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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT

MS. JANET E. EVANS

MS. SHERRY FANUCCI

MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

14 MS. GARVEY: 3-A. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
15 FOR THE MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2009.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
17 If not, received and filed.

18 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
19 POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON  
20 SEPTEMBER 23, 2009.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
22 If not, received and filed.

23 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
24 POLICE PENSION COMMISSION EXECUTIVE  
25 BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2009.

1 MS. GARVEY: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
2 POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON  
3 OCTOBER 28, 2009.

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

6 MS. GARVEY: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE  
7 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
8 HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2009.

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

11 MS. GARVEY; 3-F. MINUTES OF THE  
12 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD  
13 MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2009.

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

16 MS. GARVEY: 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE  
17 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD  
18 MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2009.

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

21 MS. GARVEY: 3-H. MINUTES OF THE  
22 VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE  
23 MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2009.

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

1 MS. GARVEY: 3-I. AGENDA FOR THE  
2 VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE  
3 MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2009.

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

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Garvey.  
9 Any announcements from council?

10 MS. EVANS: The Pancreatic Cancer  
11 Action Network will conduct a night with the  
12 Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins at Wachovia  
13 Arena and Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre this  
14 Saturday, November 28th at 7:05 p.m. For  
15 only \$23.25 you will enjoy lower level  
16 seating and receive a baseball cap, hot dog,  
17 soda and popcorn. For more information  
18 contact Mike Chapburn at 570-208-5415.

19 Pizza by Pappas in Scranton is  
20 donating 20 percent of all customer bills  
21 tomorrow, that is Wednesday, and Sunday  
22 November 29 to the Pancreatic Cancer Action  
23 Network. TGIF Restaurants in Scranton and  
24 Wilkes-Barre will donate 15 percent of all  
25 customer bills tomorrow and Monday,

1 November 30. Coupons must be presented at  
2 both Pappas Pizza and TGIF to qualify for  
3 donations. For coupon information please  
4 call Tara Rabowski-Jones at 570-498-9488.

5 And, finally, I would like to wish  
6 everyone a very happy and safe Thanksgiving  
7 holiday.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Fourth  
9 order. Citizens' participation. Charlie  
10 Spano.

11 MR. SPANO: Good evening, Council,  
12 and thank you for this opportunity. A year  
13 ago I was here approximately to talk about  
14 the United States Census. The United States  
15 Census is very important and is beginning  
16 it's recruiting. Again, just for the  
17 camera. I am the assistant manager in  
18 charge of recruiting in the census office  
19 located in the Oppenheim building and we  
20 need and will need to recruit thousands of  
21 applicants in all four counties. Our office  
22 is now responsible for Wayne, Pike, Luzerne  
23 and Lackawanna. We need people from  
24 Carbondale, from Scranton, from Greenridge,  
25 the Hill Section. We need people from Old

1 Forge, Taylor and Moosic because, as you are  
2 all very well aware, the census and an  
3 accurate count provides a basis for  
4 policymakers, funding and representation in  
5 the United States Congress as well as the  
6 state legislature and we need thousands of  
7 people to go out and make sure that the  
8 questionnaires get returned.

9 Anyone who is interested in becoming  
10 part of the census can simply call our toll  
11 free number 1-866-861-2010. We will  
12 schedule them for a simple test of basic  
13 skills and enter them in other data base.  
14 When the time begins to actually hire in  
15 early spring of next year we will be able to  
16 produce a list from which we can hire. The  
17 pay is \$11 to \$14 an hour for field  
18 employees with mileage reimbursable and  
19 lasts eight weeks at a time. Any questions?  
20 Okay. Thank you to for your attention and I  
21 appreciate the time.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Spano.  
23 Mike Dudek.

24 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek,  
25 608 Depot Street, Scranton, I live down

1           there in the Plot. I want to start by  
2           asking Council President McGoff, I noticed  
3           that on the agenda today there was an item  
4           missing that I thought would be there, the  
5           item having to do with the library  
6           authority. Is there a reason why it's not  
7           on the agenda today?

8                   MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Very simple, there  
9           needs to be a public hearing.

10                  MR. DUDEK: Oh, okay.

11                  MR. MCGOFF: And then the final  
12           reading would be after the public hearing.

13                  MR. DUDEK: Thank you. Now, I do  
14           have one question and if anybody knows the  
15           answer just put your hand up, there is a  
16           book out there, I wouldn't call it a book,  
17           but there is a -- I'll call it a  
18           publication. It is called the Oxford  
19           Unabridged Dictionary of the English  
20           Language, the Oxford Unabridged Dictionary  
21           of the English Language. By any chance does  
22           anybody know how many pages roughly are in  
23           that book?

24                  MS. EVANS: Mr. Dudek, I don't know  
25           if you can say they are exactly pages



1           because I believe it's not a book it's a  
2           computer that is attached to Oxford  
3           University.

4                       MR. DUDEK: You nailed me. You  
5           nailed me. The Oxford Unabridged Dictionary  
6           of the English Language sits up at the  
7           Worthington-Scranton Campus of Penn State.  
8           I think everybody in here thought books like  
9           pages and so forth, but the fact that almost  
10          nobody in here except Mrs. Evans who, of  
11          course, would know as an English teacher,  
12          that this computer is connected directly to  
13          Oxford University. Oxford University will  
14          make changes to the language on any time of  
15          the day or night so that if a student is  
16          looking up a word it's conceivable that he  
17          might look up something that wasn't there  
18          yesterday that is there today. That's how  
19          fast the English language is growing and I  
20          think the fact that the Scranton Public  
21          Library does not have one of those  
22          dictionaries is proof positive we need a  
23          library.

24                       But I am just as adamant and just as  
25          angry at the thought of trying to create a

1 library with an authority. That is the  
2 wrong way to go. I will keep stressing that  
3 and stressing it until we can finally kill  
4 that once and forever.

5 And the last point that I would like  
6 to make was that I observed at the caucus  
7 one of the most remarkable things I ever  
8 saw. We have a lot of talent in this city,  
9 an awful lot of talent in this city, and  
10 it's almost remarkable that the city  
11 administration for some reason or other  
12 never got to Mrs. Gatelli to learn exactly  
13 what she really knows about OECD, how this  
14 office works, how it works within the city,  
15 how it works within the state, how the city  
16 could benefit from making contact with other  
17 communities and making contact with the  
18 state. A treasure trove of information here  
19 that could have conceivably put a tremendous  
20 amount of money into the city coffers,  
21 nobody took advantage of her knowledge.

22 I think one of the biggest problems  
23 that we have in this city is not the lack of  
24 talented people, but we have a lack of  
25 talented people talking to each other. For

1 God's sake, ladies and gentlemen, please  
2 take -- when you bring yourself to  
3 government bring your talents, share what  
4 you have with the administration and see to  
5 it that at least they know something. One  
6 of the most remarkable things I saw at that  
7 caucus was when Mrs. Gatelli started to  
8 speak Mr. Renda looked at her like, oh, my  
9 goodness, and he started taking note after  
10 note after note like he was learning  
11 something for the first time. This was  
12 information that he should have had years  
13 ago. And to me it's just incredulous that  
14 we could have a person, an ex-director of a  
15 city -- a city bureau city on council  
16 sitting up here for all of these years being  
17 unconsulted by the city. That is I think  
18 outrageous and disgraceful on the part of  
19 the administration.

20 If they are not going to build a  
21 bridge to you, then you are going to have to  
22 go and build it toward them. This idea of a  
23 city council in one castle and the city  
24 administration in another castle with a moat  
25 in-between, somebody is going to have to

1 build that little bridge across both castles  
2 in order for expertise to flow back and  
3 forth and what a lack of communication.  
4 It's unbelievable. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan.

6 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
7 Mr. McGoff, I just would like to ask a  
8 couple of questions here. Could you explain  
9 why the caucus wasn't held in council  
10 chambers where more people could have had  
11 access to it and possibly been much more  
12 comfortable? I mean, I do understand that  
13 it's held in council chambers, but I don't  
14 think it's constructive. People are  
15 standing there trying to take notes, there  
16 is just -- you know, you look at -- I'm  
17 hoping that this council will create it's  
18 own budget and cut the city budget by 10  
19 percent. I do have a copy of it, it's right  
20 here, I have a copy of the whole budget.

21 Today I stopped in and I talked to  
22 Neil about asking for Mrs. Evans -- I  
23 haven't seen them, so I will use the word  
24 allegedly budgets in prior years until I see  
25 them, but my question is, Mr. McGoff, in the

1 last year did you try to put together a  
2 budget on your own or the members of council  
3 ban together to try to create a budget?

4 MR. MCGOFF: No.

5 MR. MORGAN: Do you think that it  
6 would have been an important thing to do to  
7 create a budget over the course of the last  
8 legislative year on council's part to try to  
9 get a much better grasp of what's happened  
10 with the city's revenue and the city's debt?

11 MR. MCGOFF: I think we have done  
12 that.

13 MR. MORGAN: How did you do that?

14 MR. MCGOFF: By reviewing the budget  
15 that was sent to us.

16 MR. MORGAN: Can you tell the  
17 residents of this city how much of this  
18 budget has changed since last year's budget?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I can compare them, yes.  
20 Can I tell you specifics right now, no.

21 MR. MORGAN: How many employees is  
22 the city going to Ross?

23 MR. MCGOFF: It depends on what we  
24 pass.

25 MR. MORGAN: Do you think that the

1 residents of this city have a right to  
2 legitimate services?

3 MR. MCGOFF: I think they get them,  
4 yes.

5 MR. MORGAN: Do you think the time  
6 will come, Mr. McGoff, when we cut so far in  
7 to make debt payments that the city will  
8 basically have no services?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Do I think that?

10 MR. MORGAN: Um-hum.

11 MR. MCGOFF: No.

12 MR. MORGAN: Can you tell the  
13 residents of this city why we haven't  
14 addressed any of the infrastructure problems  
15 in this city?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Specifically?

17 MR. MORGAN: Well, the potholes, no  
18 curbs, no sidewalks.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I think they are being  
20 addressed.

21 MR. MORGAN: With what capital?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not going to get  
23 into it.

24 MR. MORGAN: Well, you are the  
25 council president and I'm trying to -- I'm

1 just trying to have a conversation with you.  
2 I mean, I'm looking at your budget --

3 MR. MCGOFF: And I'm giving you an  
4 answer --

5 MR. MORGAN: Well, you said you're  
6 not going to get into this, and what I'm  
7 saying is I'm a resident of this city, I  
8 walked back there, I mean, I do have a copy  
9 of this budget, I have asked for copies --

10 MR. MCGOFF: Okay, I'll answer your  
11 question. I have seen them fixing  
12 sidewalks. I have seen them filling  
13 potholes.

14 MR. MORGAN: Do you think that  
15 possibly a large percentage of the people  
16 that are fleeing this city are absolutely  
17 tired of being overtaxed?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Do I think?

19 MR. MORGAN: Do you think that?

20 MR. MCGOFF: No.

21 MR. MORGAN: Why you did think  
22 residents are fleeing the city?

23 MR. MCGOFF: First of all, I don't  
24 know that they are fleeing.

25 MR. MORGAN: Well, what would you say

1                   they are doing if they are moving?

2                   MR. MCGOFF: I think there are people  
3 moving in and out of the city.

4                   MR. MORGAN: Would you say there is a  
5 lack of opportunity in this city? Now, the  
6 Scranton Times has stated that the  
7 population of the city-- the city's  
8 population has declined by over 5 percent  
9 and I'm 50 years old, Mr. McGoff, you may be  
10 close to my age and at one time there were  
11 100,000 residents in this city. Now, when  
12 you go back into this budget --

13                   MR. MCGOFF: I think at one time  
14 there were probably 120,000.

15                   MR. MORGAN: Well, a lot of people  
16 left this city, they don't really seem to be  
17 coming here. Would you agree with that  
18 statement?

19                   MR. MCGOFF: I said, I think people  
20 are moving in and out of this city for a  
21 variety of reasons.

22                   MR. MORGAN: Do you think the 3.4  
23 wage tax has anything to do with that?

24                   MR. MCGOFF: It probably does for  
25 some.



1 MR. MORGAN: So do you think that  
2 possibly this council should have prepared a  
3 budget?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I think people are  
5 moving in --

6 MR. MORGAN: -- to try to --

7 MR. MCGOFF: -- into the city --

8 MR. MORGAN: -- do you think --

9 MR. MCGOFF: Listen, you are asking  
10 me questions and not waiting for the answer.

11 MR. MORGAN: I'm trying to ask you a  
12 question and you are trying to answer a  
13 question when I'm in midstream. But, go  
14 ahead, take the floor.

15 MR. MCGOFF: No, I think people moved  
16 into the city for various reasons as well,  
17 educational systems, number of schools that  
18 are here.

19 MR. MORGAN: Are you aware of the  
20 Scranton School District's debt?

21 MS. FANUCCI: Were you at the  
22 meeting?

23 MR. MORGAN: No.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Did you go to the  
25 meeting and talk about that?

1 MR. MORGAN: We had a tax group  
2 meeting last week.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Then why wasn't the  
4 taxpayer group there? That's the question.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Please, Mrs. Fanucci.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Let's talk about that.

7 MR. MORGAN: Well, I think, Mrs.  
8 Fanucci, with all due respect to you, I  
9 think the tax group is pretty much aware of  
10 most things are happening here. I mean, you  
11 do see --

12 MS. FANUCCI: You made no objection  
13 about the increase there, but that's okay.

14 MR. MORGAN: Well, I think there is a  
15 lot of objection to what is going on.

16 MS. FANUCCI: And you are not getting  
17 any services except for the education, so  
18 that's okay.

19 MR. MORGAN: I think there is a lot  
20 of problems with the Scranton School  
21 District, but I'd like to say this -- -

22 MS. FANUCCI: I'd like to say why  
23 weren't you there?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Why weren't you at the

1 school district meeting? Why wasn't that an  
2 issue for you?

3 MR. MORGAN: That issue is for me,  
4 but I belong to a tax group which has  
5 representatives looking at a lot of things  
6 in the city. I don't have to personally be  
7 there, Mrs. Fanucci.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you.

9 MR. MORGAN: That's why I belong to a  
10 group.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Jim Stucker.  
12 Mr. Stucker is not with us? Andy Sbaraglia.  
13 We'll put him in later.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
15 citizen of Scranton and fellow Scrantonian.  
16 As you know, I'm going to talk against this  
17 library authority. In fact, I am against  
18 all authorities. To me, we don't need more  
19 government, we need less. Ronald Reagan was  
20 right we need less government and not more  
21 government. And every authority is an  
22 independent government and we don't need  
23 them, but this one particularly we don't  
24 need at all. Why in my wildest dreams why  
25 did you want to go to South Side to build a

1 new library when the school administration  
2 building is across the street from the  
3 library. It would be much more feasible to  
4 either work with the school district to  
5 create a library inside of that building,  
6 which was an old school or to buy the  
7 building from the school administration.

8 MS. FANUCCI: You can't.

9 MS. GATELLI: They can't buy the  
10 building from the school district.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Why?

12 MS. GATELLI: Because Lackawanna  
13 Junior College has first right of refusal.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: There you go. Now,  
15 you get the whole parts of what's going  
16 on --

17 MS. GATELLI: They did that years ago  
18 when they sold --

19 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- in the city. This  
20 is what's happening in the city. They sold  
21 our school Central to them. Now you said  
22 they put a little stipulation on that  
23 building, too, and now they want our  
24 library. What more did they want from the  
25 blood of this city? This is ridiculous.

1                   You also know that there is -- the  
2                   University of Scranton has a wonderful  
3                   library, couple of blocks up the street.  
4                   Are them kids afraid to walk? Are they that  
5                   lazy that they can't walk up to -- anybody  
6                   with a library card could use that library.  
7                   We all know that. It's available. Why do  
8                   they want the Albright Library? What would  
9                   be the reason for wanting it?

10                   MR. MCGOFF: Who is they?

11                   MS. GATELLI: Well, I'm not saying  
12                   they want the library --

13                   MR. SBARAGLIA: Let's go back --

14                   MS. GATELLI: I'm saying they have  
15                   first right of refusal on the administration  
16                   building.

17                   MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, let's go to the  
18                   library itself. Now, you know there was an  
19                   article stipulating in the paper saying that  
20                   if that library came up for sale or could be  
21                   manipulated in any way they were interested  
22                   in it.

23                   MS. FANUCCI: But they can't be.

24                   MR. SBARAGLIA: Don't say they can't.

25                   MS. FANUCCI: It can't be.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: I was here with the  
2 South Side Complex, they said they can't  
3 either, but you know what, they did it.  
4 It's still in court, but they did it. I was  
5 here. You weren't here, none of you were  
6 here when that came up. They come up and  
7 they transferred it to the SRA telling the  
8 people of Scranton it was for their good,  
9 they were going to take care of it and all  
10 of the time they were planning to sell it  
11 and it went all of the way down to  
12 Harrisburg to do it. That is what happened  
13 with that. You think I trust them here? I  
14 wouldn't trust that man if he stood on the  
15 stack of bibles and told me what something  
16 was or wasn't. I don't trust the man and I  
17 certainly don't trust him with this library.

18 This is a gem of the city, there is  
19 no question about it. Anybody with common  
20 sense would tell you that. Sure it can't be  
21 insured, but it's irreplaceable. How can  
22 you ensure the Mona Lisa? You put a dollar  
23 amount on it, but what God would if do you?  
24 You can't replace it and you can't replace  
25 that library. That is a gem to the city.

1           The Masonic Temple is another gem and they  
2           go together. Now, why the school board  
3           would give them an option, but as you know a  
4           lot of things happened back then. I was  
5           never in favor of giving away Central either  
6           and I don't think the new school is anything  
7           like Central. I probably never will, but  
8           that's what a Scrantonian thinks maybe  
9           somebody comes in as a resident of this city  
10          thinks it's a beautiful school, but to tell  
11          you the truth Central to me is way over  
12          Scranton High. I'm sorry, you sold it, I  
13          talked against selling that, but it goes  
14          through deaf ears like everything else in  
15          this city plus they imposed all that debt.  
16          That's what that 6 percent you quit  
17          mentioning, there's 6 percent there and it's  
18          going to go on. It's not going to end, it's  
19          going to go own.

20                   And when the pensions come up I  
21           don't know what else is going to happen here  
22           and they already made headlines in the paper  
23           but I told you years ago about the pension  
24           system that it's going to fall on the  
25           taxpayers. How can they escape it, I don't

1 know, but you got to look at the 20 years  
2 down the road, not just today or what I can  
3 get out of something, but that's where this  
4 thing went. Everybody wants something. All  
5 the taxpayers want from this city is to pick  
6 up our garbage and keep our taxes low and  
7 our tax base. That's it. And it will be  
8 fairly safe, but that's lacking.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Ozzie Quinn.

10 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, president of  
11 the Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers'  
12 Association. Mrs. Fanucci, you shouldn't go  
13 shooting at us, okay? Just one more meeting  
14 before the budget is passed and we plan to  
15 go there. I spoke to Cathy Bevilaqua, and  
16 it's the 21st, maybe you could go. You are  
17 a citizen of Scranton, aren't you, and argue  
18 about the budget. I'll see you there. I go  
19 to public hearings, but you know what, they  
20 are only are going through the motions to  
21 make sure you meet the regulations. Now,  
22 Mr. McGoff, you have no idea --

23 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Quinn --

24 MR. QUINN: Pardon?

25 MS. GATELLI: Nothing.



1 MR. QUINN: You have no idea about  
2 housing rehabilitation or infrastructure  
3 rehabilitation, sidewalks, curbs, deferred  
4 payments for people to fix their houses and  
5 putting heating plants in and yet you are  
6 saying we are filling potholes. Ron Ellman  
7 told you last week you are working on five  
8 miles of 200 miles of roads in the City of  
9 Scranton. That's progress? Now, I want to  
10 say something, okay, our budget is a  
11 presupposition, as I said last week. You  
12 are depending on parking tickets, you are  
13 depending on a 50 cent fee and you are  
14 depending on the cable system and the last  
15 year, my God, I hope that Stu Renda looked  
16 at the fact that how many people have become  
17 part of the Direct TV and the cable TV  
18 before you come up with that figure, and  
19 also the fact that in the budget there is a  
20 \$667,950.00 for professional services -- -  
21 excuse me a second. There is \$667,950.00  
22 for professional services, that's pork.  
23 There is no doubt about it, resulted in  
24 contracts. Look into that, would you,  
25 please, Mrs. Evans?

1                   And also the fact, you know, I  
2                   looked at Bethlehem's budget, all right, and  
3                   I spoke to Bethlehem. Bethlehem has the  
4                   same population of about 72,000 people.  
5                   Now, you people should get a copy of the  
6                   Bethlehem budget and look at it and see how  
7                   you cut the pork. For instance, IT they  
8                   double -- and here in Scranton it's almost  
9                   \$800,000 they have in the budget and down in  
10                  Bethlehem they have \$300,000.

11                  Now, the budget here is \$77,000 --  
12                  \$77 million, okay, and in Bethlehem it's  
13                  \$71 million. Six million dollars and they  
14                  have a carry over of \$2 million, okay? So  
15                  they are operating in the black, you know?  
16                  How come the same isn't for us? We have the  
17                  same population.

18                  MS. GATELLI: Mr. Quinn, are you  
19                  aware that Bethlehem has their own water  
20                  company? They are a utility and they own  
21                  their own water company.

22                  MR. QUINN: My God, does that pick  
23                  up \$7 million?

24                  MS. GATELLI: Yes. It picks up a lot  
25                  of revenue.

1 MR. QUINN: Yeah, right.

2 MS. GATELLI: Absolutely. They have  
3 an ambulance.

4 MR. QUINN: You were down in  
5 Bethlehem with me and we talked the streets.

6 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

7 MR. QUINN: What happened to that  
8 mental rehab we are going to have five years  
9 ago.

10 MS. GATELLI: You tell me about it.

11 MR. QUINN: One other thing, please,  
12 on the lawyers. You have five lawyers,  
13 Bethlehem has two lawyers, okay? You know,  
14 one time Scranton before it got political in  
15 the 80's and so on they had two lawyers, one  
16 is the city solicitor and for city council  
17 and the same as Bethlehem has right now.

18 And the other fact is that I looked  
19 into the budget, I looked and looked in OECD  
20 I don't even know why OECD is in the budget,  
21 it's federal monies, okay, and it's just  
22 been there to look good, but I looked and I  
23 looked and I looked and I couldn't find the  
24 sixth lawyer, Mr. Carl Greco that makes  
25 about \$600,000 a year. Where is his name in

1 the budget?

2 MS. GATELLI: \$600,000 a year?

3 MR. QUINN: You know he makes  
4 \$600,000 year.

5 MS. GATELLI: Oh, come on, Ozzie.

6 MR. QUINN: You know he does.

7 MS. GATELLI: You bring it here next  
8 week and shoe.

9 MR. QUINN: I pointed it out before.  
10 I pointed it out before.

11 MS. GATELLI: You were there when  
12 Boyd Hughes made it, weren't you?

13 MR. QUINN: Mrs. Gatelli --

14 MS. GATELLI: Weren't you there when  
15 Boyd Hughes made it? You worked in OECD.

16 MR. QUINN: Boyd Hughes didn't make  
17 \$600,000.

18 MS. GATELLI: He made a million  
19 dollars.

20 MR. QUINN: Boyd Hughes is a very  
21 clever man.

22 MS. GATELLI: The mall, he made a  
23 million dollars.

24 MR. QUINN: I think you're all clever  
25 to what's going on now.

1 MS. GATELLI: Oh, come on, Ozzie, cut  
2 it out. You are not telling the truth.

3 MR. QUINN: Oh, my God, and you are?

4 MS. GATELLI: Is that anything  
5 unusual? Is that anything unusual that you  
6 wouldn't be telling the truth?

7 MR. QUINN: I give up.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

9 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz, South  
10 Scranton resident and member of the  
11 Taxpayers' Association. I find it hard to  
12 believe and accept that no property owners  
13 attended the Scranton School Board meeting  
14 and allowed the board to raise your taxes  
15 another 6 percent. I was working last night  
16 and I'm no longer a property owner.

17 I found it very hard to believe that  
18 Mr. Stu Renda made mistakes when submitting  
19 the proposed budget for 2010 such as the  
20 garbage fees being raised to \$198 a year  
21 which, by the way, is not a legal fee  
22 anyways. That's what tax money is used for.  
23 But then again, this is Scranton,  
24 Pennsylvania. Mr. Stu Renda makes \$85,000 a  
25 year not to make simple mistakes like he did

1 in the 2010 budget. Now he is trying to  
2 convince the citizens that he knows what he  
3 is doing. Raising the parking meter fees is  
4 dumb, to say the least, reducing the parking  
5 meter readers is even dumber. If you have  
6 less meter readers you will have fewer  
7 tickets in Scranton.

8 Why would Mr. Renda not face the  
9 citizens taxpayers? He hides in council  
10 chambers room where only five people can fit  
11 into the room. Again, I tell all shoppers  
12 park for free at the Steamtown Mall,  
13 Viewmont Mall or Montage Mall. Mr. Renda is  
14 answerable to all of us. He works for the  
15 taxpayers not the mayor/governor. That  
16 meeting should have been publicized so  
17 everybody could see it and hear it.

18 I have spoken on several occasions  
19 about the violations of the Single Tax  
20 Office Law of 1929. My words were ignored  
21 by the mayor, county commissioners, district  
22 attorney, Scranton School Board and, of  
23 course, Scranton City Council. Now that  
24 Mr. Courtright has been elected to take  
25 office, somebody above mentioned wanting to

1 start paying attention to the state law. I  
2 spoke with the FBI in regard to this  
3 situation months ago and made that clear to  
4 the above-mentioned elected officials and  
5 was ignored. Mr. Courtright, I salute you  
6 for not giving into Mayor/Governor Doherty.  
7 You showed courage and determination by  
8 standing your ground. I'm glad you decided  
9 to stay until January. You will have 11,924  
10 voters on your side. That is more than the  
11 mayor that the Mayor/Governor Doherty has.  
12 You are just another person thrown under the  
13 bus by the Mayor/Governor Doherty.

14 Now, we have 31 -- correction, now  
15 we have three lame duck council members and  
16 one lame duck mayor or governor. I'm not  
17 really not sure about that one here. Let's  
18 hope the citizens of Pennsylvania take the  
19 time to research this guy's real record and  
20 not the phony one that is being presented.  
21 Many violations of the Home Rule Charter  
22 have been ignored by the city council. Why  
23 worry about the law now?

24 As far as Scranton again being one  
25 of the best places to raise a family, first

1 of all, the median family income that was  
2 submitted is not correct. The median family  
3 income is not \$50,365, the actual family  
4 income is \$43,717. Check it out. Per  
5 capita income \$17,761.

6 As far as being known because of the  
7 TV sitcom titled "The Office" that makes the  
8 city a good place to raise children? The  
9 show does not represent Scranton at all. I  
10 have never see a pothole or a torn down  
11 building on the show yet. For that matter,  
12 neither have I seen Nay Aug Park. No one  
13 came to visit the city and speak with the  
14 residents, they spoke with Mr. Austin Burke  
15 and Mayor/Governor Doherty. There was no  
16 mention of gang activity in Scranton which  
17 we all know is present in the city and is in  
18 the schools in Scranton. No mention of the  
19 distressed city status, but then again you  
20 must take into account who gave the  
21 information.

22 Also, they did not mention the debt  
23 the city residents have incurred in the past  
24 eight years. Also the fact that the  
25 Scranton schools are not met the minimum



1 state requirements. Lackawanna County per  
2 capita income is \$34,438, 26 percent of the  
3 residents of Scranton live below the poverty  
4 level. 43.8 percent Pennsylvanians have an  
5 income less than \$34,999. Pennsylvania is a  
6 relatively poor state especially in the  
7 northern areas and the Appalachian  
8 Mountains.

9 Current information from the US  
10 Census report, Scranton is located in the  
11 Northeast part of the state. State taxation  
12 rip. Poorest pay 11.3 percent of the  
13 income, wealthiest pay 5 percent. Wow, is  
14 that fair or not? Not is the answer.

15 Waiting for the new council to take  
16 over. I will be watching them as close as I  
17 watched the last three city council. Let's  
18 get these contracts signed and negotiate and  
19 reduce the salaries and the overhead that  
20 are most definitely overpaid and  
21 underworked. Rogan and Joyce and whoever  
22 the new person is, have a nice Scranton day,  
23 watch the Scranton office TV show. Come on,  
24 man.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening. Marie  
2 Schumacher, city resident and member of the  
3 Taxpayers' Association. First, since it's  
4 Thanksgiving week I would like to thank all  
5 of our firefighters and police who have  
6 maintained their professionalism despite  
7 going almost eight years without a salary  
8 adjustment, and I'd like to single out  
9 captain, I'm going to sure -- I'm not sure  
10 if I can pronounce his name correctly,  
11 Triano, you may have seen on the 30th of  
12 October this article from the Times-  
13 Tribune. I haven't heard the man  
14 acknowledged in this chambers so I thought  
15 maybe I should do it tonight. He was  
16 honored last month by both Liberty Mutual's  
17 Firemark award for heroic services and also  
18 for being among the recipients of this  
19 year's Valley Preferred -- again, I can't  
20 read my writing -- of Spirit of Courage, a  
21 celebration -- or, excuse me, an award  
22 celebration Lehigh Valley Hospital  
23 Mullenburg in Bethlehem recognizing an  
24 individual who has acted to save someone  
25 from burn or injury.

1                   On 5-S, I hope that is a setting a  
2                   -- authorizing the mayor to enter into the  
3                   professional services contract with a law  
4                   group for legal services on the  
5                   communications and cable franchising  
6                   agreement with the City of Scranton. That's  
7                   a little bit ambiguous, I hope it means what  
8                   it says and not just the City of Scranton.  
9                   The current contract is between Comcast and  
10                  the mayor only, and I would hope that you  
11                  would instruct as part of 5-S that you would  
12                  instruct this time the city council be  
13                  included in that it be truly be a contract  
14                  between the City of Scranton's elected  
15                  representatives on city council and the  
16                  mayor.

17                  And now I'd like to share with you  
18                  my -- I guess my worst case scenario. I  
19                  first start off again with the library which  
20                  is upsetting me very much. You all have  
21                  been out of order on the Silkman House for  
22                  the last several years and perhaps as many  
23                  as five years. The Silkman House has not  
24                  been a library. For years there was a  
25                  library on the first floor and a nonprofit

1           on the second floor. If you will look in  
2           your -- in the backup to the material for  
3           this proposed authority you will find the  
4           deed to the Silkman House which instructed  
5           the that it always be maintained as a  
6           library, even a partial library. Where is  
7           that? Where is the library at the Silkman  
8           House? It's not there. Where is the lease  
9           for the people who are living or conducting  
10          business in that? I wrote a Right-to-Know  
11          letter to the business administrator and was  
12          told at appeal, appeal denied because there  
13          is no such thing. Now, that becomes a de  
14          facto grant. You people have allowed --  
15          first of all, you have broken the terms of  
16          the grant in which you accepted the Silkman  
17          House and now you are not -- you have no  
18          legal lease so people are using it for free  
19          under the stimulation money you agreed and  
20          voted to replace a furnace in that building,  
21          all of these services and who approved it?  
22          I don't know. I guess it's just squatter's  
23          rights. Maybe next time there is an empty  
24          building. Maybe it will be the Albright  
25          Library. Let me go there because I think

1           this is my scare scenario when the Albright  
2           library.

3                     You have not paid -- or the city has  
4           not paid the \$100,000 for the agreement the  
5           mayor told us he made seven \$100,000  
6           payments for the South Side property for his  
7           South Side library. Also, there is no  
8           \$100,000 in next year's budget. Well, I  
9           believe the reason for that is that once the  
10          mayor has established, assuming you people  
11          go along with it, established this  
12          authority, the mayor will tap into the  
13          endowment fund that is currently held by the  
14          library and I'll bet you I remember reading  
15          that it becomes effective the date that it's  
16          voted on so the 15th of December I would be  
17          willing to bet that the authority would be  
18          formed within days, certainly by the end of  
19          the year, that first \$100,000 installment  
20          would be made out of the library's endowment  
21          fund, next year and the six years following  
22          that and also they would pay for the  
23          architectural drawings of that same fund,  
24          and I'll continue next week. Thank you.

25                     MR. MCGOFF: Les Spindler.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.  
2 Les Spindler, city resident and homeowner  
3 and taxpayer. Before I start, as I went to  
4 the Redner's this afternoon the gentleman  
5 ringing the bell for Goodwill asked me if  
6 people could say a prayer for his father, so  
7 I'm asking everybody if they could say a  
8 prayer for John Durkin. It's this  
9 gentleman's father, he would appreciate it.

10 Okay, moving on. Mr. Courtright, I  
11 couldn't agree with you more that these cuts  
12 being made in the tax office are absolutely  
13 politically motivated. There is no reason  
14 for them, as I said last week, the cuts  
15 should be made at the top of this  
16 administration. Ray Hayes, Jeff Brazil's  
17 salary cut in half, among them. It's  
18 definitely politically motivated, but you  
19 know what's, it's just a move by Chris  
20 Doherty to force you out before you end the  
21 year, and I know it won't work. Just hang  
22 in there, Mr. Courtright, because I'm sure  
23 when the new council takes over anything  
24 that this lame duck rubber stamp council  
25 passes that they will make good on it in

1           January, so just hang in there for the  
2           taxpayers of this city.

3                       Next thing, Mrs. Gatelli, you are  
4           saying it's a state law that the city  
5           solicitor should be the solicitor for the  
6           tax office?

7                       MS. GATELLI: Yes.

8                       MR. SPINDLER: Well, for 20 years it  
9           hasn't been --

10                      MS. GATELLI: Well, for 20 years it  
11           was wrong, Les.

12                      MR. SPINDLER: -- why all of a sudden  
13           -- wait, why all of a sudden are you  
14           mentioning it now?

15                      MS. GATELLI: I didn't just all of a  
16           sudden mention it.

17                      MR. SPINDLER: Yes, you did.

18                      MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Garvey can tell  
19           you I have sent at least two or three  
20           letters down there --

21                      MR. SPINDLER: It wouldn't have  
22           anything to do with --

23                      MS. GATELLI: -- to that office to  
24           Mr. McGovern.

25                      MR. SPINDLER: It wouldn't have

1 anything to do with --

2 MS. GATELLI: It's not the first time  
3 I said it.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Well, it wouldn't have  
5 anything to do with you having an ax with  
6 Mark Walsh because he didn't make you head  
7 nurse --

8 MS. GATELLI: No, it didn't have  
9 anything to do with Mark Walsh.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Well, he didn't make  
11 you head nurse so I think you have an ax to  
12 grind.

13 MS. GATELLI: Yeah. Really.  
14 Really.

15 MR. SPINDLER: You said about  
16 somebody about not telling the truth  
17 before --

18 MS. GATELLI: Were you ever arrested,  
19 Mr. Spindler?

20 MR. SPINDLER: No, I was not.

21 MS. GATELLI: Oh, you weren't?

22 MR. SPINDLER: No, I was not.

23 MS. GATELLI: Oh, okay, because  
24 somebody told me that you were.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Well, it's a lie and



1           you can look. What does that have to do  
2           with anything? It's a lie.

3                   MS. GATELLI: What does that other  
4           thing have to do with anything.

5                   MR. SPINDLER: Go check the records.  
6           Check the records. Because you have an ax  
7           to grind --

8                   MR. MCGOFF: Please --

9                   MS. GATELLI: You shouldn't allow him  
10          to say things like that.

11                  MR. SPINDLER: You have an ax to  
12          grind with Mark Walsh.

13                  MS. GATELLI: No, I have no ax to  
14          grind with Mr. Walsh.

15                  MR. SPINDLER: Well, then why did you  
16          bring this up now?

17                  MS. GATELLI: I didn't just bring it  
18          up now.

19                  MR. SPINDLER: For the first four  
20          years --

21                  MS. GATELLI: I have sent three or  
22          four years.

23                  MR. SPINDLER: For your first four  
24          years here you never sent anything.

25                  MS. GATELLI: Oh, give it up, Les.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Did you?

2 MS. GATELLI: Give it up.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Did you? You

4 didn't --

5 MS. GATELLI: Did you get arrested,

6 Les?

7 MR. SPINDLER: No.

8 MS. GATELLI: Weren't you arrested?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me. We are

10 getting out of order here.

11 MR. SPINDLER: She is out of order.

12 MS. GATELLI: No, he is out of order.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me.

14 MR. SPINDLER: She has never brought

15 this up in the first four years that she's

16 been on council.

17 MS. GATELLI: Yes, I did. Ask Ms.

18 Garvey. Mrs. Garvey, did I send letters

19 down there?

20 MS. GARVEY: You can't letters, I

21 can't recall the dates of them, but you sent

22 letters.

23 MS. GATELLI: About the attorney.

24 MS. GARVEY: I believe so.

25 MS. GATELLI: About the attorney, Mr.

1 McGovern.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Moving on, I'd like  
3 to talk about the library authority, it will  
4 be a sin if this library authority is  
5 formed. All it's going to do is give  
6 Lackawanna College the Albright Library like  
7 Andy said, that the city gave away the  
8 contracts and they will give away the  
9 library, it's a sin. It's beautiful  
10 historic building and it should stay a  
11 library for the public. It shouldn't be  
12 given away to Lackawanna College and if this  
13 library authority is formed that's what's  
14 going to happen, but Chris Doherty wants the  
15 library so he'll -- Mrs. Gatelli, you'll get  
16 your library in South Side.

17 MS. GATELLI: I can't wait to get  
18 it.

19 MR. SPINDLER: I'm sure.

20 MS. GATELLI: We have been working on  
21 it for seven years.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Chris will pull your  
23 strings and you'll say yes.

24 MS. GATELLI: Who pulls your strings?

25 MR. SPINDLER: Nobody.

1 MS. GATELLI: Who writes your  
2 speeches?

3 MR. SPINDLER: Nobody. I write them.

4 MS. GATELLI: Oh, I know people that  
5 write them.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

7 MR. SPINDLER: You're a liar. You're  
8 a liar.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Continue.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Well, she is lying.

11 MS. GATELLI: No, I'm not.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I'd like to get  
13 you on a lie detector.

14 MS. GATELLI: Yeah. Go ahead. Strap  
15 me up.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Last week in the  
17 Doherty newsletter --

18 MS. GATELLI: Strap me up, Les.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. McGoff, Rules of  
20 Council, please?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I'm --

22 MR. SPINDLER: You talked about that  
23 weeks ago, would you enforce it?

24 MS. GATELLI: Well, you know, you are  
25 not supposed to insult people either.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Gatelli, please  
2 let him finish.

3 MS. GATELLI: It's in the rules.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Lastly --

5 MS. GATELLI: I'm just going to have  
6 a bit fun in the last few weeks, Les.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Would you shut up?

8 MS. GATELLI: No.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Please, it's out of  
10 order.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Why don't you get the  
12 police officer and control her like you do  
13 speakers?

14 MS. GATELLI: Oh, take me out.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Spindler, if you  
16 want to --

17 MR. SPINDLER: I'm trying to finish  
18 and she won't let me.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Please, continue.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Last week the  
21 firefighters and the police officers were  
22 awarded a raise after eight years and to  
23 this date it's cost the taxpayers  
24 \$1.4 million and Stu Renda said tonight  
25 there is a good chance that the city is

1 going to appeal that, and this is  
2 outrageous. I mean, it's in the Doherty  
3 newsletter that both sides were satisfied  
4 with the decision. If the city is satisfied  
5 with the decision why are they appealing it  
6 again and costing the taxpayers more money?  
7 Like I said, Chris Doherty has cost us  
8 \$1.4 million to date and they are going to  
9 appeal this. He should pay the taxpayers  
10 the \$1.4 million back. I'm going to keep  
11 going, Mr. McGoff, because my time was  
12 wasted. Mr. McGoff --

13 MR. MCGOFF: You have 30 seconds.

14 MR. SPINDLER: You were saying  
15 before, Mr. McGoff, that sidewalks and curbs  
16 are being done in the city, where?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, I don't have  
18 the specific list.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Well, it's probably  
20 just for Doherty supporters because --

21 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, they --

22 MR. SPINDLER: For years now  
23 Mr. Courtright has asked for sidewalks and  
24 curbs in West Side --

25 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Spindler --

1 MR. SPINDLER: You give me 30  
2 seconds, I want to finish.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Please state it, but if  
4 all you are going to do is ask questions  
5 that you are not going to accept the answers  
6 to then your time is up.

7 MR. SPINDLER: For years  
8 Mr. Courtright has asked for sidewalks and  
9 he was told they were going to get sidewalks  
10 and curbs in West Side and to this date they  
11 still haven't gotten them.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Joe Dwyer.

13 MR. SPINDLER: I guess because the  
14 people on the street must have the wrong  
15 signs when it comes to election day in their  
16 yards.

17 MR. DWYER: Good evening, members of  
18 council and some members of the City of  
19 Scranton. I wish you a happy Thanksgiving  
20 and I wish you all and your families a  
21 wonderful celebration as they are having  
22 over at the Masonic temple. You should go  
23 over there and see what Sister Mary Alice  
24 and Friends of the Poor are putting on over  
25 there. It's a beautiful affair.

1                   While I was over there I met this  
2                   girl who was stranded and she is from  
3                   Cheyenne, Wyoming. She is now one of our  
4                   city's homeless. She is sleeping in her  
5                   car. Some of the social agencies were able  
6                   to help her with a couple nights stay in a  
7                   hotel, so her and her Mastiff dogs slept in  
8                   the car. The good news is on Friday she  
9                   will be leaving town because some people in  
10                  this community rose up and took care of  
11                  fixing her car and gave her the money to  
12                  give her the gas to go home.

13                  This community is a wonderful place  
14                  to live. We have got a lot of beautiful  
15                  people who care about each other in this  
16                  community and as you people put yourselves  
17                  out here on the line to become members and  
18                  leaders of our community I congratulate you  
19                  for taking that initiative and for doing  
20                  that. We will never always agree with the  
21                  situations or the events in this community,  
22                  but I would hope that this childish behavior  
23                  would cease because it doesn't get us  
24                  anywhere. You are great people who did a  
25                  beautiful job while you were here and I hope



1           you continue remain active in the community  
2           and continue the works that you started out  
3           with. Mrs. Gatelli, you have done a  
4           beautiful job over in South Side.

5                       MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

6                       MR. DWYER: And I hope you continue.  
7           And, Mr. Courtright, I hope that the  
8           situation in the tax office improves before  
9           you get in the door and, Mr. Evans, bravo.  
10          I hope your team does override what Mayor  
11          Doherty is doing and he has -- he has his  
12          agenda and he has his reasons for doing what  
13          he's doing, but as active citizens of this  
14          community come out against him it's not  
15          because we don't like him, we don't like his  
16          policies and it's member of the community  
17          who want to make a change for the positive.

18                      And so it's with the house that we  
19          talked about last week that the OECD had  
20          purchased, they didn't purchase it  
21          themselves, they gave the money that came  
22          from HUD and the money that was given to HUD  
23          came from President Obama's homeless  
24          initiative program. It's a stabilization  
25          program to prevent the further decay of

1           decaying neighborhoods, to overcome the  
2           blight from properties just being abandoned  
3           and being raised to the ground. That money,  
4           unfortunately, the person who got that house  
5           was politically connected. That's how it  
6           was set up. You could read the article in  
7           the April 16 edition of the Scranton Times.  
8           I wasn't able to download it for you, I wish  
9           I could, my printer went on the blink and I  
10          tried to get it over at the Scranton  
11          library, but they weren't successful in  
12          getting it either, but you can find out all  
13          about that house over there.

14                 There is so many homes in this  
15          community that we can use, that we can  
16          rehab, and I would hope that this -- with  
17          this new administration that we can do  
18          something about those homeless because there  
19          are so many people. This past Sunday we had  
20          the church service under the bridge and  
21          several preachers from different churches  
22          came and people came with food and they  
23          prepared a meal for the people down there,  
24          and the people came out and it was a  
25          beautiful thing, but we shouldn't have to do

1           that. There is homes that these people live  
2           in. I shared with them the good news that  
3           there were apartments available, but there  
4           is many apartments available. They  
5           shouldn't have to -- to worry. They  
6           shouldn't have to live in boxes in their  
7           cars, in tents, in tarps, they shouldn't  
8           have to, with the housing stock that we have  
9           in this community that's open and abandoned  
10          on nobody is living in them you can see just  
11          by the proposals of people who want to buy a  
12          couple of homes for a couple of thousand  
13          dollars. These are beautiful homes.

14                        We can take these homes and turn  
15                        them around and make them viable and  
16                        affordable for people who don't make money.  
17                        The minimum wage of \$7.35 an hour if they  
18                        were fortunate to work 40 hours a week it  
19                        doesn't give them enough to pay for rent or  
20                        utilities, let alone have a car. I would  
21                        hope that as the next session comes in that  
22                        we can work together and make a change for  
23                        the positive. Thank you very much for all  
24                        your time.

25                                MR. MCGOFF: Sam Patilla.

1 MR. PATILLA: Good evening,  
2 Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Hello.

4 MR. PATILLA: Happy holidays to you.

5 MS. EVANS: You, too.

6 MR. PATILLA: Real quickly, we had a  
7 UPS package along at least one of my  
8 neighbors stolen from our doorsteps last  
9 Wednesday, so I want to notify all of the  
10 senior citizens and all of the residents,  
11 keep an eye out for the UPS packages. If  
12 you know you are going to be away, speak  
13 with the drivers and maybe they will drop it  
14 off at a neighbor's house, somebody that you  
15 can trust so they don't steal your  
16 belongings because it's that time of the  
17 year.

18 Now, in keeping with the theme of  
19 Thanksgiving, I want to thank Joe Talimini,  
20 Marie, Ozzie, Bill, Les, all of the members  
21 of the Tax Board Association, Mr. and  
22 Mrs. Pilchesky, Nancy Krake, Fay Franus and  
23 every other taxpayer or resident that came  
24 before this council to address issues  
25 concerning this city as a concerned party.

1 Not as an individual looking out for  
2 self-gain, you know, since I have been here  
3 they have been right on the ball. They have  
4 had the correct figures and the backup to  
5 prove it that the direction that this city  
6 was being lead down was taking us the wrong  
7 way.

8 Now, I'm going to address the  
9 library just very shortly, briefly, because  
10 if this measure does pass legal actions will  
11 be taken to put a halt to it. You know, why  
12 this would even come up for a debate knowing  
13 that the South Side Complex is in litigation  
14 for the very same reason is beyond me. You  
15 are not going to win that case, you are not  
16 going to win this one. You know, you can  
17 huff your shoulders all you want to, you are  
18 not going to win. I wasn't here for the  
19 complex, but I'm here for the library.

20 Now, last night when I was leaving  
21 this building after the taxpayers' meeting,  
22 I looked up at the clock tower, all right?  
23 There are windows missing from that clock.  
24 The outside of this building doesn't look  
25 like it's been washed for the three and a

1 half years that we have been here, so if the  
2 current administration can't take care of  
3 the place that they work what makes you  
4 think they are going to be able to take care  
5 of this city? You have got \$350,000 given  
6 to a doggie park. You got millions given to  
7 salons, to coffee shops, to doggie  
8 boutiques, to garages, all right, and this  
9 building is in shambles.

10 The new police station, I don't  
11 think the building is five years old it's  
12 already falling down. You know, you cannot  
13 look at raising taxes and raising parking  
14 meter fees as a means of gaining new revenue  
15 for this city. If you jack up the fees, who  
16 is to say that the people won't go out to  
17 the Viewmont Mall or someplace elsewhere  
18 they don't have to pay? It's common sense.

19 Like I said last night, we don't  
20 need leaders we need leadership. We need  
21 people that are looking out for the best of  
22 this city, not for ourselves, but for the  
23 city as a whole, all right?

24 Now, it's kind of shocking that we  
25 spent all of this money, half of the 300,



1 later people are going to stand up and say  
2 enough is enough. You go after the small  
3 business owner, you go after the taxpayers,  
4 but you not going after yourselves.

5 This administration is top heavy  
6 with cronies and unqualified people. You  
7 don't need all of these lawyers. You don't  
8 need all of these people hired making five  
9 or six figure salaries and they are not  
10 qualified for the job. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

12 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Got my  
13 card back.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, my goodness. What  
15 did you have to do?

16 MR. ELLMAN: And I used it good, too.

17 MS. FANUCCI: To makeup for lost  
18 time?

19 MR. ELLMAN: Yes, I sure did. My  
20 son carried me out of there at 9:00 because  
21 I'm on probation. I had a couple of  
22 comments from people about what I said last  
23 week about Mr. Doherty waiving the permits  
24 and I was told this is an illegal practice,  
25 but this was just for some observers. I



1 wrote a paragraph down here, I did this  
2 myself, too. We in Scranton have an  
3 excessive and growing burden of federal,  
4 state, and local taxation. Our economy is  
5 just in a blackout, you know, it's bad. One  
6 way of helping our finances, our financial  
7 difficulties right now, is the taxable  
8 incomes of businesses, and here Chris  
9 Doherty is waiving them. We are full of  
10 three, four-hundred KOZ's now he is doing  
11 away with income that would be coming in  
12 from building permits, it's not right.

13 I would like to know what right he  
14 has to do this? What authority doe the  
15 mayor have to waive a permit? It might help  
16 him when somebody is going to give him a  
17 contribution to run and beat the city out of  
18 20, \$30,000, but it's not helping the  
19 taxpayers and i want something done. I want  
20 an investigation if I have to go see Tom  
21 Corbett myself in Harrisburg because that's  
22 down there yesterday and my big car got  
23 22 miles a gallon. Yes, I'm proud of it.  
24 And I was on the highway going 70 and 80 and  
25 I had these little four-cylinder guys going

1           by me. It's like a racetrack going to  
2           Harrisburg.

3                         Well, anyway. You know, there is  
4           people all over the country out of work and  
5           losing jobs and taking secondary jobs and  
6           here everybody just figures raising taxes is  
7           the solution. You people, that's a  
8           stereotype, people in government, yet you  
9           are not just in tune with what's going on in  
10          this city and you just don't talk to people  
11          like I do. I was over at Redner's and there  
12          is a tent city in the back that's  
13          heartbreaking, you know, I think you  
14          mentioned you were there. It's just  
15          heartbreaking to see people have to do this,  
16          you know, in this country. I'm not an  
17          advocate like some you say, but it just  
18          makes me feel bad. I feel guilty that I  
19          have a nice car and a home, really. I wish  
20          I could share more and do more for people.

21                         I've got a question for you.

22                         MR. COURTRIGHT: Me?

23                         MR. ELLMAN: Yes. Are you going to  
24          stay, I just heard it mentioned before, to  
25          the first of the year so the mayor can't --

1 I know he must be pulling his hair out  
2 trying to figure what to do to get you out  
3 of office to stick someone in that he is  
4 friendly with. Are you going to --

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm not going to  
6 answer you.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Pardon?

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm not going to  
9 answer you.

10 MR. ELLMAN: All right. That's your  
11 prerogative.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll wait until I  
13 see you at the Taurus Club and I will tell  
14 you.

15 MR. ELLMAN: You come tonight. I  
16 have to be home at 9:00. You know, for  
17 Chris Doherty I would just like to say this  
18 far and no further. The people of this  
19 city, we've got 8,500 people telling 60,000  
20 what to do that's right. Nobody is fixing  
21 that. That's because all of these guys  
22 don't vote. They seem proud of the fact  
23 they don't vote, you know? I voted. I  
24 don't deserve to have Chris Doherty as a  
25 mayor because he is not the best. These

1 people that don't vote, you know, now they  
2 are whining about everything, that he will  
3 be gone for a year and we are going to pay  
4 his salary. They should have voted as far  
5 as I'm concerned.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Are the same voters as  
7 wrong for the council? I mean, how does  
8 that work out? I mean, these are the same  
9 voters so you are upset with them on one end  
10 but on the other end it's okay.

11 MR. ELLMAN: I don't know.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah it's a tough one;  
13 right?

14 MR. ELLMAN: I don't know. I'm funny  
15 like some of the owners I guess. Bye-bye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: David Dobrzyn.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Dave Dobrzyn, resident  
18 of Scranton. On that caucus I would also  
19 like to express my objections that it wasn't  
20 went held in a more public space, I came  
21 here early and didn't even know anything was  
22 going on. I couldn't find out what was  
23 going on. It would be certainly if it were  
24 conducted here it would be better situation.

25 On this library business once again,

1           tonight if you feel safe walk to the corner  
2           of Adams Avenue, turn left and just look up.  
3           There is a parking garage on the bottom and  
4           there is two or three floors of nearly empty  
5           office space with a Heinerfeld sign on it,  
6           so before we go obligating us to spend  
7           \$16 million which will turn into 30 probably  
8           and in addition, too, I pointed out last  
9           night at the taxpayers' if you were a  
10          disabled person trying to get to the library  
11          you would have to disembark in town, get a  
12          transfer ticket, ride over there, provided  
13          that Colts instituted bus service over there  
14          because that section of Cedar Avenue at this  
15          time has no bus service whatsoever. It goes  
16          down Pittston, that's a block away, imagine  
17          going in a wheelchair a block through some  
18          strange neighborhood, don't seem practical  
19          to me.

20                   A lot of discussion is made about  
21                   the school taxes and in certain case you are  
22                   right, nationally 670 billion dollars is  
23                   spent on grades K through 12 and a few weeks  
24                   ago I did a videography down at Wyoming West  
25                   of a man named Dave Baldinger, and I'd like

1 to during this week I'll try to make some  
2 DVD's of the appearance and he wants to  
3 institute a sale's tax instead of -- instead  
4 of the property tax and other Bill 1275  
5 property tax would be forever banned in the  
6 school system. It would stop being a taxing  
7 entity and just directing education and  
8 getting their money from the state on an  
9 equal basis where the richest school  
10 couldn't spend tons of money and the poorer  
11 school offer next to nothing.

12 In addition, too, all of the medical  
13 coverage and so forth and benefits would be  
14 uniform through the state and you wouldn't  
15 have one teacher pay \$400 a month for a  
16 policy and another one paying nothing  
17 because they teach you in a wealthy  
18 community.

19 And before it was mentioned that a  
20 certain town has ambulances, well, from  
21 talking to our firemen there are grants  
22 available to setup an ambulance service and  
23 according to them there are people that are  
24 not making it in time to the hospital with  
25 the current privatized situation that they

1 have.

2 On "O" and "S" I would love to know  
3 what Chapter 256 is. That could be handled  
4 later.

5 And on "S" I have a few comments on  
6 that. You know, anybody that subscribes to  
7 Comcast gets to pay the toll for everything  
8 and the cable companies aren't charged  
9 anything for this town and, of course, we  
10 have no recourse. I said it two years ago  
11 or a year and a half ago that as a paying  
12 Comcast customer I get nothing.

13 As far as on-line library services,  
14 I subscribe to Verizon. They are supposed  
15 to be a cheap plan, I finally broke down.  
16 Well, it has a lot in common here because  
17 every month they are 300 percent over what  
18 they agreed to be and then they come and  
19 start clowning with my computer and it don't  
20 work for three days, so I have to get in  
21 touch with them.

22 And one final thing, Bill, did you  
23 see this article?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can't see it from  
25 here.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: About tax collector  
2 already taxed?

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I'm a whiner  
4 they said, yeah.

5 MR. DOBRZYN: Well, I would  
6 appreciate if Kay could write a nasty letter  
7 to the editor of the Times.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: She has enough to  
9 do.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: Have a good night.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

12 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini,  
13 Scranton. I'm not going to belabor any of  
14 these issues which are on here, but there is  
15 one that is particularly in need of  
16 belaboring and that is your introduction for  
17 an ordinance amending File of Council No.  
18 112 referring to parking meters. I think  
19 this is the most ridiculous thing I have  
20 seen in this body yet.

21 I want you to be aware of one thing,  
22 between Vine Street and Olive Street is a  
23 building called Washington West. There are  
24 118 apartments there. Now, we have our own  
25 parking spaces in the back. Most of the



1 parking spaces in the front are occupied  
2 during the daytime by Lackawanna College  
3 students. Out of those 118 apartments a lot  
4 of those people are handicapped. A lot of  
5 them have caregivers who come in during the  
6 day. These people have no place to park. A  
7 lot of them have visitors who come there in  
8 the day. A lot of them have people coming  
9 in during the day to take them out shopping,  
10 etcetera.

11 Now, most of the parking spaces will  
12 accommodate two Volkswagon between two  
13 parking meters, that's how close they are.  
14 Two Volkswagon bugs. The parking reasons  
15 makes no rhyme and reasons why they are so  
16 close together, but this is it. Down the  
17 street between Vine and Mulberry, you have  
18 the Cultural Center. Now, the amazing thing  
19 about is it is during the week on any given  
20 day most of those meters are bagged. They  
21 are bagged to accommodate Lackawanna College  
22 for whatever purposes, they are bagged to  
23 accommodate the Cultural Center for whatever  
24 purposes, they bring buses in there and  
25 trucks usually four or five at a time for a

1 show, they take up probably half of the  
2 parking spaces that way, and yet you want to  
3 institute a one dollar per hour parking fee?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: They pay for them  
5 when they bag them.

6 MR. TALIMINI: I know. The point of  
7 it is how about the other people, Bill, who  
8 come in there and need a place to park?  
9 They cannot afford to pay a \$1 an hour,  
10 especially when it takes almost a half an  
11 hour to get a person in or out of the  
12 building. Now, if this is going to be the  
13 case you might as well start charging  
14 ambulances, you might as well start charging  
15 the coroner and anybody else who has to come  
16 in there, including police cars because it's  
17 just too much.

18 Downtown, beautiful downtown  
19 Scranton all of the way down Washington  
20 Avenue it's a problem parking as you well  
21 know. Where they all park on Lackawanna  
22 Avenue or where they all go I don't know  
23 because there is nothing down there besides  
24 the mall. Even a little parking space down  
25 at the corner of North Washington and

1 Lackawanna is no longer in existence. For  
2 some reason it's all packaged up, I guess as  
3 part of the development, but it makes no  
4 rhyme or reason. I mean, you are going to  
5 raise parking meter rates from 50 cents an  
6 hour to a dollar an hour. You have got  
7 parking garages here that nobody wants to  
8 use.

9 And, you know, what you are asking  
10 in essence is you are going the poor people  
11 to pay for somebody else's folly. It's  
12 ridiculous. It's not necessary. I think it  
13 can be avoided. Parking tickets you want to  
14 raise them from 10 to 20, I'll go along with  
15 that, but to increase the parking meters to  
16 raise nickles and dimes for what? And  
17 that's all it amounts to. You are raising  
18 nickles and dimes to accommodate somebody's  
19 fowl-up.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Talimini, I  
21 believe they have plugged in, correct me if  
22 I'm wrong, somewhere in the vicinity of  
23 \$500,000 they plan on getting raising it.

24 MR. TALIMINI: They had also planned  
25 on coming up with 5 million dollars last

1 year which they didn't come up with. So, I  
2 mean, you know, let's call a spade a spade.  
3 I'm being realistic about this thing and  
4 this is not conjecture, this is fact. And I  
5 agree with you 100 percent, if there is a  
6 way to raise money, do it, but this is not  
7 the way to do it. Don't take it out of the  
8 poor person's pocket. Take it out of the  
9 people who can afford it. These people  
10 cannot afford it, and the first ticket that  
11 goes out to a caregiver down there I  
12 personally will go to Court as a witness  
13 against the officer who gives it because  
14 there is no need for that at well.

15 You have got it all along North  
16 Washington, you got it on Adams Avenue,  
17 you've got these high raises there. These  
18 people are entitled to have visitors. The  
19 parking spaces that we have in the back are  
20 for the tenants. The excess parking spaces  
21 are leased out to people who work in the  
22 office buildings down there. So, you know,  
23 there has got to be a little logic involved.  
24 That's all we are asking for is common sense  
25 and a little consideration. Thank you.

1 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City  
2 Council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky and I'm a member  
3 of the Scranton/Lackawanna County  
4 Taxpayers'. Mrs. Evans, I was glad to hear  
5 that you and the other council members newly  
6 elected were invited to a meeting with the  
7 mayor. It's amazing what an election will  
8 do.

9 Over the last two years a group has  
10 been meeting to formulate a zoning board for  
11 Lackawanna County, for most of Lackawanna  
12 County. The name of the organization is  
13 SAPA. It consists of 11 municipalities.  
14 Nine of them are from the Abingtons,  
15 Scranton and Dunmore are included. Each one  
16 has one vote. By the end of this month they  
17 will be proposing their final draft. I  
18 think it would behoove the new council to  
19 really look in this because there is going  
20 to be a lot of rules and some financing for  
21 this organization, and I think you should  
22 get yourselves acquainted with it before you  
23 have to start voting on it. Mr. McGoff?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, sir.

25 MR. UNGVARSKY: Several weeks ago I

1           asked you to hold your caucus meetings out  
2           here and have the speaker come to this  
3           podium and give his answers. Tonight you  
4           held the caucus back in the office where  
5           very few people can fit. It seems as though  
6           whenever we have a caucus that you don't  
7           want things to get out you hold it in there  
8           or you give us the excuse that it's personal  
9           or that it's under investigation or the  
10          person doesn't want to appear. I hope the  
11          new council will make it a point to have  
12          whoever is speaking come to this table or  
13          this podium, preferably a podium because we  
14          can't hear them when they are at that table.

15                 Mrs. Gatelli, maybe during motions  
16                 you can tell me why it's all right for you  
17                 to vote on the library, but you are pushing  
18                 off a decision on PEL. I wish everyone a  
19                 happy Thanksgiving.

20                         MR. SLEDZENSKI: Hello, Bill.

21                         MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.

22                         MR. SLEDZENSKI: I'm going to say two  
23                         things that's it, two things tonight.

24                         MR. COURTRIGHT: Two things tonight.  
25                         Take your time.

1 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Things tonight,  
2 Billy, I'm nervous.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Don't be nervous.  
4 Take your time.

5 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Down a little bit?  
6 Down a little, Bill?

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Put it down. Go  
8 ahead.

9 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Billy, I wish  
10 Abington High School good luck Friday night  
11 in the game and Dunmore good luck in the  
12 season. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Where's your hat?

14 MR. SLEDZENSKI: I forget to wear it.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

16 MS. FOWLER: Good evening, Council.  
17 Patty Fowler. I'm exercising my First  
18 Amendment Rights. For almost seven years I  
19 was the health inspector and I begged the  
20 many directors that we had in our department  
21 to change all of the legislation that we are  
22 had before us. Very glad to see that the  
23 new health inspector that's approximately in  
24 the job maybe four months is getting all of  
25 the tools she needs. Approximately two

1           years ago I asked the powers that be to  
2           adopt the food code. We are getting it.  
3           Glad to see it. And I'm glad to see that  
4           she it getting all the tools finally needed  
5           to do the job.

6                        I just have one request, maybe from  
7           council since everything that I asked fell  
8           on deaf ears, maybe we could notify the  
9           small business owners. These ordinances  
10          were in place for over 15 years. There are  
11          huge changes to these ordinances and I am  
12          requesting that you just notify the small  
13          business owners of the huge changes that are  
14          coming. They are big changes. These are  
15          big changes for small business owners, they  
16          are big fees, they are big costs and we need  
17          to notify the small business owners. That's  
18          just a lot of money they have to put out.

19                       On a separate note, I just want to  
20          make one comment on the budget, clerical  
21          union got the worst again. Just so you guys  
22          know. Mr. Courtright's people are in our  
23          union. We got hit the worst again. So no  
24          matter how much anybody complains, we got  
25          hit the worst again. We lost -- all of the



1 traffic maintenance are in our unit.  
2 Mr. Courtright's people are in our union.  
3 We loss the most people again. Thank you.

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

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening. As was  
7 mentioned before, city council met in caucus  
8 prior to tonight's meeting with business  
9 administrator Stu Renda in order to discuss  
10 the proposed 2010 operating budget. Also,  
11 Mr. Renda provided written responses to my  
12 budgetary questions yesterday. Since a  
13 number of these responses required further  
14 explanation, I posed additional questions to  
15 him this evening. Some responses from the  
16 business administrator were satisfactory.  
17 However, there were others with which I do  
18 not agree. If not now, many of these issues  
19 will be resolved in the future.

20 On November 18, council received a  
21 response from the Office of Attorney General  
22 Corbett for an opinion regarding a proposed  
23 local ordinance regulating firearms in the  
24 City of Scranton. According to Ann Marie  
25 Kizer, acting chief of staff, the Attorney

1           General is empowered to give legal advice  
2           and opinions only to the governor or to the  
3           head of a state government agency. However,  
4           Ms. Kizer enclosed a copy of the letter that  
5           Attorney General Tom Corbett recently sent  
6           to each district attorney informing them of  
7           the position in the Attorney General's  
8           Office has taken regarding the enactment of  
9           the local ordinances pertaining to the use,  
10          possession of acquisition of firearms.

11                    After citing several Court cases,  
12           the letter states in part that the issue of  
13           firearms related preemption is currently  
14           being litigated in three cases pending in  
15           the state appellate courts. Also, an appeal  
16           to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is  
17           pending.

18                    Attorney General Corbett continues:  
19           "Obviously, the Supreme Court's forthcoming  
20           decisions in Clark 1 and 2 and any decision  
21           it might issue in NRA vs. The City of  
22           Philadelphia, if it chooses to hear the  
23           case, will furnish further guidance on this  
24           subject. In our view, the existing body of  
25           law and it's consistent application of the

1 principals of preemption at very minimum  
2 counsels great caution in dealing with  
3 locally enacted ordinances which effect  
4 firearm use, ownership, possession and  
5 transportation. Given what the Courts have  
6 said, we believe it would be appropriate to  
7 treat such enactments as invalid."

8 And again, that is according to a  
9 letter sent from Tom Corbett to the DA's  
10 across Pennsylvania. Consequently, city  
11 council's decision to table a local  
12 ordinance regulating firearms in Scranton  
13 until such time as the State Supreme Court  
14 renders it's decisions and city council  
15 receives the opinion of the state attorney  
16 general, appears to have been an appropriate  
17 action. We continue to await the decisions  
18 of the Supreme Court.

19 City council will conduct a public  
20 hearing regarding the creation of a library  
21 authority on December 15 at 10:00 a.m. A  
22 special meeting of council will be held at  
23 10:30 a.m. on the same day to cast the final  
24 vote on the creation of the library  
25 authority. According to 53 Pa. C.S.A

1 Chapter 56 Municipal Authorities, the  
2 municipality organizing such an authority  
3 may in the resolution of an ordinance  
4 signifying their intention to so do, specify  
5 the project or projects to be undertaken by  
6 the authority and no other projects shall be  
7 undertaken by the authority than those so  
8 specified.

9 If a municipal government organizing  
10 an authority fails to specify the project to  
11 be undertaken, then the authority shall be  
12 deemed to have all powers granted by this  
13 chapter.

14 Now, if a majority of council  
15 members intend to approve the legislation  
16 creating a library authority, then I  
17 respectfully suggest the following for  
18 consideration:

19 (1) The members of the authority  
20 must be appointed by the municipal governing  
21 body and in full compliance with 53 Pa.  
22 C.S.A. Chapter 56.

23 (2) The legislation should include  
24 specific language that outlaws the sale,  
25 lease, transfer, and disposal of the

1 Albright Memorial Library, the Greenridge  
2 Library branch and the Silkman House to any  
3 and all individuals, public school  
4 districts, private schools, colleges,  
5 universities and other postsecondary  
6 institutions, businesses, corporations,  
7 etcetera. It must remain in perpetuity a  
8 free public library for all time and for all  
9 of the people of the Scranton.

10 (3) The authority must be limited to  
11 one and only one project and the majority of  
12 council can determine that one project as  
13 the construction of the South Side Library  
14 if it's so chooses. However, other  
15 locations can be considered, such as the  
16 Steamtown Mall or the former Bishop Hannon  
17 High School which may purchased from the  
18 Scranton Diocese located two blocks from the  
19 Albright Memorial Library and concert the  
20 proposed need for additional space by  
21 housing perhaps public access computers, a  
22 reference library or any other use that may  
23 be deemed necessary.

24 Renovations, upgrades, ADA  
25 requirements would like /AOE be

1 significantly less than the \$16 million  
2 proposed cost of a South Side library. The  
3 Dioceses, for example, agreed to sell Holy  
4 Cross Church, an architectural gem for  
5 \$25,000 just six months ago so that the city  
6 could install a parking lot in it's place.  
7 Perhaps, use as a public library annex might  
8 convince the Diocese to sell the former high  
9 school building at a reasonable price.

10 In addition, a parking garage is  
11 conveniently located behind the school which  
12 can be used by visitors to the library  
13 annex, thereby eliminating the need for  
14 construction of a proposed parking lot in  
15 South Side.

16 Another possibility for use as an  
17 annex is the Silkman House which is owned by  
18 the city. The building may be renovated and  
19 reopened at a cost which is significantly  
20 less than a new library. If the Albright  
21 Library is in need of additional space, why  
22 not considered obvious cost effective  
23 solutions?

24 With merely three weeks remaining  
25 prior to council final vote on the creation

1 of a library authority, I ask that my  
2 colleagues who may approve this action would  
3 seriously consider changing the language of  
4 this ordinance to protect our free public  
5 libraries and the people of Scranton who use  
6 them. Finally --

7 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, can I just  
8 ask -- just something I wanted to ask  
9 Attorney Minora, can we amend that ordinance  
10 prior to the public hearing even though it's  
11 not on the agenda -- even though it's not on  
12 the agenda?

13 MR. MINORA: It's off the agenda  
14 until the public meeting?

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MR. MINORA: I think you would have  
17 to do at the time of the -- when it's on the  
18 agenda.

19 MR. MCGOFF: It would have to be on  
20 the agenda for the third week.

21 MR. MINORA: Because it's not on the  
22 table --

23 MR. MCGOFF: I just wanted to know if  
24 we could consider, you know, what you asked  
25 and whether we could do that, you know, at

1 one of the next two meetings, but you seem  
2 to think that we need to wait until the  
3 15th.

4 MR. MINORA: Yeah, but that's okay.  
5 I mean, you can have all of the language  
6 done in a way that's satisfactory to as many  
7 people on council as are willing to consider  
8 it, so it might be better to give it a day,  
9 you know, a few days to look at it.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, and I'm  
11 sorry.

12 MR. MINORA: I think you have to  
13 anyway.

14 MS. EVANS: Finally, my computer was  
15 undergoing modifications with a professional  
16 until today so I wasn't able to receive my  
17 e-mails for about the last week and as a  
18 result I don't have citizens' requests  
19 tonight, however, I will check all my  
20 e-mails beginning tomorrow morning and I  
21 will have all of your requests for next  
22 week, and that's it.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Gatelli.

24 MS. GATELLI: I only have one item.  
25 I just want to say that everyone comes here



1 about the taxes, we lowered the budget, we  
2 didn't raise taxes, and yet no one that's  
3 watching out for the taxpayer attended any  
4 of the school board hearings. I find that  
5 ludicrous. Absolutely, positively  
6 ludicrous. So the only conclusion is that  
7 they come here to malign the rubber stampers  
8 and the mayor, and in case you didn't know  
9 on November 3 Chris Doherty won for mayor.  
10 You keep talking about him like the election  
11 is still going on. He won. So give it up.  
12 He will be the mayor for four years. I  
13 don't understand why you have to keep coming  
14 here and saying those things. The election  
15 is over. He won so apparently some people  
16 like what he is doing.

17 And for the taxpayers to come here  
18 and say that they are not concerned and they  
19 are only go to go to one hearing at the  
20 school board. I work there and I'm appalled  
21 every time they raise the taxes. Very  
22 little goes in my pocket. We got a two  
23 point some percent raise and we paid \$500 a  
24 month for health care until this past  
25 contract. We paid it for two years or more.

1                   And just for the record, I have my  
2                   taxes here, my city tax is \$784, I want you  
3                   to listen closely, \$784 is my city tax.  
4                   That's who picks up my garbage, that's who  
5                   plows my street, that's who fixes my  
6                   potholes, etcetera. My county tax is \$679,  
7                   a little bit lower than my city tax but not  
8                   much, about 100 bucks. My school tax, hold  
9                   on, \$1,458, double what the taxes are in  
10                  this room that's approved by this body and  
11                  the mayor.

12                  So I don't understand why you are  
13                  here fighting with us week after week. Your  
14                  taxes are the same. You're paying  
15                  49.88 percent to the school district, 26.85  
16                  to the city and 23.26 percent to the county  
17                  and the library. Something is wrong and  
18                  I'll hold to my contention that you just  
19                  come here to malign everybody. Don't shake  
20                  your head because none of you were at the  
21                  school district, none of you were at the  
22                  county when they raised the taxes  
23                  48 percent. You have an agenda and you are  
24                  following through on it and it's really  
25                  disgraceful to say you are representing the

1 taxpayers when you are really not and I find  
2 it.

3 MR. TALIMINI: That goes on both side  
4 of the fence.

5 MS. GATELLI: It's my time to speak,  
6 please.

7 MR. TALIMINI: I know.

8 MS. GATELLI: I find it very  
9 offensive for people to do that. We all try  
10 our best up here, maybe you don't agree with  
11 all of us, but our motives are all for the  
12 right reasons. We are not putting any money  
13 in our pockets, although, some of you think  
14 we are, but we are not. All my votes were  
15 to make the city a better place to live and  
16 I resent all of the comments that come here  
17 week after week after week. That's all I  
18 have.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Fanucci.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Actually, I have a few  
21 things to speak about tonight. As always,  
22 because I love to piggyback on what  
23 Mrs. Gatelli says, a lot of what we go  
24 through and why we do this is the same  
25 reasons that you feel you come here. I

1 would love for someone to actually put out,  
2 and I maybe the Times could do it, it would  
3 be a good idea, to actually investigate the  
4 people who is here and what they have done  
5 in the past and maybe we can see what the  
6 personal agendas are. No different than you  
7 feel with the rubber stampers is how I feel  
8 about the anti-rubber stamper. I -- it  
9 pains me and it makes me a nervous wreck to  
10 leave our city in hands of people who might  
11 just say "no" to everything for the heck of  
12 just saying "no." Not sitting down, not  
13 working together.

14 When I first took this seat I met  
15 with Lee Morgan. I met with all of the  
16 people here, Dan Hubbard and all of those  
17 people, I met with them on a weekly basis  
18 and tried to talk to them. Actually got  
19 some good ideas, actually Lee Morgan is the  
20 reason there is a playground at the parks,  
21 we have Art in the Park. He was the reason  
22 that that came to be. He never spoke about  
23 it again, but that was the reason I actually  
24 started that program.

25 So a lot of what's being said here

1 is nothing but your interpretation, which is  
2 fine. Does it make it right? A lot of  
3 times it's not right. I got criticized last  
4 week for not listening and actually  
5 infringing on people's freedom of speech  
6 which was so absurd. It has nothing to do  
7 with freedom of speech. To come here and  
8 bash people on a daily basis and say  
9 whatever you want, people making \$600,000  
10 off the city, people doing this and people  
11 doing that, that is not what the intent is  
12 of any of these meetings. It is good that  
13 you took it there because your personal  
14 agendas are, as Judy said, very, very  
15 apparent.

16 I love the fact that the president  
17 of the Taxpayers' Association comes up here  
18 every week, every single week screaming  
19 about how we have no idea how to run OECD,  
20 how the city has no idea what HUD is doing,  
21 he single handedly ran Habitat for Humanity  
22 out of this city. For years they wouldn't  
23 come back because of his work. What he did  
24 and his wrong impressions and how he decided  
25 what was right and what was wrong. Why?

1           Because he wasn't doing what was supposed to  
2           be done, but that was okay. That's okay.  
3           He is a leader now. He is someone we should  
4           look up to and worry -- who is worried about  
5           the taxpayers all of sudden, which is  
6           amazing because he did cost them a fortune  
7           only through Habitat. And housing, how he  
8           is so adamant on housing, I think that's  
9           wonderful, it would be great. We lost it  
10          for years. I'm thankful they gave us the  
11          opportunity and came back now, that's okay.

12                    It's okay that another person gets  
13                    up here week after week bashing and the only  
14                    reason he comes here is because his houses  
15                    were condemned for years. Does it sound  
16                    great? Well, you know what, maybe he is  
17                    worried about it. Maybe he thinks that  
18                    government should change because he was a  
19                    victim, but, no, all of his neighbors are  
20                    victims. So my job, I listened to those  
21                    people on a daily basis who say, yeah, you  
22                    have someone talking there that come up  
23                    there every week and tell you how to do  
24                    things, his houses are a mess. My taxes --  
25                    my house is being assessed less because of

1           what his place is like. Is that okay? No.  
2           You don't seem to blast each other. You  
3           seem to let all of that go as if it's okay.  
4           It's not okay. It's not.

5                     You have made your person strong  
6           that you wanted to be strong. I think it's  
7           wonderful and I wish nothing but the best of  
8           luck to what's going to happen here, but it  
9           is work. Somebody said tonight, oh, well  
10          you should sit down and do a budget. What  
11          did you think we do? Do you think we just  
12          decide to sit up here and you don't think we  
13          meet with the administration and talk to  
14          them and ask questions? Just because we are  
15          not doing it on camera all the time doesn't  
16          mean we are not doing the job. There is  
17          more to this job than just the lights and  
18          actions up here.

19                    Now, whether or not you like our  
20          views or like what we have done, we have  
21          done it with the best interests and it is  
22          really sad, it is really sad that for some  
23          reason your impression of what you have  
24          done, and there is someone who, yeah, took  
25          money from a charity and just took it and

1 ran with it, but that's okay. What you have  
2 done is okay, but don't put your perception  
3 of how your lives have been run onto how you  
4 think we are doing our jobs because that's  
5 not fair. We don't do it to you on a daily  
6 basis.

7 I actually told you, I met with  
8 everybody in the beginning, I wanted it to  
9 be together. The reason it wasn't was  
10 because of you guys, not because of me. Not  
11 because of me. I hope that changes in the  
12 future and I'm sure that as soon as one of  
13 the new drummers step out of line you will  
14 make sure that to make the star shine you  
15 will do anything you have to do to make sure  
16 they are right in on the agenda with you, so  
17 I can't wait and I look forward to that  
18 happening.

19 Actually now to business. I agree  
20 with some of the things in the budget. I  
21 agree that we shouldn't be cutting all of  
22 the jobs that we are cutting. I spoke to my  
23 colleagues on this and I'm going to make it  
24 in the form of the motion that we return  
25 some of the jobs to the tax office, one



1           being the chief clerk, two being the  
2           controller and three being the auditor  
3           business privilege mercantile tax collector  
4           will be a position and if you need to know  
5           which one, Kay, I'll show you which one but  
6           those are the three are the ones I would  
7           like to return into the budget for the next  
8           reading to make sure we have that.

9           MR. MCGOFF: The controller is there.

10          MS. FANUCCI: The controller is on,  
11          okay? So just the chief clerk and then the  
12          auditor as we were discussing that. Also,  
13          as far as the solicitor is concerned, I  
14          certainly would like to put the solicitor  
15          back on. I actually believe Mark Walsh is  
16          actually a wonderful person and would do a  
17          wonderful job. Because of all of the people  
18          coming out all year saying that this was  
19          illegal, I believe that we can revisit that,  
20          the new council can revisit that. If it  
21          tends to be that we have to change something  
22          to put that job back in, the solicitor job,  
23          then I'm sure Mrs. Evans would have no  
24          problem opening the budget up, putting the  
25          position in and changing whatever laws need

1 to be changed to put that position back into  
2 the tax office. I would love that we are  
3 running out of time here and we certainly  
4 can't find out whether or not we are in a  
5 legal situation with that, so I would put  
6 that into council's -- to the next council's  
7 hands, and that is all I have for now.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. MINORA: You need a second.

10 MS. FANUCCI: I made a motion and I  
11 didn't even get a second. I'm just assuming  
12 I'm that good.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Was that --

14 MS. FANUCCI: I made it in the form  
15 of a motion actually.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second that.  
17 On the question, Mr. McGoff? Just so that  
18 I'm clear, obviously I would like a bunch  
19 more than that in, I'm happy that at least  
20 is going in. Just so, Mr. Minora, I'm clear  
21 and, Mrs. Fanucci, that I'm clear that the  
22 controller's position is going to be funded,  
23 the chief for the entire -- the chief's  
24 clerk position and the business privilege  
25 and mercantile position; correct?

1 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

2 MS. EVANS: And the controller.

3 MS. FANUCCI: The controller is  
4 already in the budget.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just to continue, I  
6 didn't want -- I want them to continue. If  
7 I could say this, I really would like to see  
8 the rest of them put in there, that doesn't  
9 seem to be a possibility at this time. I  
10 would like to thank the council members, I  
11 asked them all in caucus this evening if  
12 they would at least consider the ones that  
13 they did tonight, and they did and I thank  
14 them for that. I think it will go a long  
15 way to help me do the best job I can  
16 possibly do. I hope in the future we get  
17 more of those jobs in there and I want to  
18 especially thank Mrs. Fanucci because I  
19 discussed this with her last week a little  
20 bit during the meeting actually, after the  
21 meeting and I called her during the week and  
22 asked her and she took the lead on it and  
23 spoke to other council members on my behalf,  
24 and so I thank you very much for doing that.  
25 I certainly appreciate it and my hope is

1           that in the future that we can get rest of  
2           those positions in there, so I thank all of  
3           you up there this evening.

4                   MR. MCGOFF: For clarification  
5           purposes, the chief clerk would be returned  
6           to the budget at \$22,750.

7                   MS. FANUCCI: Correct.

8                   MR. MCGOFF: The auditor would be  
9           returned to the budget at \$23,000.

10                  MS. FANUCCI: Correct.

11                  MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else on the  
12           question?

13                  MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm sorry, just one  
14           more thing, Mr. Minora, would you be able to  
15           find out for me what would need to be  
16           done -- every attorney I have talked to off  
17           the record told me that it's okay to do it  
18           to leave it in there because obviously there  
19           has been some type of agreement in the past  
20           and nobody has been able to produce an  
21           actual agreement for me. They said Mr. --  
22           it happened when Mr. Kelly was the solicitor  
23           and I have tried to get this agreement and I  
24           can't. As a matter of fact, I think Mary  
25           Theresa Patterson told me at one time, I

1 don't want to put words in her mouth, that  
2 she believed there was an agreement, but --

3 MS. GATELLI: We did try to look for  
4 that when we all had the meeting and nobody  
5 could produce it.

6 MR. MINORA: When I was solicitor  
7 that's what I understood, too, there was an  
8 agreement.

9 MS. GATELLI: Maybe it was verbal.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Would it be possible  
11 and legal for us to put it back in or would  
12 we have to make the state change it?

13 MR. MINORA: The problem is it's  
14 actually a state statute that says that the  
15 solicitor of the city is supposed to be  
16 solicitor for the tax office, so it would  
17 take an agreement between the city and the  
18 Single Tax Office to agree to have one and  
19 fund one.

20 MS. GATELLI: And the school  
21 district and the county.

22 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry?

23 MS. GATELLI: Wouldn't you need the  
24 school district and the county?

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Not the county,

1 just the school district.

2 MR. MINORA: Well, yeah, you would  
3 need the school. You are right.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: If the school  
5 district were agreeable -- if the school  
6 district were agreeable and this council was  
7 agreeable and Mrs. Vitali was agreeable  
8 would we be able to do that before this  
9 council leaves or no? If I were to go to  
10 the school district and ask them and I would  
11 go to Mrs. Vitali and ask her and I got  
12 three votes on this council could we make  
13 this agreement or no? And I know I'm not  
14 trying put --

15 MR. MINORA: Yeah, I know.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't want to put  
17 you on the spot. Would you look into it for  
18 me. I don't want to put you on the spot.

19 MR. MINORA: No, no. I think I  
20 am quite certain about the answer and it's  
21 probably not the one you want to hear.  
22 Council doesn't have the right to contract  
23 in and of itself for outside agencies for  
24 the most part, although, we have done some  
25 of that and there is some precedent for it I

1           guess, but that's what it would take. It  
2           would take a contract, a tri-party contract  
3           in this case between the Single Tax Office,  
4           the city and the school district.

5                   MR. COURTRIGHT: How about this, I'll  
6           really go for a stretch here, I'm begging  
7           for this, you know, and I don't want to  
8           prolong -- we didn't vote on her motion yet,  
9           I had an individual come to me right before  
10          I came today a gentleman that worked in the  
11          tax office many years ago, and one of the  
12          things he told me, he said, "Bill, if you  
13          don't have a solicitor," he said, "I'm going  
14          to tell you what's going to happen," and he  
15          used a figure of \$100. He said, "Say, for  
16          instance, there is 25 people that owe \$100,  
17          they dispute they owe the \$100, they are  
18          going to get an attorney or some kind of  
19          counsel, you are going to send it over to  
20          the city," he said, "and it's going to city  
21          on--"

22                   MR. MINORA: Nobody is going to come.  
23          That was my understanding about why --

24                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Why it was created.

25                   MR. MINORA: In part because the work

1 for the tax collector, in the first place  
2 because the solicitor's office was before  
3 me, before I was city solicitor this  
4 occurred and that's what I understood was  
5 they were just too busy with other city work  
6 and they just didn't appear.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: He claimed we are  
8 going to lose a lot of money this way,  
9 that's what he told me, but if this council  
10 were to fund it and then I got the agreement  
11 later on --

12 MR. MINORA: Let me put it to you  
13 this way --

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Every other council  
15 voted it.

16 MR. MINORA: Let me put it to you  
17 this way, if it passed that way and there  
18 were four votes you wouldn't have to worry  
19 about a veto.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

21 MR. MINORA: You know, it may come  
22 down to the city solicitor saying we have no  
23 right to do that and the mayor vetoing on  
24 that basis, on that opinion --

25 MS. GATELLI: And somebody can't sue



1                   you because you are violating a state law?

2                   MR. MINORA: Well, you made an  
3 agreement. You can make an agreement to --

4                   MS. GATELLI: Oh, okay. I see what  
5 you're saying.

6                   MR. COURTRIGHT: So I need the rest  
7 of council. I'm going to make that motion  
8 when it's my time and see if everybody will  
9 go along with it or not.

10                  MS. GATELLI: Well, I don't think  
11 that's fair, Bill.

12                  MR. COURTRIGHT: Why is that?

13                  MS. GATELLI: Because now you are  
14 getting -- now before you done you are going  
15 to have them all back. I might not want to  
16 put the controller in there, you know.

17                  MR. COURTRIGHT: All right.

18                  MS. GATELLI: In that case, a  
19 solicitor instead of a controller.

20                  MR. MCGOFF: All right, we're --

21                  MS. GATELLI: Capesh?

22                  MR. COURTRIGHT: Got you.

23                  MR. MCGOFF: The motion is to place  
24 the position of chief clerk at \$22,750 and  
25 the position of auditor at \$23,00 into the

1           2010 budget. All in favor signify by saying  
2           aye.

3                   MS. EVANS: Aye.

4                   MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

5                   MS. GATELLI: Aye.

6                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

9                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you again, I  
10          appreciate it. Thank you very much.

11                  MS. FANUCCI: Also, I want to talk  
12          about the parking tickets just a little bit.  
13          Yes, I understand that it is difficult and  
14          everyone cannot afford everything. We do  
15          have garages, and I wonder if people are  
16          actually walking through them because they  
17          actually have a lot of cars in there parking  
18          at our garages downtown. We do have  
19          problems with parking and that is why we  
20          addressed it by trying to build parking  
21          garages. Is it a good thing, is it a bad  
22          thing? Well, of course, never -- asking for  
23          more money is never a good thing under any  
24          circumstances, but revenue needs to be  
25          increased. The good thing is that if you do

1           pay your meter on time you won't get a  
2           ticket, and as we all heard I actually had  
3           some tickets once, not as many as claimed,  
4           but I do receive them, also. It is an  
5           avoidance that we would also like to say we  
6           didn't have, but we do.

7                        I wish that we didn't have to raise  
8           revenue. We do have to increase revenue.  
9           Is not easy to figure out where. We spend  
10          hours and exhausting measures trying to  
11          figure out where we can try to get more  
12          money so that we didn't have to raise our  
13          taxes. I am happy that our taxes are not  
14          being raised this year. I am happy,  
15          especially considering that taxes are being  
16          raised for your school district and at least  
17          this way you know that we did what we could  
18          do to keep our budget where we can keep it,  
19          and I am actually happy with this budget  
20          because we did do a lot of cuts and we are  
21          working in a good direction and I think that  
22          that needs to be said.

23                       It seems that that for some reason  
24          was asked for years and years and when it's  
25          done it doesn't seem to get any credit. It

1 is not easy to just go and cut 10 percent  
2 out of the budget. I mean, that was one of  
3 the suggestions tonight and maybe some day  
4 someone could show us exactly where you can  
5 do that, but without compromising what we  
6 have in services I don't see how that can be  
7 done. I am happy that we are working and  
8 every day people have different ideas about  
9 your budget and we are working on it and I'm  
10 very happy.

11 And as Bill said, I mean, working  
12 together is not, you know, something we can  
13 compromise right now because it is for the  
14 taxpayers, and I want to see the tax office  
15 increase tax collection. I want to see more  
16 money come into the city. I want to see  
17 that so the next council doesn't have to  
18 worry about maybe raising taxes also like we  
19 had to. So I just want to say that I'm  
20 happy -- was happy to work with all of this  
21 council regardless of what your perception  
22 is on how we did it or how we didn't do. It  
23 has been a lot of fun and we have  
24 accomplished many goals and for that I'm  
25 grateful, and that is all I have.

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: First, I'd just like  
2 to say after awhile you think you're heard  
3 pretty much and seen pretty much and being  
4 on this council and there has been some  
5 important issues that have come up in the  
6 six years that I have been here and I always  
7 get comments either in person or e-mail or  
8 by phone or a nasty letter or whatever the  
9 case may be, and out of the all of the  
10 issues I think maybe because I was a little  
11 bit out of character last week, I got a  
12 little bit mad, I had a great deal of people  
13 come to me last week, much more than has  
14 ever come in contact with me on any issue  
15 because of what I spoke on in the tax office  
16 and they were so supportive of me. I just  
17 want to thank everybody.

18 There was two gentlemen from St.  
19 Lucy's church where I grew up going to and  
20 my mom still goes to that specifically  
21 sought me out to give me their support and I  
22 think that's nice. I think it shows that  
23 people are paying attention, too. You know,  
24 sometimes you might think nobody cares, but  
25 people are watching, people are paying

1 attention, so there was so many of you I  
2 just wanted to thank all of you for your  
3 support.

4 In caucus I asked Stu Renda there, I  
5 said, hey, how did you decide on how to cut  
6 these jobs? And what he told was they just  
7 needed money so they cut them. To me that  
8 wasn't an acceptable way to do it -- was not  
9 an acceptable way to do it, and then I asked  
10 him, "Did you speak to anybody? Did you  
11 speak to any of the workers at the tax  
12 office? Did you speak to Mrs. Vitali?"

13 Now, Kay, I'm going to ask you to  
14 send a letter in a second, and I'm going to  
15 ask you can we send it first thing tomorrow  
16 morning and get it to Mrs. Vitali as soon as  
17 possible because I would like to have an  
18 answer from her before the week is out, he  
19 told me that he spoke to Mrs. Vitali and she  
20 thought that the office could function fine  
21 with all of these cuts that he put in there.  
22 I maybe said something I shouldn't have  
23 said, I called him a liar because I didn't  
24 think that he spoke to her, and if he did  
25 speak to her and she did tell him that she

1 was agreeable to cutting all of these jobs I  
2 will apologize to him, but my understanding  
3 was from the workers that I spoke to over  
4 there that they believe he did not contact  
5 her or anybody. So, Kay, if you could send  
6 a letter, and I'm going to ask you to send  
7 it from me, because I don't want to involve  
8 the rest of council in my battle here, if  
9 you could ask Mrs. Vitali if she, in fact,  
10 spoke to Stu Renda and told Stu Renda and  
11 that she was agreeable to all of these cuts  
12 in the tax office and that she felt that the  
13 tax office would be able to function fine  
14 with all of these cuts, and I would  
15 respectfully ask her in the letter if she  
16 can give me an answer before the end of the  
17 week. If she just wants to say yes or no,  
18 I'll take a yes or no, but I would like to  
19 know the truth and if she says she did and  
20 she agreed to all of these cuts then I will  
21 apologize to Mr. Renda. And that's all I  
22 have. Thank you very much.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to also  
24 since we will do it at this point, I would  
25 like to amend line item 01.320.3243 housing

1 rental license from 33,000 to 120,000.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

3 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, I  
5 think this here is something that not only  
6 could be done but needs to be done. I think  
7 as somebody said in caucus, I think we  
8 appropriated two more inspectors hoping it  
9 was taken place and it didn't, so I guess  
10 we'll ask the new council that comes in to  
11 try to keep an eye on this and see that we  
12 go after these rentals. I think it's  
13 something that not only will generate  
14 revenue, but make for better neighborhoods  
15 in my opinion.

16 MS. EVANS: And I think Mr. McGoff  
17 had come with a good idea in caucus as to  
18 how we proceed.

19 MS. FANUCCI: I think you are right  
20 and even if you put that in there, if you  
21 wanted to put that in this budget. Is that  
22 next?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Anyone else on  
24 the question? All in favor signify by  
25 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. In caucus I did  
7 mention that I believed that we should  
8 aggressively pursue the rental registration  
9 ordinance. I also suggested that perhaps  
10 one way of aggressively pursuing this was to  
11 go through a professional service on a  
12 contingency basis so that their income was  
13 based on the their ability to create  
14 revenue, that way providing an incentive for  
15 someone to pursue this.

16 I also suggested that perhaps at the  
17 same time we could assign one of the -- at  
18 least one of the new housing inspectors  
19 specifically to that function as well,  
20 thereby, creating at least a two person team  
21 that would go out and, as I said,  
22 aggressively go after this -- aggressively  
23 implement the rental registrations. I  
24 believe that in order to do that we'll  
25 probably -- we would probably have to talk

1 about creating an RFP or something similar  
2 to get the right person for, you know, that  
3 professional service, therefore, I'm not  
4 going to make -- I'm not going to make that  
5 motion at this point in time, I think that  
6 if, in fact, you know, we do go -- the  
7 budget does pass with that in, you know,  
8 with this in, then at that time we can  
9 pursue it creating an RFP and, you know,  
10 pursuing it in that way even if it takes us  
11 into, you know, the next calendar year and  
12 the next council.

13 I think there are also some other  
14 items that perhaps we can look at, you know,  
15 during the week that -- prior to the meeting  
16 and there may be other amendments that we  
17 would like to look, at other changes that we  
18 would like to look as well and especially  
19 after speaking with Mr. Renda there may be  
20 some things that came up this evening that  
21 had not been considered and maybe his  
22 responses to some of the other questions  
23 that we had, you know, we may be able to  
24 make some other changes as well, but for now  
25 I think that that's sufficient as far as I

1 am concerned, and that is all I have. I'm  
2 sorry, Mrs. Evans?

3 MS. FANUCCI: Vote.

4 MR. MCGOFF: We didn't vote.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: I thought we voted on  
7 it.

8 MS. GATELLI: Yes, we did vote.

9 MR. MCGOFF: But I didn't want to  
10 make a motion at this point in time until it  
11 actually passes through. I said I'd rather  
12 wait until if it is -- if we do include it  
13 in the budget then at this time we can go  
14 ahead and do that. Is that --

15 MS. GATELLI: Fine.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Is this acceptable? I  
17 thought that was the better way to do it.  
18 If for some reason this would get knocked  
19 out then there would be no need to. I'm  
20 sorry. Mrs. Garvey, I think we are at 5-B.

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
23 COUNCIL NO. 242, 2003, ENTITLED "AN  
24 ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 155,  
25 1999 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE

1 LICENSING AND REGULATING OF CONTRACTORS  
2 DOING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
3 INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANTING OF  
4 PERMITS AND FEES FOR SAME; PROVIDING  
5 PENALTIES AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL BY INCREASING  
6 THE COST OF PERMIT FEES IN THE CITY OF  
7 SCRANTON".

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

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,  
15 there is several of these here that I don't  
16 fully understand, I think most of us don't  
17 fully understand, so I'm going to vote to  
18 move them forward, but I think we need to do  
19 a little bit of research on each and every  
20 one of these.

21 MR. MINORA: If --

22 MR. MCGOFF: I -- go ahead,  
23 Mr. Minora.

24 MR. MINORA: I'm sorry, Mrs. Evans  
25 requested I look at this before we started

1 talking about it here, it appears as though  
2 the first three pieces are identical except  
3 that they each repeal a specific file of  
4 council. Other than that, the language is  
5 identical. I'm not sure why it was done  
6 that way, it seems to me they could have  
7 done it in one, but I'll ask them and find  
8 out why it was done that way, but that seems  
9 to be the only difference in B, C and D, I  
10 think. Those are the only three I saw and  
11 then the other pieces were to implement the  
12 food code basically, Pennsylvania Food Code.

13 MR. MCGOFF: In caucus -- thank you,  
14 Attorney Minora. In caucus we did discuss  
15 this, and I realize we have a public hearing  
16 on the budget next week, but I thought it  
17 might be appropriate to ask someone from the  
18 law department to attend next week's meeting  
19 to perhaps answer some questions on these  
20 pieces of legislation and I will go ahead  
21 and do that if we agree.

22 MS. EVANS: And like Mr. Courtright I  
23 am going to vote to introduce these to move  
24 the process forward, but I'm very anxious to  
25 meet with someone from the legal department

1 and hear the explanations and what facts  
2 distinguish, you know, one ordinance from  
3 another here.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All in  
5 favor signify by saying aye.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

12 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
13 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
14 COUNCIL NO. 112, 2003, ENTITLED  
15 "ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM RATE FOR PARKING  
16 METERS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
17 THEREBY AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 78,  
18 1994 TO ESTABLISH THE UNIFORM RATE OF \$.50  
19 AN HOUR AT ALL METERS" TO ESTABLISH THE  
20 UNIFORM RATE OF \$1.00 AN HOUR AT  
21 ALL PARKING METERS.

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

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

1 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

10 MS. GARVEY: 5-D.FOR INTRODUCTION -  
11 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
12 COUNCIL NO. 91, 2002 "AN ORDINANCE AS  
13 AMENDED PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
14 PARKING METER ZONES WITHIN THE  
15 CITY OF SCRANTON; ESTABLISHING HOURS OF  
16 OPERATION; PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF  
17 METERS AND PARKING METER RATES; AUTHORIZING  
18 THE ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING ORDINANCES AND  
19 PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF"  
20 BY AMENDING SECTIONS 3 (A), SECTION 13  
21 AND SECTION 14 (B).

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

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

1 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

10 MS. GARVEY: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
11 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT  
12 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1338 EAST  
13 ELM STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP  
14 NO. 16801-010-004 TO WILLIAM J. AND MARLENE  
15 GRAHAM, HIS WIFE, 1336 EAST ELM STREET,  
16 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE  
17 CONSIDERATION OF \$5,000.00.

18 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-E 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-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
7 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT  
8 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS COLFAX  
9 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.  
10 15706-080-045.01 TO MICHAEL BROZZETTI, 407  
11 PALM STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505,  
12 FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$2,900.00.

13 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
14 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be  
15 introduced into it's proper committee.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

19 MS. EVANS: I just have one question,  
20 is there an address for Colfax Avenue as is  
21 listed above for East Elm and below for  
22 Myrtle and Eynon. It simply says, "More  
23 commonly known as Colfax Avenue."

24 As it reads, it sounds as if could  
25 be the entire block, you know.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Is it in the backup?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: There is just so  
3 much here.

4 MR. MINORA: It references a deed  
5 book and page number as opposed to an  
6 address in the appraisal. It looks to be if  
7 you are familiar with the property what we  
8 used to call Eagle Rock.

9 MS. EVANS: What?

10 MR. MINORA: Eagle Rock, behind the--

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: It says on here lot  
12 size 80 by 160, so it's an empty lot with  
13 no address to it; correct?

14 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, there is no  
15 address, not even on the deed.

16 MS. EVANS: Can we --

17 MS. GATELLI: It just says Colfax  
18 Avenue on the deed.

19 MS. EVANS: Can we get something more  
20 specific?

21 MR. MCGOFF: If we can. We will see  
22 if we can't find --

23 MS. EVANS: For next week.

24 MR. MCGOFF: -- it for next week.

25 All in 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-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
8 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT  
9 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 924 MYRTLE  
10 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, MAP NO.  
11 14670-030-014 TO JOHN AND WENDY L. SAGGESE,  
12 HIS WIFE, 920 MYRTLE STREET NO. 3, SCRANTON,  
13 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF  
14 \$2,700.00.

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

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
21 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: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
4 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT  
5 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 921-923  
6 EYNON STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX  
7 MAP NO. 15609-080-037 TO LUTHER AND KRISTINA  
8 GRIFFITHS, HIS WIFE, 1001 EYNON STREET,  
9 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE  
10 CONSIDERATION OF \$3,600.00.

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

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

24 MS. GARVEY: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT

1 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS PALM STREET  
2 (REAR FROUDE AVENUE), TAX MAP NO.  
3 16704-030-058, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO  
4 MICHAEL AND JOANNE CASTANZO, HIS WIFE,  
5 1525 FROUDE AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
6 18505, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$6,000.00.

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

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

16 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

20 MS. GARVEY: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
21 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT  
22 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS MYRTLE  
23 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.  
24 15711-020-012 TO ROBERT P. LABUDI, JR., 2112  
25 MYRTLE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,

1 18510, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$6,200.00.

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

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

8 MS. EVANS: Maybe we could also get a  
9 determination on this one.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yeah, the one before it  
11 didn't have an address as well. We'll see  
12 if we can fine it.

13 MS. EVANS: It said Rear Froude  
14 Avenue.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. All in favor  
16 signify by saying aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

23 MS. GARVEY: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE  
25 COUNCIL NO. 24, 1963, ENTITLED "PROVIDING

1 FOR THE PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL LICENSE FEE FOR  
2 PURPOSES OF INSPECTION UPON ALL PERSONS  
3 CONDUCTING OR OPERATING PUBLIC EATING AND  
4 DRINKING PLACES WITHIN THE CITY OF  
5 SCRANTON, IMPOSING CERTAIN DUTIES UPON THE  
6 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE CITY OF  
7 SCRANTON AND HIS AGENTS, PROVIDING PENALTIES  
8 FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR  
9 THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF".

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

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question, I'll  
16 start, I think K, L, M, N and O are all  
17 dealing with basically the same situation,  
18 and again, I think it's something that  
19 perhaps needs some explanation prior to the  
20 next reading and so I will also ask the law  
21 department if they would, you know, be able  
22 to speak on these particular pieces of  
23 legislation as well.

24 MS. EVANS: And I do think in  
25 addition Miss Jennings raised a good point

1           that should these be increased, these fees,  
2           that all of the business owners should be  
3           notified by the city of the increase and the  
4           change in the ordinance.

5                   MR. MCGOFF: I think that as well and  
6           if, in fact, we do go through this maybe we  
7           can at that time -- at the appropriate time  
8           make a motion to do such -- to ask whoever  
9           in licensing to do that.

10                   MS. GATELLI: Yeah, when you do  
11           that, Bob, I'd like to know even with the  
12           permits for the construction in the  
13           beginning what the fees were before.

14                   MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

15                   MS. GATELLI: So we can see how much  
16           they went up, so if you would do that for  
17           all of these to see how much they are  
18           increasing.

19                   MR. MCGOFF: Just one final thing, I  
20           think basically what is being done is that  
21           some items are being removed and others  
22           added to come into compliance with state  
23           law, if I'm not mistaken, but we will get  
24           more specific information next week if we  
25           can. All those in favor of introduction



1 signify by saying aye.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

8 MS. GARVEY: 5-L. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
9 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE  
10 COUNCIL NO. 14, 1971, ENTITLED "AMENDING AN  
11 ORDINANCE 'PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF AN  
12 ANNUAL LICENSE FEE FOR PURPOSES OF  
13 INSPECTION UPON ALL PERSONS CONDUCTING OR  
14 OPERATING PUBLIC EATING AND DRINKING PLACES  
15 WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON, IMPOSING  
16 CERTAIN DUTIES UPON THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC  
17 HEALTH OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
18 HIS AGENTS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE  
19 VIOLATION THEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR THE  
20 EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF TO PROVIDE FOR AN  
21 INCREASE IN FEES CHARGEABLE FOR  
22 PERMITS".

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

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

11 MS. GARVEY: 5-M. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
12 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
13 NO. 108, 1992, ENTITLED "PROVIDING FOR THE  
14 PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL LICENSE FEE FOR THE  
15 PURPOSE OF INSPECTION UPON ALL PERSONS  
16 CONDUCTING OR OPERATING PUBLIC EATING AND  
17 DRINKING PLACES WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
18 IMPOSING CERTAIN DUTIES UPON THE DIRECTOR  
19 OF PUBLIC SAFETY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
20 HIS AGENTS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE  
21 VIOLATION THEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR THE  
22 EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF."

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

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

11 MS. GARVEY: 5-N. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
12 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE  
13 COUNCIL NO. 179, 1994, ENTITLED "AMENDING  
14 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 24, 1963, ENTITLED  
15 'AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) PROVIDING FOR THE  
16 PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL LICENSE FEE FOR  
17 PURPOSES OF INSPECTION UPON ALL PERSONS  
18 CONDUCTING OR OPERATING PUBLIC EATING AND  
19 DRINKING PLACES WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
20 IMPOSING CERTAIN DUTIES UPON THE DIRECTOR OF  
21 PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
22 HIS AGENTS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE  
23 VIOLATION THEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR THE  
24 EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF' AS AMENDED BY FILE  
25 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 14, 1971 SECTION

1 1-PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE LICENSE FEE.”.

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

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

15 MS. GARVEY: 5-0. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING CHAPTER 256  
17 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

18 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-0 be  
20 introduced into it's proper committee.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

24 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Garvey provided each  
25 one of us this evening with a copy of

1 Chapter 256 from the Administrative Code and  
2 it specifically addresses food and food  
3 handlers, Article I, food handlers; Article  
4 II, food and milk products; article III,  
5 health officer meat; and Article IV,  
6 poultry, and it certainly goes in-depth, but  
7 that is an overview of Chapter 256.

8 MR. MCGOFF: All in favor signify by  
9 saying aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

16 MS. GARVEY: 5-P. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
17 AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING THE DUTIES,  
18 RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE  
19 CITY HEALTH INSPECTOR, PROVIDING FOR THE  
20 PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL LICENSE FEE FOR PUBLIC  
21 EATING OR DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE  
22 CITY OF SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING ANNUAL  
23 APPLICATION AND RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS,  
24 IMPOSING CERTAIN DUTIES UPON THE DEPUTY  
25 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE CITY

1 HEALTH INSPECTOR, PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR  
2 REVOCATION AND REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSES,  
3 AND PROVIDING FOR IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES.

4 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-P be  
6 introduced into it's proper committee.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
10 in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

13 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

17 MS. GARVEY: 5-Q. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18 AN ORDINANCE - ADOPTING TITLE 7, CHAPTER 46  
19 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CODE, KNOWN AS THE  
20 PENNSYLVANIA FOOD CODE, AND TITLE 7, CHAPTER  
21 76 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CODE, TITLED "FOOD  
22 EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION".

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

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

11 MS. GARVEY: 5-R. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
12 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
13 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE  
14 CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO  
15 AN AGREEMENT TO PERFORM HOUSING INSPECTIONS  
16 FOR THE HOMEBUYER'S PROGRAM WITH THOMAS J.  
17 KANE AND ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED.

18 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-R 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-S. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
8 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY  
9 OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL  
10 SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE COHEN LAW GROUP  
11 FOR LEGAL SERVICES - COMMUNICATIONS/CABLE  
12 FRANCHISING COUNSEL/CONSULTANT FOR THE CITY  
13 OF SCRANTON.

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

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

18 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The



1 ayes have it and so moved.

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

3 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 96,  
4 2009 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT  
5 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS BROOK  
6 STREET, TAX MAP NO. 16803-010-031, SCRANTON,  
7 PENNSYLVANIA, TO THOMAS O'CONNOR, 1420 BROOK  
8 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR  
9 THE CONSIDERATION OF \$3,500.00.

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

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

14 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? We'll  
16 try to get an address on that one as well.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: All in favor signify by  
19 saying aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

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

1 MS. GARVEY: 6-B. READING BY TITLE-  
2 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 97, 2009 - AN ORDINANCE-  
3 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE  
4 CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON  
5 THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2010 TO AND  
6 INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2010 BY THE ADOPTION  
7 OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE  
8 YEAR 2010.

9 I forgot to say "As amended."

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

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

14 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, I'm  
17 going to vote to move it ahead again. I'm  
18 hoping that my fellow council members will  
19 reconsider some of the cuts in the tax  
20 office by next week, but I'll be voting  
21 "yes" this evening.

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

24 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MS. EVANS: No. Opposed? The ayes  
3 have it and so moved.

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sure what the vote  
5 was.

6 MS. GATELLI: Actually, I didn't  
7 vote.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I know. I believe the  
9 vote was 3-1.

10 MS. GATELLI: I'll abstain.

11 MS. GARVEY: Can somebody please  
12 clarify the vote for me because I'm  
13 confused.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Are you voting "yes?"

15 MS. GATELLI: No, I abstained.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Do a roll call, please.

17 MS. GATELLI: I'm being silly. Gotta  
18 have some fun the last couple of weeks.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

20 MS. EVANS: A roll call?

21 MR. MCGOFF: Well, it needed  
22 clarification.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: No.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

1 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Thank you. The  
8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. GARVEY: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
10 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
11 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 94,  
12 2009 - PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND  
13 DEDICATION OF JAMESTOWN WAY CIRCLE  
14 AND PARK EDGE LANE; AS WELL AS ALL THE STORM  
15 DRAINAGE SYSTEM UNDERLYING SAID STREETS AND  
16 RIGHTS-OF-WAY; ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED  
17 IMPROVEMENTS BEING LOCATED IN THE  
18 PARK EDGE SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF  
19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA; ALSO AUTHORIZING THE  
20 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
21 TO ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00)  
22 AND TO RECORD IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS AT  
23 THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS FOR  
24 LACKAWANNA COUNTY A DEED FOR THE AFORESAID  
25 PUBLIC STREETS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

1 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the  
2 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7-A.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
6 call, please?

7 MS. GATELLI: I would like to say  
8 something before you call for the vote.  
9 Mr. Skantos is in the back of the room. He  
10 has attended all of the meetings since we  
11 introduced this piece of legislation in his  
12 development. I went there on many occasions  
13 and met with the neighbors who had  
14 complaints. I have to say that he did what  
15 he was supposed to do or obviously we  
16 wouldn't be voting on this evening, so I'd  
17 like to commend him. He is one of the  
18 developers that has come forward, has done  
19 what he said he was going to do, unlike some  
20 others that never even came here, so I do  
21 commend him and I just wanted to acknowledge  
22 that he did all of the things that he was  
23 supposed to do in his project. Thank you,  
24 Mr. Skantos.

25 MR. SKANTOS: Thank you, too.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

13 MS. GARVEY: 7-B.FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
14 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
15 RESOLUTION NO. 186, 2009 - AUTHORIZING THE  
16 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
17 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AMENDED AGREEMENT  
18 NO. 4 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
19 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
20 REGARDING THE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT TO ALLOW  
21 THE CITY TO ACCEPT INCREASE FUNDING IN  
22 THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT  
23 IN THE PLOT AND GREEN RIDGE SECTIONS OF THE  
24 CITY.

25 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Finance?

3 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the  
4 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
5 passage of Item 7-B.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
8 call, please?

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

12 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

14 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

20 MS. GARVEY: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
22 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 187, 2009 -  
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
24 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND APPLY FOR A  
25 GRANT FOR HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT

1 ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
2 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) IN THE AMOUNT OF  
4 \$450,000.00. IF THE GRANT APPLICATION IS  
5 SUCCESSFUL, THE CITY WILL COORDINATE THE USE  
6 OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH THE UNITED  
7 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
8 CORPORATION (UNCDC) FOR A PROJECT TO BE  
9 CALLED THE "CEDAR AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD  
10 HOUSING REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE"  
11 ("CEDAR-NHRI").

12 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
13 recommendation of the Chair for the  
14 Committee on Community Development?

15 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
16 Committee on Community Development, I  
17 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

20 MS. EVANS: I was just going to say  
21 that earlier this evening immediately prior  
22 to our caucus with Mr. Renda, Mrs. Aebli and  
23 Mr. Handley addressed council and those  
24 members of the public who were present and  
25 explained this grant and the overall Cedar



1 Avenue Neighborhood Housing Revitalization  
2 Project. It is the certainly a very worthy  
3 project and we are hoping that they are  
4 successful in their grant application.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

9 MS. GATELLI. Yes.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

17 MS. GATELLI: Before we adjourn, I  
18 forgot to mention one thing that I would  
19 like to announce. Before I came I opened my  
20 e-mail and we have been invited tomorrow is  
21 the grand opening of the Lackawanna Avenue  
22 bridge, tomorrow morning at 9:00, so we are  
23 all very happy about that. It was a long,  
24 tedious, very expensive project, but very  
25 worthy and it will be great to just be able

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to drive right over Lackawanna Avenue again.

Thank you.

MR. COURTRIGHT: Motion to adjourn.

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER