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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, December 15, 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  
2 moment of reflection observed.)

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

15 MS. GARVEY: No business in Third  
16 Order tonight.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Anything from council  
18 people?

19 MS. EVANS: The 15th annual free  
20 Christmas dinner sponsored by Mr. Bob bolus  
21 will be conducted on Friday, December 25 at  
22 St. Stanislaus Church auditorium, 949 10th  
23 Street in Scranton from 12 to 6 p.m.  
24 Everyone in need of a delicious meal and  
25 wonderful company on Christmas Day is

1 welcome to attend. Mr. Bolus and the many  
2 volunteers who help in the preparation of  
3 this annual event are to be highly  
4 commended.

5 The Office of Scranton City Council  
6 is currently accepting resumes and cover  
7 letters to fill it's anticipated vacancy in  
8 January. Resumes will be accepted until 12  
9 noon on December 20, 2009. I would also  
10 like to wish everyone a very Merry  
11 Christmas, Happy Hanukah, joyous Kwanza and  
12 to all a happy, healthy and prosperous new  
13 year.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Citizens'  
15 participation. We will have three minutes  
16 for each speaker. Andy Sbaraglia.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, thank you,  
18 Mr. McGoff. I would assume that you would  
19 vote on everything before people got a  
20 chance to speak. You surprised me. Okay,  
21 let's talk about the accomplishments of  
22 council, okay? We are still in distressed  
23 status, okay? We sold millions of dollars  
24 worth of assets, which you have done. You  
25 have transferred the DPW site so many times

1 I lost track who owns it. That's how bad it  
2 is.

3 And as far as the library goes, I do  
4 believe we pay the liability on the library  
5 because we own it. We also pay the  
6 liability on the South Side complex and I  
7 hope with the new council we are going to  
8 find out why. We also pay the liability  
9 sitting down there with the old DPW site.  
10 These are things that we pay the liability  
11 on, but for the life of me I don't know why,  
12 but we already do it. It would be foolish  
13 of me to even get into the library because  
14 in my three minutes it don't make a  
15 difference anyway. It's a lost cause and we  
16 all know what's going to happen, but to take  
17 credit for what was done in this city in the  
18 last four years is really sorry.

19 We are more in debt now than when  
20 you people took office to sit up there that  
21 are leaving, and we haven't changed a bit.  
22 The city is still distressed, the people are  
23 distressed, and all we have to do is hope  
24 for the new council and that's one of the  
25 reasons why we never put in an application.

1           You need people where I am now speaking  
2           against no matter who sits up there. I have  
3           done it all the way through from Murphy to  
4           DiBileo, Judy, all the way through and I  
5           will continue to do it as long as I got  
6           breath in my body to do it. I believe in  
7           open, honest and efficient government and I  
8           hope to see it, I really do before I die,  
9           but it's really something I probably won't  
10          see.

11                       For some reason or another they have  
12          told you that when they get this library  
13          board it's open. It is open, but you are  
14          open, too, but your decision don't matter.  
15          It doesn't matter one iota. They get to do  
16          what they want to do and there is nothing  
17          you can do about it. Once a board is  
18          established they can run amuck and that's  
19          probably what's going to happen. The mayor  
20          has already took a bidding on the bank in  
21          South Side and that's where he plans to do  
22          this library and he is going to do that  
23          library because I don't know what you are  
24          going to stop it once the authority is  
25          formed. That's it. Thank you.

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MR. MCGOFF: Terry Brennan.

MS. BRENNAN: Well, I don't think that my other three minutes for this is in vain because it's very important to get this organized with the library. If we have an authority I would humbly suggest that we just add academics to the current people who are on the board of the trustees and have no one involved in reference to politics whatsoever. The whole purpose of this authority was to make sure that the deeds are at the library. The city has nothing to do with the South Side or that would be in the charter and they don't give us any money and so on and so forth, so everything would go and we wouldn't have to be surprised because they don't know what they are doing because we have the best minds we could possibly find in Lackawanna County.

Now, on this authority, if they were all retired and lived in Lackawanna County and worked here for a long time or forever and lived in Monroe or Wyoming that would be very suitable, as long as they would be qualified and have the heart of the library

1 and know something about it and have  
2 academic degrees, that's number one.

3 Getting back, I would love to see  
4 that administration building belong to us at  
5 the library. It really belongs. It's  
6 logical. Everything is there together. The  
7 three -- just fix it up inside. There is --  
8 people want to go to the Children's Library  
9 and then to the Albright and then to go for  
10 technologies. Everything could be moved  
11 over there plus offices. If there is any  
12 other space it could be with the law library  
13 and also rent out to lawyers, it's conducive  
14 to going to the courthouse. There is no  
15 other way. It's right there. Plus, of  
16 course, meaning that we have parking.  
17 That's about it.

18 As far as South Side goes or  
19 anyplace else, this is besides the point.  
20 Every area could stand some kind of  
21 renovations or some court or some blah,  
22 blah. We need something at the library  
23 that's close by where it's conducive for the  
24 taxpayers. Thank you very much.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Marie Schumacher.



1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,  
2 city resident and member of the Taxpayers'  
3 Association. Again, I'd like to continue  
4 speaking on the library and I would like you  
5 to ask yourself at least this question, why  
6 was the \$100,000 payment for that South Side  
7 property removed from the 2010 budget if one  
8 of the purposes of this -- a newly  
9 established authority was not to raid the  
10 funds that had been raised, and I would say  
11 that would disrespect any person who has  
12 donated to the library or put their efforts  
13 forward to raise money thinking it was for  
14 the three libraries that the city already  
15 held and now it will be that those monies  
16 will be diverted to a new library that has  
17 not had sufficient public vetting.

18 Why are the authority members from  
19 outside of the city? Now, I agree the board  
20 of trustees has done an excellent job, but  
21 now you are setting up a city authority and  
22 I think the majority of the members, if I'm  
23 recalling correctly, are from outside of the  
24 city and they have five to six-year terms of  
25 office? What is the role of the current

1 board of trustees? Will they continue to  
2 exist? Will we now have two or will this  
3 new authority contract out to the trustees  
4 to do their work for them? It's very  
5 confusing and I think those answers should  
6 be given.

7 And then finally I would like to  
8 state my disappointment that, Mrs. Gatelli,  
9 I think it's a real slap in the face, when  
10 it comes to walking the streets of South  
11 Side you can get off of work, but when you  
12 don't have --

13 MS. GATELLI: That was after work,  
14 Mrs. Schumacher.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

16 MS. GATELLI: That was after work.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's my time. Thank  
18 you.

19 MS. GATELLI: Well, you are not  
20 going to say things that aren't true.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: You have motions, I  
22 don't. The fact that you couldn't come and  
23 listen to me and all of these other people  
24 who came here in morning and spoke for  
25 almost an hour, you didn't care what they

1 spoke. That tells me you already committed,  
2 your mind is made up --

3 MS. GATELLI: I already said I was  
4 committed to the library, yes, I did.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: You don't care what  
6 the city pays -- excuse me, but I think I  
7 have the floor, Mr. McGoff. Would you  
8 please use your gavel? Thank you. Thank  
9 you very much.

10 MS. GATELLI: There are some people  
11 that have to work.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Good morning, Council,  
13 Les Spindler, city resident. Two weeks ago  
14 Mrs. Gatelli said none of us that come here  
15 do anything in our neighborhoods. Well, I  
16 don't know how she knows that, she must have  
17 special powers to know what everybody else  
18 does. As a matter of fact, I had to leave  
19 that meeting before I could speak because I  
20 went to a neighborhood association meeting  
21 and a crime watch meeting, so for her to say  
22 that is totally untrue. I'm sure there is  
23 other people that do stuff in their  
24 neighborhood. She is not the only one that  
25 does stuff in her neighborhoods in her city

1           like she likes people to believe.

2                       Also, Mrs. Gatelli said that people  
3           come up here and say they don't know how she  
4           can put up with us. Well, I think the  
5           voters said it loud and clear who can't put  
6           up with whom. Not once, but twice.

7                       And going back to our crime watch,  
8           according to Lieutenant Leonard Namiotka,  
9           since our crime watch was created police  
10          calls to Tripp Park have gone down and  
11          that's a good thing.

12                      Mr. Courtright, I think it was two  
13          weeks ago, you said you thought we should  
14          have a public safety director. I don't  
15          think I have ever disagreed with all of your  
16          time on council, but I have to disagree with  
17          you on that one. I think our police and  
18          firefighters have done a great job in spite  
19          of Ray Hayes not because of him and I think  
20          all we need now is to get a competent police  
21          chief and a competent fire chief and we'll  
22          be fine. We don't need a public safety  
23          director.

24                      One more thing, Mr. Courtright, I  
25          think our ATV problem in Tripp Park is

1           solved. They have started construction on  
2           the new school back there and since they  
3           started and I haven't heard any ATV's go  
4           back there. I mean, I'm not there all of  
5           the time but a lot of time they would go by  
6           my house I would have heard one. I haven't  
7           heard once since they started grading the  
8           landscape and everything. They aren't  
9           building yet, but they are leveling  
10          everything else.

11                 MR. COURTRIGHT: They probably ruined  
12          the trails that they were riding on. Good.

13                 MR. SPINDLER: So hopefully that  
14          problem is solved. I still have more time.  
15          Mr. McGoff, once again you are violating our  
16          constitutional rights. This is the council  
17          meeting part, we should have five minutes to  
18          speak not three, but thank God this is the  
19          last time we will have to listen to what you  
20          say. Starting next month you will see how  
21          it feels to be a minority of one like  
22          Mr. Courtright and Mrs. Evans went through  
23          the last couple of years banging their heads  
24          off the walls trying to help the taxpayers  
25          and nobody listening, so you will see what

1           it feels like next month.

2                   And one last thing, as I said last  
3 week, the library doesn't belong to the  
4 city, it belongs to the people and voting  
5 for this library authority will take the  
6 library away from the people no matter what  
7 three of you think just like the South Side  
8 Complex was taken away from the people with  
9 the Redevelopment Authority. Thank you.

10           MR. MCGOFF: Dave Dobrzyn.

11           MR. DOBRZYN: Dave Dobrzyn, resident  
12 of Scranton. Once again, hopefully and  
13 probably not, this charter for this library  
14 authority has not been adequately examined  
15 for ambivalent and questionable language and  
16 I have -- I agree that the library needs to  
17 be expanded and that previous speaker had an  
18 excellent idea that the administration  
19 building would be great for it and too bad  
20 if somebody else has their eye on it. They  
21 keep buying buildings and buying buildings,  
22 are they improving their education? Who  
23 knows.

24                   Every student in a school as far as  
25 a college before they are handed a book they

1           should be handed a computer with wireless  
2           and rechargeable and could go anywhere and  
3           tap right into the school program and  
4           perform their lessons or whatever, so if  
5           there is overcrowding up there might I  
6           suggest that some of these schools start to  
7           develop new ways of thinking and start  
8           thinking out of the box.

9                         Also, we don't have a lot of money  
10           and we all talk about the deficits and so  
11           forth, so whether or not that's going to  
12           come to fruition, and once again, I will  
13           state that if a library were to be built in  
14           South Side seven blocks or six blocks from  
15           the original library is not the place and  
16           there is no guarantee that that neighborhood  
17           once again will improve and who at this time  
18           if you just had the library sitting there  
19           right now in that location would you want  
20           your 15-year-old daughter or granddaughter  
21           walking down that street at 8:00 this  
22           evening? Ask yourself that. Would you  
23           really want your daughter walking that?  
24           Would you want a 30-year-old woman walking  
25           down there?

1                   You know, it's just the -- I stopped  
2                   at a bank there at an ATM and two guys  
3                   called across the street, "Hey, you want to  
4                   buy any drugs?"

5                   You know, I mean, what a  
6                   neighborhood and to assume that somehow if  
7                   we put a library there it's just going to  
8                   make things wonderful again it's -- and,  
9                   unfortunately, when we get these projects  
10                  people -- they are very disturbing because  
11                  people have been locked out, people wind up  
12                  locked out, 30 years ago a Baptist minister  
13                  I worked with told me the only thing urban  
14                  renewal does is push young families out into  
15                  the street and, you know, at this point he  
16                  may be right. Look at the corner of Cedar  
17                  and Lackawanna where Coney Island is. There  
18                  is still no light, but they didn't even put  
19                  a streetlight. They paid for everything  
20                  themselves. Thank you and have a good day.

21                  MR. MCGOFF: Fay Franus.

22                  MS. FRANUS: Fay Fraus, Scranton. I  
23                  would just like to reiterate, I don't  
24                  believe you should be voting for this  
25                  library authority, but we all know you will.



1 I guess you want to go out with the way you  
2 came in voting against the people.

3 I don't know, Judy, why are so  
4 gung-ho on picking up garbage in South Side.  
5 I don't know if you are planning to run for  
6 election again, I don't know, something is  
7 to it, but all I'm trying to say is your  
8 garbage bags it won't do you any good.

9 I will still be back at council to  
10 pursue this lawsuit whether you are sitting  
11 here or not because I'm going to make sure  
12 that's paid by you back to the taxpayers.  
13 And I don't know, I could see a lot of  
14 bitterness since you lost this election and  
15 lost out. I'm sorry to hear that. That's  
16 just the way it goes. You may vote for this  
17 authority, but you can bet that we're going  
18 to stop it the best we can. You may think  
19 you have the last word. I don't even know  
20 what we can do, but the people became strong  
21 because of you and I guess we have to thank  
22 you for that because you got us so mad, you  
23 got us off our butts and we are starting to  
24 do things, so this is good. This is very  
25 good. So whatever you do you don't have to

1 address it, and like I said at one meeting,  
2 when Judy you said you went to Europe and I  
3 said I went to the Lackawanna River, I said,  
4 "Bye, Judy."

5 Well, I guess I could say, "Bye,  
6 Judy, that's it. I'm going."

7 So lots of luck to all of you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Fifth  
9 Order.

10 MS. EVANS: Good morning. This  
11 special meeting of council has been called  
12 for final -- oh, I'm sorry, we had another  
13 speaker.

14 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry.

15 MS. EVANS: Please come forward.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I didn't see anyone.

17 MS. CHILIPKO: I just have a quick  
18 little impromptu speech to make here today.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Your name, please.

20 MS. CHILIPKO: Mary Chilipko,  
21 Pinebrook section of Scranton, Pennsylvania,  
22 and I never thought that I would be standing  
23 up here twice so far. A library doesn't  
24 make a city or a neighborhood, the people  
25 do. We in Pinebrook have received nothing

1 from the City of Scranton in I can't tell  
2 you how many years, so the people we have  
3 worked together. We have an excellent  
4 working relationship with the Scranton  
5 Police Department, who I have the highest  
6 praise for, but I guess we will have to  
7 continue to come here. I hope with the new  
8 council we can change this anger and  
9 bitterness and these rotten exchanges.  
10 Perhaps, as you said, people like to be  
11 heard, perhaps you can arrange different  
12 times where you meet with different groups,  
13 with different interests in the city and  
14 perhaps sit down and listen to what these  
15 people have to say rather than as far as  
16 city council. So I will continue to come  
17 here as well.

18 People up there that are leaving,  
19 you lost an election. It wasn't this  
20 handful of speakers here, you lost an  
21 election. You are not victims, you lost an  
22 election. I hope to see a difference and a  
23 change here in January, and I will work to  
24 prevent the give-away to Lackawanna College  
25 of the Chick Feldman Complex. Thank you.

1 MR. FRANCE: How ya doing? Todd  
2 France, city resident. I came here to speak  
3 about the library since I got here. I have  
4 seen one side and another side and usually I  
5 can have -- I'm right in the middle, but if  
6 I have -- if I speak on it, I'm going to  
7 offend people and I don't want to do that  
8 because there is something else I'm looking  
9 for. What exactly is the status of the  
10 South Side Complex? Who owns it, who can  
11 use it, anybody know this or where do I go  
12 to find this out? Is this field being  
13 replaced, that's what I really want to find  
14 out?

15 MS. EVANS: Though the city  
16 administration had promised a replacement  
17 field, and I believe that was to have been  
18 provided by 2005, that never occurred.  
19 There is no replacement field. I believe  
20 the University of Scranton owns the South  
21 Side Complex, however, there is ongoing  
22 litigation concerning the sale of the  
23 complex and as a result it appears that the  
24 University has not actively assumed  
25 ownership, let us say, in terms of the

1 improvement or maintenance, etcetera. I do  
2 believe the fields have been in use at least  
3 during the summertime by some softball  
4 leagues and soccer leagues, but that is very  
5 likely due to the permission of the  
6 University of Scranton.

7 MR. FRANCE: Well, the South Side  
8 Teener League used to use that field, that  
9 one field to play. They can no longer play  
10 there because you got goal posts in the  
11 outfield. They don't have anywhere to go.  
12 They were up Connell Park, they were trying  
13 Scranton High School's, you know, I can't --  
14 I can't say definite, but from attending the  
15 meetings at South Side Little League it  
16 doesn't seem like it's working.

17 What about the Redevelopment  
18 Authority and the new field? How -- I mean,  
19 is that just a done deal or is there going  
20 to be a new field to replace that?

21 MS. EVANS: There is supposed to be a  
22 field, as I said, that was promised by the  
23 administration when the sale of the complex  
24 transpired between the Scranton  
25 Redevelopment Authority and the University

1 of Scranton and the administration  
2 immediately thereafter proceeded to use the  
3 down payment provided by the University of  
4 Scranton I believe to pay for landscaping at  
5 Nay Aug Park. I do firmly believe that the  
6 South Side Complex was a public recreational  
7 facility. It should never have been sold,  
8 but again, that is in litigation. If,  
9 indeed, the University of Scranton and the  
10 city are successful in that litigation then  
11 I certainly will be reminding the mayor and  
12 impressing upon the mayor that a replacement  
13 field is long overdue for the people of the  
14 City of Scranton.

15 MR. FRANCE: So the funds for  
16 replacement field have already been used up  
17 for something else?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

19 MR. FRANCE: Thanks.

20 MS. EVANS: No funds are set aside  
21 that I know of.

22 MR. FRANCE: Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: We'll try it again. Good  
25 morning. This special meeting of council

1 has been called for final consideration of  
2 the legislation which creates a Scranton  
3 Public Library Authority, authorizes the  
4 execution of articles of incorporation,  
5 appoints the first members of the authority  
6 and conveys title to the authority for the  
7 Albright Memorial Library, Greenridge  
8 Library and the Silkman House.

9 For the record, I strongly support  
10 the revitalization of South Side. My  
11 maternal roots are in South Side. My  
12 mother, her parents, grandparents, and  
13 extended family lived on Moosic Street and  
14 River Street. My grandparents began their  
15 courtship at Granito's Market. Like so many  
16 of you, I am saddened to witness the decline  
17 of various sections of South Side. Thus, I  
18 voted in favor of File of Council No. 26 of  
19 2006 in which \$1 million was allocated to  
20 the South Side Cedar Avenue Strategy Area  
21 Project.

22 On November 24, 2009, I voted in  
23 favor of Resolution No. 187 of 2009 for the  
24 Cedar Avenue Neighborhood Housing  
25 Revitalization Initiative.

1 Further, I have served the residents  
2 of South Scranton throughout my six years as  
3 a seated council woman by providing sewer  
4 repairs on Ripple Street, fighting for road  
5 repairs and paving, demolition of condemned  
6 properties and neighborhood patrols, and  
7 offering individual help to solve countless  
8 resident's problems.

9 In addition, I have fought against  
10 excessive and unnecessary borrowing, an  
11 unnecessary 25 percent tax increase and  
12 wasteful spending while calling for  
13 accountability, professionalism, and  
14 transparency. These are the duties and  
15 responsibilities I address not only for  
16 South Side, but for all residents from all  
17 sections of our city.

18 Realistically, I am sure my council  
19 colleagues will agree that we must serve the  
20 best interest of all Scrantonians. No  
21 decision pleases everyone, but as elected  
22 officials we must do the greatest good for  
23 the greatest number.

24 I have always been an advocate of  
25 reading and lifelong learning. My parents



1           gifted me with these priceless lessons and  
2           in turn I passed these lessons to my own  
3           children as well as thousands of students  
4           throughout our region. I am an adamant  
5           supporter of libraries and recognize the  
6           essential and noble roles they hold in  
7           societies. Unfortunately, now is not the  
8           time for a new library and it is not the  
9           time to create a library authority. The  
10          reasons are numerous and significant.

11                   (1). A library authority has the  
12           power to sell, lease, transfer and dispose  
13           of any property at any time acquired by it.  
14           Although the deed to the Albright Memorial  
15           Library states that it must remain in  
16           perpetuity a free public library for all of  
17           the people of Scranton, it is possible that  
18           the authority could transfer the property to  
19           a college or University, for example, that  
20           it turn would allow public accessibility in  
21           addition to that of it's students. Thus,  
22           the people of Scranton lose an architectural  
23           gem and an asset against the expressed  
24           desires of the Albright family.

25                   (2). A library authority has the

1 power to finance projects by making loans or  
2 agreements that may contain such provisions  
3 as the authority shall deem necessary. It  
4 can borrow money, make and issue negotiable  
5 notes, bonds, refunding bonds and other  
6 evidence of indebtedness or obligations.  
7 Such bonds shall have a maturity date not  
8 longer than 40 years. As we have witnessed  
9 recently, authorities such as the Scranton  
10 Parking Authority do not always seek local  
11 government approval for borrowing.

12 (3). A library authority has the  
13 power of eminent domain. What will be the  
14 impact to surrounding businesses in the  
15 direct vicinity of the proposed South Side  
16 Library.

17 (4.) A library authority has  
18 existence for a term of 50 years. Citizens  
19 will be forced to survive and subsidize this  
20 authority until the year 2060. Most of us  
21 in this chamber today with the exception of  
22 those lovely young people up in the balcony  
23 will not live to see the termination of any  
24 authorities.

25 (5). Authority members shall be a

1 taxpayer and maintain a business in or be a  
2 citizen of the municipality by which he is  
3 appointed. It is troubling members of the  
4 Scranton Public Library board in an  
5 emergency meeting appointed themselves to  
6 the proposed library authority without the  
7 input of the governing body, the Scranton  
8 City Council, Scranton City Council who must  
9 decide for or against the organization of  
10 the Scranton Public Library Authority.

11 (6). The Lackawanna County  
12 commissioners are on record opposing the  
13 construction of a new South Side Library and  
14 state that they will not fund or increase  
15 library taxes to sustain this project.

16 In fact, just this morning, a letter  
17 was delivered to each of us from  
18 Commissioner Munchak who gives us all his  
19 apologies for his inability to attend and  
20 speak at today's public hearing because he  
21 has so many meetings of his own. He is in  
22 favor of a new library, he is in favor of  
23 the creation of a municipal library  
24 authority. However, he raises some notable  
25 points and I will read now from his letter:

1 "The most important question applies to  
2 Phase II. Where is the funding coming from  
3 to build a new \$16 million library somewhere  
4 in the city? Even if it is downsized to \$10  
5 million who is going to pay for it? Unlike  
6 the other city authorities, sewer and  
7 parking, the library has no revenue stream  
8 other than late fees from overdue books.  
9 Therefore, the city and/or the county will  
10 be asked to sign on as guarantors of any and  
11 all borrowings which actually means making  
12 the monthly loan payments. Since the city  
13 has not contributed one dime to the  
14 operation of the Scranton Public Library and  
15 it's branches in at least 50 years, the  
16 county will be forced to add the loan  
17 payments at that the annual funding of  
18 operations. We cannot do this. We will not  
19 do this. All three commissioners are in  
20 agreement."

21 (7). The Pennsylvania State budget  
22 significantly cut funding to the libraries  
23 throughout the Commonwealth.

24 (8). The mayor has been planning a  
25 new library in South Side since at least

1           2007. Included in the 2008 capital budget,  
2           which was presented to Scranton City Council  
3           in September 2007, is 3.5 million for the  
4           renovation, acquisition and construction of  
5           new property under the title "Scranton  
6           Public Library." In November 2008, he  
7           included \$100,000 in the 2009 operating  
8           budget for the South Side Library.

9                       Coincidentally, the \$100,000 does  
10           not appear in the 2010 operating budget and  
11           where it went nobody knows. The only  
12           response giving by Stu Renda was: It was  
13           cut. However, I still don't know for what  
14           purpose it was or will be used or into what  
15           rabbit hole this money has disappeared.

16                      Nevertheless, Mayor Doherty is an  
17           official candidate for governor and although  
18           it is and has been his intention to build a  
19           library, which is why we are here today  
20           deliberating the creation of a library  
21           authority, he may not continue to serve as  
22           mayor and see this complicated and costly  
23           project to fruition. This is his very clear  
24           intention, to start something and leave it  
25           unfinished on unfunded.



1           seated only Mr. McGoff and I will remain in  
2           office to live with the ramification of this  
3           library authority and the financial  
4           consequences. The other two council members  
5           walk away after today and the mayor hopes to  
6           leave this behind him by the end of 2010.

7                     If this project is the right thing  
8           to do and can be managed financially, please  
9           table or if you must vote, vote against this  
10          legislation. Provide the time to see if  
11          Mr. Doherty remains as mayor and if the  
12          economy and our tax base better emerges from  
13          this recession. A 50-year decision should  
14          not be made at the 11th hour by those who  
15          have no further responsibility for it's  
16          success, failure or survival. That's it.

17                    MS. GATELLI: I don't have anything.

18                    MS. FANUCCI: My belief on the  
19          authority is that as it was for the past  
20          five weeks, it is not just about the new  
21          library. In fact, that is probably putting  
22          the cart before the horse especially in  
23          light of what has been happening with the  
24          funding on the state level. We need to be  
25          able to do things appropriately. Public

1 private partnerships seem to be the only way  
2 that certain entities can survive anymore.  
3 A public library is not going to be  
4 supported by just the public. It can't be  
5 done. Funding cannot be done in that light.  
6 You need to be able to have someone who is  
7 able to fundraise, think outside of the  
8 normal procedure to be able to keep these --  
9 to keep these public -- to be able to keep  
10 these options open for the public.

11 You are saying that this is our  
12 library and we don't want to lose it, but  
13 yet do not want to make any provisions to  
14 make sure that that is not what's going to  
15 happen. Who is going to pay for the people  
16 to keep the lights on, to be able to work  
17 the library system if all of that funding  
18 has been cut already this year. We are  
19 talking about this year and this year alone.  
20 Don't look ten years down the road because  
21 as of right now it's functioning on a daily  
22 basis that's going to be the problem after  
23 getting all of that money taken away.

24 I understand the concerns about the  
25 future and the new library. To me, they are



1 very wishful thinking at this point. To be  
2 able to say that some day we are going to  
3 have that, well, yeah, maybe some day in the  
4 future that would be wonderful. As of right  
5 now, that's an extreme wishlist as far as  
6 I'm concerned.

7 You at home see this at your house.  
8 Your home, everything is going up. It costs  
9 you more to live every single year. It  
10 costs you more to maintain your homes, your  
11 life-style, your -- it's not any different  
12 for these entities. Keeping the lights on  
13 at Albright is something we all want for the  
14 rest of our entire lives. I never want to  
15 see that place not be a library. It is  
16 beautiful. That building is amazing. They  
17 made provisions for that. They made sure  
18 that this is not going to happen.

19 We have a board that has been  
20 sitting saying they love the library, they  
21 have given their lives to making sure that  
22 this library does what it's supposed to do,  
23 be open to the public, making sure that they  
24 are giving you the services that they can.  
25 They are saying that they believe this is a

1 good idea yet that is still not enough.

2 We have speakers come up and say,  
3 "You are not listening to the public," but  
4 yet some of the public and as many of the  
5 public is saying the opposite of what you  
6 are saying so at what point do you believe  
7 who is the reality, you know, who is giving  
8 you the real check here? People who are in  
9 charge of the library, people who are saying  
10 this is what's been going on and the board  
11 that is overseeing the library, they don't  
12 know as much as the other people who seem to  
13 be saying no.

14 That is not my belief. My leave is  
15 that we need to continue to do things that  
16 are for the public. Maintaining a board,  
17 it's going on all around us. We have people  
18 everywhere around us has a library board and  
19 seem to be functioning well. They don't --  
20 aren't having the money which the funniest  
21 thing I have heard today that people are  
22 making money off of this deal. This is not  
23 about making money off the deal, as you said  
24 before, we just heard they are not making  
25 any money because the only thing they have

1 are library fees so how much money are we  
2 talking about pocketing?

3 People who sit on board do it  
4 because of their passion not any different  
5 than people who sit on council, not any  
6 different than people who sit in all of the  
7 other government seats. They do it because  
8 it's something they believe in. So to not  
9 entrust that to someone who honestly has the  
10 same passion is -- it's just something that  
11 I don't understand. I know that the fear is  
12 that we are trying to move this library to  
13 South Side and I'm not sure if that will  
14 happen or not happen, but right now my  
15 thought is that we need to do what's best so  
16 we can keep what we have going in a better  
17 direction and for the people who are not  
18 like us, who do not have computers at home,  
19 who cannot access the media that we can do  
20 from our own homes and to make it better.

21 So that is my feeling on it, and as  
22 far as the lame duck and acting like my  
23 responsibilities will be finished here the  
24 day I leave is ludicrous. I certainly  
25 didn't give four years of my life to this

1 city so that I can walk away and be done  
2 with my decisions. In fact, I am sure that  
3 my passion will come out in other areas and  
4 work hard in other areas, so to say that I  
5 would just walk away from my decisions is  
6 very, very not only disheartening, but  
7 excessively not true and it seems to be that  
8 that is used to benefit other people,  
9 certainly not on my reflection or why I ran  
10 and what I did for the city so far, so that  
11 is all I have. I certainly will be voting  
12 in favor of this and feel that my decisions  
13 are founded, and that is all I have. Thank  
14 you.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: You know, today we  
16 have heard from a lot of different people, a  
17 lot of different angles about the authority  
18 and about the library and where it's going  
19 to go and I want to talk a little bit about  
20 where some people think it's going to go and  
21 why some people think it's good and why some  
22 people think it's bad. Now, I believe that  
23 most people believe that the library if it's  
24 built will go in South Scranton, I believe  
25 that, but the people that are opposed or

1           opposing it have their reasons and I would  
2           speak for the people who are favor of it  
3           going in South Side and I would say don't  
4           fool yourself, because I think many of you  
5           know for the last six years or so I served  
6           on a state police commission and I have been  
7           to every single part of this state several  
8           times over. I have ridden with the  
9           Philadelphia police department, Harrisburg.  
10          I'm friends the Chief in Carlisle and  
11          Reading and Montgomery County and everywhere  
12          they have all problems like we see in South  
13          Side and the rest of this city, you know,  
14          prostitution, stabbings, shootings, drugs.  
15          Drugs is probably the biggest thing and now  
16          gangs and contrary to what people believe in  
17          this city we have every gang here.

18                 Do I think if the library goes into  
19          South Side it will anchor the Elm Street  
20          project, sure, I think that, but I don't  
21          think it's going to solve the problem the  
22          people think it's going to solve. You are  
23          going to push the people two blocks up the  
24          street, three blocks up the street. You are  
25          not going to rid the city of that. I think

1 we saw it years back we pushed them out of  
2 South Side and they landed a lot of them in  
3 West Side, I think most of them in South  
4 Scranton that's why I think we have the  
5 problems in South Scranton that we have.

6 I think if you are going to solve  
7 this problem of drugs and crime in this city  
8 you are going to have to put 25, 30, 40 more  
9 police officers on this street and force  
10 them out of this city, not from one part of  
11 the city to the other, not two blocks up.

12 So for that part of it, I think you  
13 are fooling yourself if you think that's  
14 going to solve the problem. It might solve  
15 the problem on Cedar Avenue, but they are  
16 going to be two or three blocks in the other  
17 direction. I just wanted to bring that up  
18 sitting here thinking.

19 There has been so many different  
20 sides of this issue brought up and I think  
21 what we are voting on is the authority not  
22 where the library is going, but the  
23 authority itself, but other aspects of it  
24 have been brought up and I just wanted to  
25 touch on that, and that's all I have. Thank

1           you, Mr. McGoff.

2                       MR. MCGOFF: First, very briefly, I'd  
3           just like to thank the students from  
4           Yellowwood for attending today's meeting.  
5           It's good to see students here and  
6           participating in municipal government.

7                       On the legislation that we have  
8           today, first of all, to reiterate there is  
9           no legislation on today's agenda for a new  
10          library. What we are talking about is all  
11          supposition. Nothing necessarily based on  
12          fact. We are dealing with Phase I,  
13          Commissioner Munchak, you know, said Phase  
14          II, we are here to deal with Phase I and  
15          that should be our concern, and I believe  
16          that Phase I of the legislation that we are  
17          dealing with today is good for the extended  
18          life of the library system in the City of  
19          Scranton.

20                      There are clauses in the legislation  
21          which I believe will ensure that the library  
22          system is maintained in the same way in  
23          which it is today. Section 6 of the  
24          legislation says: Properties shall be  
25          conveyed to the authority subject to all

1 conditions, covenants, restrictions,  
2 reservations and easements as may be set  
3 forth in documents in the chain of title,  
4 including the conditions that appear in the  
5 deeds to all three properties stating that  
6 they are to be used for library purposes.

7 I think that's important to  
8 understand. This authority is not being  
9 created with the idea of changing  
10 the library system in any significant way.  
11 It is going to maintain what we have and  
12 perhaps since the one property is not  
13 currently being used as library hopefully it  
14 will return to that under the conditions of  
15 this authority.

16 The second thing that Section 8 also  
17 includes the words: The city reserves the  
18 right to amend this ordinance or any portion  
19 thereof from time to time as it shall deem  
20 it advisable in the best interest of the  
21 promotion of the purposes and intent of this  
22 ordinance.

23 So right in the legislation the  
24 fears that this authority will somehow run  
25 amuck with the library system I think are



1 unfounded. There are provisions that the  
2 city can refer to it, in fact, the authority  
3 does not act in the best interest of the  
4 city. So with that, I feel that these are  
5 qualifications that make this an advisable  
6 things to do as we have heard from members  
7 of the library authority or the library  
8 board.

9 One other thing that I would like to  
10 add to the legislation, I would like to make  
11 a motion to amend Ordinance 95 of 2009 to  
12 include: Pursuant to the Authorities' Act.  
13 The board to be formed and thereafter seated  
14 shall consist of a majority of members who  
15 are residents of the City of Scranton.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

17 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

18 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

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

21 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

22 MS. GATELLI: Aye.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

25 MS. EVANS: Non.

1 MR. MCGOFF: The eyes have it and so  
2 moved. And that is all I have.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, prior to our  
4 vote, if I can make just one more  
5 announcement?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

7 MS. EVANS: This is some late  
8 breaking news, I'm sorry for disrupting the  
9 order of the meeting, there will a bake sale  
10 at Weston Field House this Saturday,  
11 December 19 from 9 to 12 p.m. and it is for  
12 the benefit of the Pancreatic Cancer  
13 Network. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Garvey.

15 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. NO  
16 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SIXTH ORDER. NO  
17 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A  
18 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -  
19 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 95, 2009  
20 - AS AMENDED - SIGNIFYING THE INTENTION AND  
21 DESIRE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
22 SCRANTON TO ORGANIZE AND AUTHORITY TO BE  
23 KNOWN AS THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
24 AUTHORITY UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF THE  
25 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, KNOWN AS THE MUNICIPALITY

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

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

17                   MS. FANUCCI: Second.

18                   MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

19                   MS. EVANS: Yes. For the numerous  
20                   reasons that I had enumerated under motions,  
21                   I move to table Item 7-A.

22                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

23                   MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All in  
24                   favor of tabling Item 7-A signify by saying  
25                   aye.

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Opposed? No.

4 MS. FANUCCI: No.

5 MS. GATELLI: No.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Motion defeated. Anyone  
7 else on the question? Roll call, please?

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

9 MS. EVANS: No.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

11 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

14 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

19 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION -  
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
21 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 112, 2009, AS AMENDED,  
22 ESTABLISHING THE DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES  
23 AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CITY HEALTH  
24 INSPECTOR, PROVING FOR THE PAYMENT OF AN  
25 ANNUAL LICENSE FEE FOR PUBLIC EATING AND

1 DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF  
2 SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING ANNUAL APPLICATION  
3 AND RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS, IMPOSING CERTAIN  
4 DUTIES UPON THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF  
5 INSPECTIONS AND THE CITY HEALTH INSPECTOR,  
6 PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR REVOCATION AN  
7 REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSES AND PROVIDING FOR  
8 IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES.

9 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the  
10 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
11 passage of Item 7-B.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
14 call, please?

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

18 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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

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MR. COURTRIGHT: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: So moved. Thank you.

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