
18 December 3, from 3 to 5 at United
19 Neighborhood Centers, 435 Alder Street. Any
20 South Side resident is welcome to come and
21 to discuss problems in their neighborhood
22 and fill out a complaint form and we will
23 also be taking a tour of the neighborhood.
24 Last year we had -- Ms. Fowler is in the
25 audience she was a participant in many of

1 our Community Justice Program walks and she
2 knows very well the benefit of the Community
3 Justice Program through the District
4 Attorney's Office.

5 I'd also like to ask if we can send
6 a letter to the police chief, I have been
7 getting complaints near the vicinity of
8 Kelly's Restaurant that there is someone
9 breaking into the cars and breaking
10 windshields and that the police were aware
11 of it they weren't' doing anything about the
12 person that's doing it, so I would like to
13 see if there are any police reports within
14 the last several weeks concerning car thefts
15 and windshields that are broken in this
16 particular area and then I'll go from there
17 maybe to setup a meeting and find out what's
18 going on.

19 I would also like to comment on an
20 article that was in the paper this week
21 about a couple that was accused in a
22 mortgage scam. Unfortunately, all of the
23 homes were located in South Scranton and
24 many of them have been on the demolition
25 list for many years. They weren't being

1 demolished because people -- these people
2 that were charged were saying that they
3 bought them and had a mortgage on them,
4 which wasn't true.

5 So I would like to send a letter to
6 Mr. Seitzinger and the mayor urging them to
7 demolish these homes as soon as possible.
8 One is really, really in bad condition and
9 the rear was in a fire and is still standing
10 and that would be the 422-424 Fig Street and
11 also in the rear. The other properties are
12 1309 Prospect, 1207 Cedar, 1209-1211 Cedar
13 and 1511 Cedar.

14 It's very disheartening when you are
15 trying to make some progress in your
16 neighborhood and you have things of this
17 magnitude going on trying to get away with
18 something that isn't true and it's really a
19 shame that this is happened, but these
20 properties have been a problem for I'd say
21 the last 20 years, long before these people
22 were involved a relative of them was
23 involved with the properties and they were
24 always a problem, so I would like to get
25 them down as soon as possible, and that's

1 all I have for this evening. Thank you.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Speaking about the
3 library authority and as you were talking
4 about it, Attorney Minora, we had spoken in
5 caucus about finding out what the deed said
6 and if it was given over to the authority if
7 they can still then in turn sell it or if
8 the deed would still hold true and also what
9 the exact terminology of the deed was, and I
10 want to make sure that we were making sure
11 they weren't able to take the library out
12 from the public and put it into a private
13 sector.

14 MR. MINORA: A couple of things, it
15 appears that the Albright Memorial Library
16 deed requires the building to be maintained
17 as a public library. There is also the
18 Greenridge Library and the Silkman House in
19 West Side, and honestly I just read them
20 now, I hadn't seen them before. The -- and
21 I may be getting these backwards, the
22 Silkman property just said library, not
23 public library, so theoretically it could be
24 maintained as a private library somehow, so
25 that might be able to be transferred to it

1 by a nonmunicipal library, which seems to be
2 the concern.

3 The other one is the Greenridge, I
4 may be getting them backwards, does have a
5 restriction in it that it be maintained as a
6 public library, so two of the three
7 buildings that are now maintained by the
8 public -- Scranton Public Library must be
9 maintained as public libraries and,
10 therefore, could not be offered to -- I'm
11 saying private. Obviously, we are talking
12 about a school or something of that nature.
13 I suppose that, you know, there is a
14 possibility of a transfer to a school that
15 would agree to keep it open to the
16 public. I mean, that's certainly if it is
17 maintained over to the public by something
18 other than a municipality that would not
19 violated the deed restriction, so I know
20 it's a complicated answer, but real estate
21 sometimes is very complicated.

22 MS. FANUCCI: I think our concern was
23 that the Albright Library would be given to
24 someone or deeded to someone that they would
25 not use it for what the intent was, so

1 that's actually a good answer.

2 MR. MINORA: Additionally, obviously
3 the authority could be restricted in it's
4 charter from transferring properties.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Right. We discussed
6 that.

7 MR. MINORA: That's certainly a
8 possibility as well if that's an issue, and
9 I know we talked in caucus, I don't know --
10 I spoke to Attorney Bob Milan who is a bond
11 council, I actually called and just asked a
12 question about the ability of the authority
13 to issue a bond without the city's approval
14 and his answer was pretty clear, but he had
15 a lot more to say than that. His answer on
16 the issue of the ability of an authority to
17 issue bonds is legally they can't and they
18 don't have to come to council to do that.
19 When they do that, of course, they do not
20 bind the city and the city's taxing
21 authority to pay for those bonds.

22 Consequently, only authorities that
23 have some revenue base such as the Sewer
24 Authority have a great deal of difficulty
25 getting money by bond because there is no

1 revenue stream to support it, so I asked him
2 specifically about a library authority and
3 he said unless there is some revenue stream
4 for this authority itself it would be very
5 unlikely that they could issue a bond
6 without -- a bank wouldn't support a bond
7 unless they came to city council and had the
8 city's taxing authority supporting the bond
9 issue itself. So that was the simple answer
10 on that.

11 However, he was actually in the
12 process of doing one in Western
13 Pennsylvania, one, a library authority in
14 Western Pennsylvania, and had some really
15 creative ideas on not only financing it, but
16 the possibility of using the library as a
17 service organization and as an umbrella for
18 things like the adult education and literacy
19 and a number of other ideas which would then
20 be able to attract money directly from other
21 government bodies and federal government and
22 so forth under different programs. So I
23 asked him if he would be willing to speak to
24 council, he said he would be glad to and I
25 think if that's where the council is going

1 with this legislation he would be an awfully
2 good source of information and I can
3 certainly get his name for you.

4 MS. FANUCCI: I think we agreed in
5 caucus that Mrs. Evans would try to be the
6 point person for that and reach out and see
7 what we can find out.

8 MR. MINORA: I'll be glad to get that
9 for you.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you.

11 MR. MINORA: You are welcome.

12 MS. FANUCCI: So that puts a lot of
13 the questions that we had last week, I was
14 really worried about the fact that nobody
15 wanted to lose the Albright Library and the
16 rumors that were out there were that it was
17 going to be taken over and given away and
18 I'm glad that we found out that the loophole
19 was -- I was afraid that it just said
20 library as opposed to saying public, so it's
21 more important that it does say public, so
22 that's a good thing.

23 Also, on the budget, we really have
24 not had tons of time to go over it, but
25 there are some changes that I believe that

1 we all want to make to it, a lot of things
2 speakers that were up tonight presented some
3 good reasons on some of the things that we
4 should change, and we are going to meet next
5 week hopefully to sit down with the
6 administrator and find out exactly what the
7 reasoning was behind what they were doing
8 and that the job eliminations, some of the
9 cuts that were made and also discuss other
10 options, so hopefully by next week we will
11 have a better gauge on exactly what the
12 final budget will look like.

13 I have a feeling it's going to be a
14 little while because we all seem to have
15 different ideas and when you put them
16 altogether that will take awhile. And that
17 is all I have. Thank you.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right, before I
19 go off on the tax office, Mr. Spindler left
20 here, but I did check into what he had asked
21 me about last week with the police officer's
22 ticketing in the evening. Captain Graziano
23 had spoke with Lieutenant Arby in person and
24 Captain Graziano sent an e-mail to him with
25 a response that came from Lieutenant Arby

1 and Lieutenant Arby is saying that what
2 Mr. Spindler indicated was going on at
3 nighttime that if you got "X" amount of
4 tickets that you were allowed time off is
5 not happening. Captain Graziano told me
6 without any type of proof there is not much
7 he can do it about it, but he will continue
8 to monitor it, so that's the answer I got,
9 Les, and I'll keep on top of that.

10 I've sat on this council for six
11 years now and I have seen a budget every
12 single year, I have never seen a budget that
13 had gone after one office like this budget
14 has gone after the tax office, and I don't
15 know why. Is it because it's me going over
16 there? I don't know.

17 I would ask this council sitting
18 here right now that I have been with most of
19 you for four years, you know me, maybe you
20 don't like the way I vote sometimes, maybe I
21 don't like you way the vote sometimes, but I
22 think I have been honest with all of you the
23 best that I could be. I think we all know
24 that there were some problems over at the
25 tax office, it was a house in need of repair

1 and I was fortunate enough that the people
2 of this city voted for me to try to head up
3 that repair, but how could anybody on this
4 council in good conscience vote for all of
5 these cuts and expect me to repair this
6 house with no workers? It's -- I think it's
7 going to be an impossibility.

8 I feel like it's purposefully trying
9 to set me up to fail and that wasn't my
10 intention when I ran for in office. My
11 intention was to try and straighten it out.
12 I think the workers for the most part have
13 gotten a bad wrap and I hope that I can over
14 there and do the best possible job.

15 Remember, this is the office that
16 brings the money to the city. You know, you
17 are cutting jobs on the people that are
18 bringing money into the city and I usually
19 stay calm here, but I'm a little mad so bear
20 with me. I'm going to start with some of
21 these things and the first one I'm going to
22 start with is the solicitor and I don't want
23 anybody to tell me that back in 1932 they
24 said that the city solicitor should be the
25 solicitor because Mr. Walsh served for two

1 terms, eight years. I believe Mr. Doherty
2 for two terms, eight years. Ken McDowell
3 for six years and the current tax collector
4 for two years so 20 some years they had a
5 solicitor but now because it's me going
6 there we don't need a solicitor? I think
7 that's strictly political. It's either me
8 they are after or they don't like Mark Walsh
9 because they know that's who I want for my
10 solicitor.

11 When he came to this council
12 chambers to be the solicitor for the city's
13 council office they cut his salary in half.
14 Now, that they know it's going to be him
15 coming over, they eliminate the job. The
16 job is \$11,650 a year. We gave the police
17 chief and the fire chief \$13,000 raises.

18 MS. GATELLI: Bill, I just want to
19 interrupt you there for just for one second,
20 the same people that are clapping out there
21 stood at that podium and said we were
22 violating state law because there was a
23 solicitor there and it should be the city
24 solicitor, and if I have to I'll have Kay
25 look for the minutes of those meetings.

1 Now, if we are going to -- I don't have
2 nothing against anybody being over there,
3 but if we are going to violate state law
4 then we have to change something in order to
5 put a solicitor there.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Twenty some years --

7 MS. GATELLI: Well, that doesn't make
8 it right.

9 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: It sets a
10 precedent.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here is my own
13 opinion, why wasn't it brought up until now.
14 That's all I'm saying.

15 MS. GATELLI: We brought it up when
16 I first met with the one and only meeting
17 that I was invited to that we had over at
18 the commissioner's office. Remember when I
19 said first went over there?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Let me say this --

21 MS. GATELLI: And I did talk about it
22 hen.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: If there needs to be
24 a change then there needs to be a change, I
25 just --

1 MS. GATELLI: I think that should be
2 changed and then certainly there wouldn't be
3 a problem.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would hope that
5 you people would agree with me, I'm going to
6 move on a little further, I'm trying to
7 remain calm but I'm really irritated here.
8 I'm looking at the auditor for business
9 privilege and mercantile tax, there is only
10 one individual that does that, okay? I
11 don't know about the cross-training, I'm not
12 there yet, but I don't know how we cut that
13 individual out. I just don't know how it's
14 possible, and if you take a look at some of
15 these salaries, here is one here, \$14,000 it
16 costs the city. The other one another
17 \$14,000, \$11,500, right? \$14,305. They are
18 not big salaries, you know? It's not
19 making -- if we -- the thing that bothers me
20 is the gentleman that crated this budget, if
21 that's what you want to call it, he is
22 making \$85,000 a year and I didn't see him
23 cut his salary, you know?

24 I do not know if he didn't speak to
25 Mrs. Vitali how he arrived at these specific

1 cuts. I'm guessing that they need a certain
2 dollar amount and they said, well, we'll
3 hack this one, this one and this one? I
4 would give you my word if you would be good
5 enough to indulge me in this that if I get
6 over there and this is jobs that need to be
7 cut I would cut them. I worked for 15 years
8 with a trade company, I got tossed out on
9 the street, you know, they didn't worry
10 about me, I understand that, that's part of
11 lie, but to just cut these people without
12 any rhyme or reason to it, which I believe
13 is happening, is just ludicrous.

14 I think most of you know I'm not a
15 liar. I think we haven't agreed on a lot of
16 things here, but I think I have always been
17 honest and straight forward and I'm just
18 asking you to give me the tools to work with
19 so I can try to do a good job here. I think
20 it could be done, but if you adopt this you
21 might as well tell me, "Hey, Bill, we want
22 you to fail."

23 All right? And again, if I were to
24 get over there and I saw there was changes
25 to be made I would make them. I know it's

1 tough to lose their job and these are tough
2 times, and I understand there needs to be
3 cuts. They are cutting down at the DPW, I
4 know it's clerical union, but I still call
5 it DPW, the traffic division down there, but
6 if you take notice in the paper, and we all
7 know better to believe the paper, but the
8 paper is saying that they would hire an
9 outside source to come in and complete the
10 job. Who I am going to get to complete the
11 job? Am I going to be allowed to hire an
12 outside source? I don't think so, you know.
13 I don't see anything, I'm looking through
14 this and I don't see anything in the budget
15 saying I can do that.

16 Now, you might say, how can we fund
17 these jobs? I got to be honest with you,
18 and again I know we are not going to get rid
19 of Stu Renda, but his salary alone would
20 fund every job that you are cutting from me.
21 I would show you where I think cuts can be
22 made and the money can be made up and I
23 would welcome you once I get over there to
24 come over and I would explain to you what I
25 think needs to stay and what I think needs

1 to go, but I just -- I don't know how I'm
2 going to live with this. I don't know how
3 you can expect me to do this job with this
4 kind of a staff. I, again --

5 MS. GATELLI: Just ask Stu next week.
6 I mean, we didn't write the budget.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: And again, that's
8 what I'm saying so I don't know how council
9 is possibly going to be able to vote on the
10 this. You know, I guess Stu he must be a
11 genius, I guess if he knows how I'm going to
12 do this, but I just think it's wrong. I
13 think a lot of it is political. I think
14 it's because it's me, and I think that's
15 wrong, so when he gives his reasons, and I'm
16 sure he will have reasons, I'm sure he has
17 them all prepared, but when he gives them I
18 would just ask you to do this, please do
19 this, when you decide how you are going to
20 vote on this, if you like me or dislike me
21 if you would put that aside, if you like
22 that tax office or dislike it put it aside,
23 but I would ask you do it for the people of
24 this city because that's the office that
25 sense the revenue over here.

1 My goal really and still is my goal
2 to try and send as much money as possible to
3 this city so that we can function so we
4 don't have to have another 25 percent tax
5 increase and we don't have borrow anymore
6 money. That was my goal. That's one of the
7 reasons I ran for that office and I thought
8 that maybe they lacked a little bit of
9 leadership over there and I was hoping -- I
10 was hoping that I could be the guy to do it.
11 And again, I was fortunate the people in
12 this city have some faith in me, but I got
13 to tell you, if this goes through the way it
14 is I'm going to end up letting them down
15 because I don't think I'm going to be able
16 to do the job that they elected me to do, so
17 if I have to beg you I'll beg you, but I'm
18 just asking you to do the right thing, and
19 that's all I have. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: I know I had many
21 questions on the budget and they were
22 tedious to listen to, but one of them
23 involved what you just said. I wanted an
24 explanation as to how all of these duties
25 and responsibilities are going to be

1 covered.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I understand people
3 are cross-trained and maybe we could absorb
4 some of them, but there is no way we are
5 going to absorb all of these.

6 MS. EVANS: I agree, which is why I
7 want to know, I want to see a plan when you
8 are making this deep a cut into, you know,
9 what the city and the school district relies
10 on for it's revenue then have you to be able
11 to tell me how you intend to successfully
12 cover that starting in January, and it's not
13 enough to just say people are cross-trained.
14 You are going to have to tell me what person
15 and show me because we can't afford at this
16 juncture to jeopardize the money that's
17 coming into this city. We have had enough
18 debacles in the past which I still believe
19 were very wrong and should have been
20 addressed legally, but we have to make every
21 effort to make sure that doesn't happen in
22 the future, and so if someone has to show me
23 unequivocally that these duties are covered
24 because I am the one who has been concerned
25 about that wage tax and delinquent wage

1 taxes for years now, and you are going to
2 tell me that we don't need the person -- we
3 don't need one of the people that collects
4 that. We don't need the person that --

5 MS. GATELLI: Are we hiring a
6 controller, too?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think that's the
8 intent, and if I can -- before I lose my
9 train of thought, as she was speaking I was
10 going to say something to you, Judy, when we
11 talked about this solicitor, Mr. Renda,
12 someone from the county and someone I
13 believe it might have been Greg Sunday from
14 the school district when they were looking
15 at this analysis, it was supposed to be a
16 forensic audit, one of the things they
17 crafted and sent to them, and I thank God
18 that they didn't pass before I got there was
19 that they all agreed there should be a
20 solicitor, and they all agreed that the
21 three taxing bodies should vote on who it is
22 so I think it's hypocritical of Mr. Renda to
23 cut out the solicitor when he was one of the
24 guys that crafted it, and we all saw it, it
25 all came to us, but they never moved on it.

1 He was one of guys that crafted the thing
2 saying there should be a solicitor, but they
3 should have a say in who it is. He had no
4 problem when hiring one then, and I don't
5 have an input on who it is. I don't have a
6 problem with the city or the county or the
7 school district having input, they are the
8 ones paying the bills. I would be more than
9 happy to have their input. I would like to
10 see their input.

11 They asked me about a budget, the
12 Times did, would I be willing to see a
13 budget, I would prefer that I have a budget.
14 If I knew I was going to go over I could
15 come to the taxing bodies and say, "Look it,
16 we are going to go over this budget and
17 here's why," all right? Because one thing
18 you are not going to catch me doing, you are
19 not going to catch me spending money, I'm
20 not going to spend because I don't desire to
21 sit behind bars anywhere, so I just, you
22 know, I'm getting a little irritated, so I'm
23 going to stop speaking. That's it.

24 MR. MCGOFF: As has been indicated,
25 Mr. Renda will be here to answer questions

1 posed by council. I would also suggest if
2 there are specific questions that council
3 members have prior to our next meeting that
4 that they either call or see Mr. Renda. He
5 has been accessible in the past and I'm sure
6 he will provide whatever answers he may
7 have.

8 I have also suggested to council
9 that after we have had an opportunity to
10 more thoroughly look at the budget to
11 consider some of the things that have been
12 said this evening and after our own
13 discussions that any amendments that they
14 would like to have made to the budget that
15 it be given to all of the council so that we
16 can discuss them and in conjunction with the
17 questions and answers that we -- the answers
18 that we get from Mr. Renda that perhaps we
19 can make changes to the budget that we feel
20 are necessary and hopefully that that
21 process that we can do that by next week.

22 As far as PEL and the Recovery Plan
23 and the budget, after attending -- I
24 attended the weekly meeting that they have
25 and it would appear that PEL is -- that

1 there will be no revised Recovery Plan prior
2 to this budget and, Kay, if I misspeak Kay
3 was also at the meeting, but I believe what
4 they said was that they are, you know,
5 taking a -- they will review this budget and
6 if it's within certain parameters that, you
7 know, they will figure it into the revised
8 Recovery Plan when that is, in fact,
9 completed. They are awaiting a number of
10 things and a number of items, one the Court
11 decision involving the unions and until that
12 is given they said they can't really do
13 anything.

14 And again, Mr. Cross said that what
15 he would really like to do is to sit down
16 with the next council and, you know, discuss
17 the revisions and his major concern -- his
18 concerns were as long as they budget was --
19 please, for lack of a better word balanced,
20 that he was more concerned with budgets
21 going forward and the Recovery Plan, so I
22 don't know if that answers the one question
23 that you had, but he does want to meet with
24 people and he does want to provide some
25 explanation to how it's all going to work

1 together hopefully.

2 One last thing I was asked to
3 announce, refuse collections, I guess there
4 has been some -- people have varying types
5 of recyclables out at the curbs, I was told
6 that if I would please announce that this
7 week, and I know we have already missed a
8 couple collection days, but this week is for
9 mixed recyclables and that next week will be
10 paper recyclables just so the people
11 understand the schedule. I had been putting
12 out both because I had no idea what they
13 were collecting and I figured whatever they
14 took I would put the rest away, but that
15 seems to be the schedule and I guess they
16 are also collecting leaves or taking care of
17 the leaves throughout the city at the same
18 time, and that's all I have.

19 MS. GARVEY: 5-B.FOR INTRODUCTION -
20 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
21 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS BROOK
22 STREET, TAX MAP NO. 16803-010-031, SCRANTON,
23 PENNSYLVANIA, TO THOMAS O'CONNOR, 1420 BROOK
24 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR
25 THE CONSIDERATION OF \$3,500.00.

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

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
15 AN ORDINANCE - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
16 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE
17 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF
18 JANUARY, 2010 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,
19 2010 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY
20 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2010.

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

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

4 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

8 MS. EVANS: No.

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

11 MS. GARVEY: We need a motion.

12 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry. Kay prepares
13 a sheet for me for all of this and I happen
14 to lose everything that she gives me. I'd
15 like to make a motion for a public hearing
16 to be held on December 1st at 5:30. I'd
17 like to make a motion -- start over. I'd
18 like to make a motion for a public hearing
19 to be held on December 1, 2009, at 5:30 and
20 to place all necessary ads to include a
21 summary of the proposed 2010 operating
22 budget.

23 MS. EVANS: Second.

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

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

7 MS. GARVEY: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
8 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
9 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
10 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AMENDED AGREEMENT NO.
11 4 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
12 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
13 REGARDING THE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT TO
14 ALLOW THE CITY TO ACCEPT INCREASE FUNDING IN
15 THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT
16 IN THE PLOT AND GREENRIDGE SECTIONS OF THE
17 CITY.

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

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

1 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

2 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
8 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
9 EXECUTE AND APPLY FOR A GRANT FOR HOUSING
10 AND REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE
11 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
12 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)
13 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$450,000.00. IF THE GRANT
14 APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, THE CITY WILL
15 COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH
16 THE UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY
17 DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (UNCDC) FOR A
18 PROJECT TO BE CALLED THE "CEDAR AVENUE
19 NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING REVITALIZATION
20 INITIATIVE" ("CEDAR- NHRI").

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

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. I would like OECD
3 or the grant writer to explain the grant
4 publically as we discussed with Ms. Aebli
5 during our public caucus back in September
6 and we all agreed that would be very useful,
7 very informative for the public to be made
8 aware of all of the specifics of the grants
9 and then, of course, to learn that the
10 grants have been successful.

11 MR. MCGOFF: When -- we have
12 Mr. Renda appearing next week at caucus.

13 MS. EVANS: Even if they -- even if
14 they came, whoever it is --

15 MR. MCGOFF: During the meeting.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes, during citizens'
17 participation and five minutes just they
18 could go first.

19 MR. MCGOFF: That would be fine. I
20 will call and --

21 MS. GATELLI: See if they can't come.
22 It's his project.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. All in favor
24 signify by saying aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

1 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

2 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. McGoff --

6 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
7 moved.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Before we go on,
9 maybe I need to explain that here I am
10 adamantly opposed to the cuts in the budget
11 and I voted for it, I voted just to move it
12 forward, you know, so that we can get it
13 done in the timely fashion, I'm certainly
14 not agreeable to everything in there.

15 MS. GATELLI: Well, I don't think any
16 of us are.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just -- I just got
18 done ranting here and they're going to you
19 voted for it, you voted for it. I'm just
20 voting to move it forward. Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Are we calm now?

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm calm.

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

24 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 94,
25 2009 - AN ORDINANCE - PROVIDING FOR THE

1 ACCEPTANCE AND DEDICATION OF JAMESTOWN WAY
2 CIRCLE AND PARK EDGE LANE; AS WELL AS
3 ALL THE STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEM UNDERLYING
4 SAID STREETS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY; ALL OF THE
5 AFOREMENTIONED IMPROVEMENTS BEING LOCATED IN
6 THE PARK EDGE SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF
7 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA; ALSO AUTHORIZING THE
8 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
9 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE
10 DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND TO RECORD IN THE OFFICIAL
11 RECORDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF
12 DEEDS FOR LACKAWANNA COUNTY A DEED FOR
13 THE AFORESAID PUBLIC STREETS AND
14 IMPROVEMENTS.

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

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

19 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

24 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. GARVEY: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
4 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 95, 2009 - AN ORDINANCE
5 - SIGNIFYING THE INTENTION AND DESIRE OF THE
6 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ORGANIZE
7 AN AUTHORITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE SCRANTON
8 PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY UNDER PROVISIONS OF
9 THE ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, KNOWN AS
10 THE MUNICIPALITY AUTHORITIES ACT, 53
11 PA.C.S. CHAPTER 56; SETTING FORTH AND
12 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ARTICLES OF
13 INCORPORATION; APPOINTING AND FIXING THE
14 TERMS OF THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF
15 SUCH AUTHORITY; AND UPON ORGANIZATION
16 CONVEYING TITLE TO THE AUTHORITY FOR THE
17 PROPERTIES ON WHICH THE ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL
18 LIBRARY, THE GREEN RIDGE LIBRARY AND
19 THE SILKMAN HOUSE ARE LOCATED; AUTHORIZING
20 ALL OTHER NECESSARY ACTION; AND REPEALING
21 ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF
22 ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
23 RESOLUTIONS.

24 MR. MCGOFF: You have heard reading
25 by title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

1 MS. FANUCCI: I move that Item 6-B
2 pass reading by title.

3 MS. GATELLI: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. As I stated at
6 last week's council meeting, the creation of
7 a municipal authority is a highly
8 significant and unusual action that must be
9 examined carefully. According to 53
10 Pa.C.S.A., Chapter 56, Municipal
11 Authorities, the powers of authorities are
12 numerous and include among others the
13 following abilities:

14 "To acquire, purchase, hold, lease,
15 and use any property for carrying out of the
16 purposes of the authority; and to sell,
17 lease, transfer and dispose of any property
18 at any time acquired by it.

19 To finance projects by making loans
20 which contracts or agreements may contain
21 such provisions as the authorities shall
22 deem necessary for the security or
23 protection of the authority or it's bond.

24 To borrow money, make and issue
25 negotiable notes, bonds, refunding bonds,

1 and other evidence of indebtedness or
2 obligations called bonds of the authority.
3 Bonds shall have a maturity date not longer
4 than 40 years from the date of the issue.

5 To have the power of eminent domain.

6 To have existence for a term of
7 50 years."

8 Such imposing powers will impact the
9 city of Scranton for the next 50 years
10 obviously, therefore, the decision to create
11 another municipal authority should never be
12 made hastily, recklessly or without the
13 input of the taxpayers.

14 In addition, I learned that members
15 are appointed by a governing body of the
16 municipality and that board members shall be
17 a taxpayer in, maintain a business in, or be
18 a citizen of the municipality by which he is
19 appointed. Thus, the law appears to
20 contradict the emergency resolution passed
21 by the Scranton Public Library Board which
22 states that the library authority will
23 consist of at least the nine members, all I
24 which will be appointed from the existing
25 board of trustees of the Scranton Public

1 Library.

2 Further, the Scranton City solicitor
3 states that the library authority will
4 consist of not less than five members in
5 keeping with 53 Pennsylvania C.S.A Section
6 5610 and suggests that board members might
7 serve as advisory board -- or an advisory
8 body to the authority members. There seems
9 to be at best a degree of confusion and at
10 worse a power struggle in play already.

11 Consequently, my research has
12 convinced me this action should not be
13 railroaded through city council, so I will
14 be voting "no".

15 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to say
16 that I am not totally opposed to the
17 creation of the authority or, you know, the
18 ultimate creation of an annex to the
19 library. I do think that there are some
20 questions that need to be answered,
21 hopefully the gentleman that Attorney Minora
22 has suggested to us may be able to answer
23 some of these things. I think one of the --
24 I think you bring up a very legitimate
25 question about the membership of the

1 authority itself and how they will be
2 appointed into the future. I think that
3 perhaps as we look into legislation if it is
4 moved forward there may be amendments that
5 need be to included that would place
6 limitations on the authority and also a
7 definitive method of placing new members on
8 the authority and maybe the, you know,
9 membership itself, so I will vote "yes" for
10 it, but I do have some questions and I think
11 that, again, we have a 30-day wait for a
12 public hearing. Within that time perhaps we
13 can find some answers, perhaps some
14 solutions and make it a viable piece of
15 legislation for all of us.

16 MS. GATELLI: I would just -- my only
17 comment is that I will be voting for it. As
18 you know, I am supporting the library in
19 South Scranton, it is part of our Elm Street
20 project that we have been working on for
21 seven years, so I will definitely be voting,
22 yes.

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

25 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

1 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

4 MS. EVANS: No.

5 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
6 moved.

7 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
8 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
9 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 93,
10 2009 - AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE BY SEALED
11 BID OR AUCTION A VACANT LOT LOCATED AT
12 2935-2937 PITTSTON AVENUE ACQUIRED PURSUANT
13 TO A GIFT TO THE CITY, AS MORE PARTICULARLY
14 DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED DEED.

15 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the
16 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
17 passage of Item 7-A.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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

21 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Gatelli.

24 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

25 MS. MAGNOTTA: Ms. Fanucci.

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MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

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

MR. COURTRIGHT: Motion to adjourn.

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

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER