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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL INTERVIEWS

HELD:

Tuesday, January 9, 2010

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:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL INTERVIEWEES

2 DANIEL KEELER. P. 4

3 JOSEPH WECHSLER. P. 10

4 GARY DIBILEO. P. 16

5 JOHN LOSCOMBE. P. 27

6 DANIEL HUBBARD. P. 40

7 JOSEPH SCHIRG. P. 35

8 MICHAEL TALUTO. P. 47

9 MARCEL LISI. P. 57

10 COURENE LOFTUS P. 63

11 THOMAS GALELLA. P. 80

12 WILLIAM GAUGHAN. P. 73

13 RICHARD JONES. P. 97

14 JAMES FREETHY. P.109

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Joyce.

9 MR. JOYCE: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Here. Please dispense
12 with the reading of the minutes.

13 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. PROCEED
14 WITH INTERVIEWS.

15 MS. EVANS: I respectfully ask that
16 all audience members turn off their cell
17 phones and refrain from speaking during the
18 interviews. We are interviewing candidates
19 for the vacant position on city council this
20 morning. Each candidate will be asked the
21 same six questions. Each interview will
22 last approximately 15 minutes.

23 (Mr. Keeler enters council chambers
24 and is interviewed as follows:)

25 MS. EVANS: Today's first candidate

1 is Daniel Keeler. Welcome.

2 MR. KELLER: Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: And thank you for your
4 interest in the position and the opportunity
5 to interview you today. Please keep your
6 answers concise and on point so that we may
7 adhere to the 15-minute time limit for each
8 interview.

9 MR. KEELER: Okay.

10 MS. EVANS: Mr. Keeler, please
11 provide us with the a brief summation of
12 your professional background.

13 MR. KEELER: Morning, president
14 Evans, Councilman Joyce, Rogan and McGoff.
15 Currently I'm employed at the Pennsylvania
16 State Treasury, Bureau of Unclaimed
17 Property. I have been employed there
18 approximately three years and about two
19 months. Prior to that, I worked in Florida
20 in the southeast region for hurricane relief
21 after Hurricane Wilma. I also spent a
22 little bit of time in Hagensburg,
23 Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. Before
24 that, I worked about four and a half years
25 at the Lackawanna County 911 Center. I feel

1 those attributes with the 911 center and the
2 hurricane relief and right now in financial
3 a manner with the state treasury I could be
4 a great benefit to the city and also the
5 council, the public safety and things of
6 that nature.

7 I'm married. I have four children
8 I'm a homeowner and taxpayer and I'm a
9 resident of West Scranton.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
12 two parts. Why are you interested in the
13 city council vacancy and what would you hope
14 to accomplish as a member of city council?

15 MR. KEELER: I'm interested in the
16 vacancy at city council. I feel I could be
17 a strong, independent voice for the
18 taxpayers of Scranton as well as the unions
19 within the municipality. I feel I could be
20 a great help to them. I am a union
21 representative in the state in my current
22 employer. I also see that some -- there is
23 a lot of progress that the city is making.
24 I'd like to contribute to that and I'm
25 looking into different ways we can move

1 forward in a much more positive manner.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Keeler, what do you
3 feel is the proper role of a city council in
4 a strong mayor form of government?

5 MR. KEELER: The proper form for the
6 city council in a strong mayor form of
7 government is to look over the legislation
8 that he has drafted. If there is any
9 changes or maybe better ideas that could be
10 put forth back to him to maybe for different
11 revenues and new sources of income for the
12 city and to maybe draft and pass legislation
13 to maybe come when it is passed down to
14 council.

15 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
16 parts. Number one, do you support opening
17 the mayor's annual budget to examine and
18 make cuts? If so, what cuts could be
19 foresee making, and are you willing to raise
20 taxes and if so under what circumstances?

21 MR. KEELER: I am certainly in favor
22 of opening the budget to look at new ways
23 that if they are not drafted there that
24 maybe there is a better way of putting the
25 burden on the taxpayers rather than raising

1 taxes. I'm not a proponent of raising
2 taxes. The tax base is high enough here.
3 I'm willing to look into new revenue to
4 bring new income into the city without
5 putting the burden on the taxpayers, which
6 is myself. I'm in much favor of that.

7 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
8 for new revenue streams for the annual
9 budget?

10 MR. KEELER: I haven't really
11 thought about that too much. I think there
12 is a large consistency of out of town and
13 out of municipality landlords that are
14 reaping the benefits of the taxpayers in
15 this city whether they are paying taxes for
16 income or contributing to our economy, and I
17 feel that it could be a much stronger
18 emphasis put on tenant landlords than would
19 contribute greatly to the income of the
20 city.

21 MR. ROGAN: And would you actively
22 pursue increased PILOTS from nonprofits, and
23 if so from whom?

24 MR. KEELER: I would not like to
25 specifically name who, but I would certainly

1 hope to look into taxing nonprofit
2 organizations.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. Keeler, finally, why
4 are you the best candidate for this
5 position?

6 MR. KEELER: Why I'm the best
7 candidate for this position? I bring a new
8 type of outlook on city government. There
9 are times when the old ways just don't work.
10 I have a very strong background in public
11 safety. I would contribute greatly to
12 negotiations with the union and with the
13 city, and I have a great respect for the
14 public safety employees of this city and the
15 policemen and the firemen.

16 I believe I can, you know, take a
17 youthful but responsible approach being the
18 age of 31 and a father of four and a
19 homeowner and hopefully move this city
20 forward in the right direction.

21 MS. EVANS: Do you have any
22 questions for us?

23 MR. KEELER: No, I do not.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you very
25 much for your participation.

1 MR. KEELER: Thank you very much.
2 It's an honor and a privilege.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 (Joseph Wechsler enters council
5 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

6 MS. EVANS: Good morning. Our next
7 candidate is Joseph Wechsler and welcome to
8 you?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: And thank you for your
11 interest in the position and the opportunity
12 to interview you today. Please keep your
13 answers concise and on point so that we may
14 adhere to the 15-time limit for each
15 interview. Mr. Wechsler, please provide us
16 with a brief summation of your professional
17 background?

18 MR. WECHSLER: I am a graduate of
19 the University of Scranton. I have a BS in
20 public administration. I'm currently a
21 plant manager for a local company. I have
22 over 30 years experience in budget and
23 planning. I also have experience as a
24 five-year member of the Scranton Zoning
25 Board, I served as chairman, and I also have

1 12 years experience as a neighborhood leader
2 from the East Mountain Resident's
3 Association where I have served as the
4 president and vice president.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
7 two parts. One, why are you interested in
8 the city council vacancy; and two, what
9 would you hope to accomplish on city
10 council?

11 MR. WECHSLER: I have been
12 interested in city government probably as
13 long as I can remember. I have always had
14 an interest in Scranton. My family has a
15 long history. We are here for over 100
16 years. I believe that as a member of city
17 council the goal is to provide leadership
18 for the citizens. It's a day-to-day job
19 that's only seen on TV once a week. I would
20 like to bring my experience as a
21 neighborhood leader and as a professional
22 manager to the council.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler, what do
24 you feel is the proper role of a city
25 council in a strong mayor form of

1 government?

2 MR. WECHSLER: I think a councilman
3 actually serves as the first connection to
4 it's citizens in the city. My experience
5 has been with council people is they are
6 readily available. I think that you seen
7 more in public and you have a responsibility
8 to answer people's questions. The mayor is
9 the leader of the city, but he does that
10 through the council and advice of the
11 council.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Okay, my question has
14 several parts. Number one, do you support
15 opening the mayor's annual budget to examine
16 them and make cuts? If so, what cuts could
17 you foresee making. And number two, are you
18 willing to raise taxes, and if so under what
19 circumstances?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Well, in my
21 experience, I always look at a budget as a
22 living document. In my business, we make a
23 projection a projection -- our projections
24 are made of 2010 were made in 2009, so we
25 look at it each month and see what can be

1 done to save money and make more -- things
2 more efficient.

3 I think tax increases are a matter
4 of last resort, but we all realize that
5 sometimes that does have to happen.

6 In terms of cuts, I think cuts are
7 always something that you can look at, but I
8 think really in terms of a budget efficiency
9 should be looked at before cuts. I think in
10 our city and through a lot of the areas I
11 think we don't know what our true costs are
12 in the government. I would like to see a
13 plan where we look at establishing costs,
14 how much does it cost to fix the pothole,
15 how much does it cost to fix the street,
16 establish those costs, see if they're
17 realistic and see what can be done to save
18 money.

19 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
20 for new revenue streams for the operating
21 budget?

22 MR. WECHSLER: I think the main
23 thing for revenue streams in the budget has
24 to be bringing more people back to the city
25 and more businesses back to the city. Right

1 now we are suffering from a problem of a lot
2 of the things that are happening on the
3 outskirts of Scranton. We have to find a
4 way to bring those back in here. You know,
5 also we are going to have to look at our
6 collections. Before we go increasing, we
7 have to getting money that we are owed and
8 you have seen in the past that we have a
9 current problem with that.

10 MR. ROGAN: Would you actively
11 pursue increased PILOTS from nonprofits and
12 if so from whom?

13 MR. WECHSLER: I think in the city
14 we have the problem that we are always going
15 to have the nonprofits. They are a part of
16 our city, but other cities in the country
17 have the same problems and make it work. I
18 think that one of the problems with the
19 nonprofits that we have is when a nonprofit
20 buys a property that is currently on the tax
21 roles, I think we have to find a way to make
22 an agreement that somehow that money remains
23 in the city either through a contribution or
24 that the new project would replace the
25 revenue stream that was lost.

1 MS. EVANS: And why you are the best
2 candidate for this position?

3 MR. WECHSLER: I think my commitment
4 to the city has been demonstrated over the
5 past few years. I have been involved in the
6 neighborhood association, I have been
7 involved with the zoning board. I believe
8 that I'm ready to do this job. I have been
9 out in public. I know what it is to sit up
10 there and have people come before you with
11 true problems. On the zoning board, the
12 zoning board is true democracy. Someone
13 comes to this podium to represent their
14 interests. They are not here for any
15 political reason, they are here to protect
16 their home or that neighborhood, and I found
17 that emotions get excited there and I've
18 demonstrated that I have been able to handle
19 that and deal with people and help them with
20 their problems and I think I'm ready to do
21 this job.

22 MS. EVANS: Do you have any
23 questions for us?

24 MR. WECHSLER: No, but I would be
25 remiss if I didn't mention that I am

1 married, I forgot that part in my
2 qualifications, and I do have two children
3 that attended Scranton schools and one is a
4 graduate who currently got employed, which
5 is good, and my daughter is a student at the
6 University of Scranton. So I would be
7 remiss if I didn't mention my wife, Cathy.
8 So that's it.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

10 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

11 MS. EVANS: Our next candidate has
12 not yet arrived and if you will bear with us
13 until we are able to interview him.

14 (Gary DiBileo enters council
15 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

16 MS. EVANS: Our next candidate is
17 Gary DiBileo and welcome.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.
19 Good morning, city council.

20 MS. EVANS: Good morning. And thank
21 you for your interest in the position and
22 the opportunity to interview you today.
23 Please keep your answers concise and on
24 point so that we may adhere to the 15 minute
25 time limit for each interview. And,

1 Mr. DiBileo, please provide us with a brief
2 summation of your professional background.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. First of all,
4 thanks for having me, I appreciate the
5 opportunity to be here. Great to see people
6 in the audience, also having interest in
7 this open position. First, I'd like to
8 congratulate all of you and wish you the
9 very best of luck.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: President Evans, Mr.
12 Joyce, Mr. Rogan, congratulations on a great
13 victory. I think it was a victory for the
14 entire city. I know you can and will do
15 great things for the City of Scranton. I
16 want you to know that I'm ready, willing,
17 and able to help you in any way I can to
18 work with you as a team player and this is
19 the reason I'm here.

20 I had the privilege in 2002, 2003,
21 '04 and '05 to actually work here on city
22 council. I really enjoyed my time here. In
23 '03 and '04 I had the privilege, make that
24 '04 and '05 I had the privilege of working
25 with you, Mrs. Evans, and with

1 Mr. Courtright who has gone onto the tax
2 collector's office.

3 I believe that we treated people
4 fairly. We attempted to make cuts in the
5 budget. We rewrote the budgets passing
6 legislation together and in general serving
7 the people of the City of Scranton. I left
8 here in 2000 -- after 2005 simply to stand
9 up for things that I felt were important, to
10 stand up for the things that I stood for and
11 I believe you stand for those same things,
12 Mrs. Evans. And I also believe that
13 Mr. Joyce and Mr. Rogan stand for those same
14 things. The reason I know that is because
15 we did spend time on campaign trail
16 together.

17 We stand for open and honest
18 government. We stand for televising these
19 meetings and no back room politics. We
20 stand for awarding low bidders jobs. We
21 stand for listening to people. We stand for
22 being fiscally responsible. We stand for
23 making the required cuts and expenses in
24 order to prevent continual borrowing each
25 year to balance our budgets, and we stand

1 for treating public safety professionals
2 with respect and dignity.

3 And we stand for something that you
4 had mentioned earlier this week, Mrs. Evans,
5 and that is working with the mayor, whoever
6 that may be, but working for the people of
7 the City of Scranton and that mayor can be
8 you, Mrs. Evans. If the current mayor is
9 successful at leaving this position, which
10 is something he wants to do, that position
11 would be yours. And in this case I would be
12 very happy to work with you, Mrs. Evans,
13 although, it could be Mr. Rogan, it could be
14 Mr. Joyce, it could even Mr. McGoff, okay?
15 Whoever that may be I'm willing to work with
16 that mayor.

17 There is no elected election for
18 this position, but I hope you won't ignore
19 the fact that just two months ago 6,000
20 people went out their way and wrote my name
21 in on their ballot for elected office. I
22 don't think it's important as to what office
23 they wrote my name in for because my name
24 was not on the ballot, but they stood up for
25 me and wrote my name on their ballot and for

1 that I'm very honored. We share many of
2 those same supporters most of you do and
3 myself and I hope that you would recognize
4 those supporters that we share.

5 The last elected office I held was
6 right here in Scranton City Council and I
7 would like to think that much of that
8 support I received two months ago in the
9 form of 6,000 write-in votes was a result of
10 my work here on city council. I would like
11 to think that if my work was not acceptable
12 to the people of this city I wouldn't have
13 received 6,000 votes even for dogcatcher.
14 But thankfully people do support me as they
15 do support you and I'm happy for that.

16 I believe city council could use a
17 small business person. I manage payroll at
18 my office, I have to make tough decisions in
19 my own business and I'm in the process of
20 doing that right now. We are making cuts in
21 my agency and it's not easy to do, but it's
22 something that has to be done. I pay the
23 high business privilege taxes in this city,
24 so from that aspect I think that I can help
25 share some of the pain of the business

1 owners in this community that pay those high
2 taxes.

3 I am committed to the City of
4 Scranton. I am raising my family here, my
5 four children. I own four parcels of land.
6 I own my own business, as I said. I coach
7 in sports and I am willing to serve in any
8 way I can the City of Scranton, and that's
9 why I'm applying here.

10 But the elections of the past are
11 over and I'm at peace with those elections.
12 This is today. This is 2010. There is a
13 lot of work to do. The people of this city
14 need you and I would simply ask that you
15 consider me to help you to be a team player
16 to work with you and moving the City of
17 Scranton forward. Thank you very much.

18 MR. ROGAN: You touched on some of
19 these points in your introduction, but the
20 first question is why are you interested in
21 the city council vacancy, and the second
22 part is what were you hoping to accomplish
23 as a member of city council?

24 MR. DIBILEO: Well, I'm interested
25 simply because I'd like to serve the city in

1 any way I can, and when this opening came up
2 I immediately had interest in it. Having
3 been here before, having done some of the
4 work that I did before, and I think that I
5 can help to be more fiscally responsible,
6 help to try to prevent borrowing each year
7 to pay our bills, try to make sure that the
8 people at this podium where I stand are
9 treated with respect and dignity. Try to
10 stop any perception of backroom politics and
11 keep these television cameras rolling, not
12 try to change television companies for no
13 particular reason and in general just work
14 hard to serve the people that need our help.

15 You know, on city council some
16 people don't realize that during the week
17 you get many, many phone calls and many
18 e-mails from people that just need somebody
19 to listen to them and when I served my four
20 years on city council I did a lot of that, a
21 lot of the listening to people, taking phone
22 calls, taking e-mails, responding to people
23 and in any small way trying to help as best
24 I can, so a lot of that work goes unnoticed,
25 and I'd love to get back at helping the

1 people in the city no matter what small
2 problems they may have or big problems.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. DiBileo, what do
4 you feel is the proper role for city council
5 in this strong mayor form of government?

6 MR. DIBILEO: I think it is to work
7 with the mayor of the City of Scranton,
8 whoever that may be, but to work for the
9 people of the city. We are to review
10 legislation that is passed from the strong
11 mayor form of government, and I think that
12 means thoroughly doing your homework and
13 reviewing that legislation and if there is
14 any legislation -- any amendments that need
15 to be made to attempt to make those
16 amendments by working with the mayor of the
17 City of Scranton, and not trying to override
18 that strong form of the government that
19 exists.

20 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
21 parts. Number one, do you support opening
22 the mayor's annual budgets to examine them
23 and make cuts? If so, what cuts could be
24 foresee making? And number two, are you
25 willing to raise taxes and if so under what

1 circumstances.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Well, in the past I
3 have been involved in rewriting budgets and
4 trying to make cuts. Unfortunately, at that
5 point in time the veto power of the mayor
6 existed, and I am willing to do the same
7 thing. I'm willing to make the cuts that we
8 feel after reviewing the budget just have to
9 be made because it's not about the people
10 inside of that budget, but it's about the
11 people that pay the bills, the people of the
12 City of Scranton are the people that we
13 serve the most, and I just believe in doing
14 everything possible to help the people of
15 the City of Scranton, the taxpayers, and as
16 far as raising taxes, that would be the
17 absolute last resort as far as needing to
18 come up and meet the budget requirements,
19 but the absolutely last resort. I would do
20 everything in my power to not raise taxes.

21 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
22 for new revenue streams for the annual
23 budget?

24 MR. DIBILEO: New revenue streams
25 has always been a challenge. In my time

1 here at city council, we had met with many
2 people outside of the city council that had
3 ideas and I would like to revisit those
4 ideas. Many of them were great ideas,
5 unfortunately, were not looked at but
6 specifically I'd like to reserve those ideas
7 and get back at reviewing the things that we
8 looked at about four years ago.

9 MR. ROGAN: And would you actively
10 pursue increased PILOTS from nonprofits and
11 if so from who?

12 MR. DIBILEO: Well, absolutely. I
13 know that -- I know that Mrs. Gatelli four
14 years ago forged a campaign to go door to
15 door to nonprofits. Not much came of that
16 that I'm aware of, but I think that working
17 with nonprofits and trying to get them to
18 contribute more to the coffers of the City
19 of Scranton I believe is very important, and
20 I would reach out my hand and I would knock
21 on doors. All they can say is, no, but at
22 least the important thing is that we asked.

23 MS. EVANS: And, Mr. DiBileo, why
24 are you the best candidate for this
25 position?

1 MR. DIBILEO: Well, you know, I
2 can't say I'm the best candidate, I can say
3 that I would be in my opinion a very good
4 candidate for this position. I know that
5 some of the people that have applied for
6 this position are wonderful people and I
7 think would serve the city very well. Many
8 of the names I do not know. I can't speak
9 for them other than knowing that they would
10 be good candidates, also, but I can tell you
11 that as far as I'm concerned I'll work
12 tirelessly for the people of this city and I
13 know that what I'm capable of and knowing
14 what I'm capable of would certainly make me
15 a great candidate for this position having
16 been here before.

17 But as I said, the fact that I have
18 that experience is not solely the reason. I
19 have a desire to try to help people and to
20 work hard and when I left here four years
21 ago I had no regrets, but I really enjoyed
22 working here and I think I had a lot to
23 offer and I'd like to offer those same
24 things once again.

25 MS. EVANS: And do you have any

1 questions for us.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Not really. Not
3 really. I just want to wish you the very
4 best and I hope I have the opportunity to
5 sit right alongside of you and help you
6 serve the City of Scranton and it would be
7 an honor to do so. Thank you very much.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you very for your
9 participation, Mr. DiBileo.

10 MR. DIBILEO: I appreciate it.

11 (Mr. John Loscombe enters council
12 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

13 MS. EVANS: Our next candidate is
14 John Loscombe. Welcome.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good morning,
16 Council. Good morning, audience.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you for your
18 interest in the position, Mr. Loscombe, and
19 the opportunity to interview you today.
20 Please keep your answers concise and on
21 point so that we may adhere to the 15-minute
22 time limit for each interview.

23 Mr. Loscombe, please provide us with a brief
24 summation of your professional background.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: You'll have to pardon

1 my voice, I'm fighting a cold, it's a little
2 raspy. I'm a graduate of West Scranton High
3 School, academic course. Upon graduation
4 from high school, I went to Johnson College
5 where I graduated with an associate's degree
6 in architectural design. I have taken
7 various real estate courses through the
8 University of Scranton, Penn State and
9 Lackawanna throughout the years.

10 Upon my graduation from Johnson
11 College, I accepted a position with Burns
12 and Knowell Architects, Monday to Fridays,
13 and I also had a job with C & D builders in
14 Lake Ariel for the weekends which ultimately
15 opened up into a full-time position
16 involving design and real estate sales.

17 In the early 80's the market
18 bottomed out for real estate, so I accepted
19 a position at Mt. Airy Lodge as their
20 coordinator of architectural development
21 where I met with the planning and zoning
22 commissions and helped with their
23 development plans at that time. An
24 opportunity came up to take the test offered
25 by the University of Scranton, a civil

1 service test for the fire department of
2 Scranton which I looked at as an opportunity
3 to work closer to home. I took the test for
4 the fire department and I was appointed. I
5 served a career on the fire department and
6 retired as a captain.

7 Upon my retirement from the fire
8 department, I have been active in insurance
9 and real estate through sales, inspections
10 and appraisals. I have maintained a general
11 contractor's license in the City of Scranton
12 since 1986 and I also own a fire retarding
13 business.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
16 two parts. Why are you interested in the
17 city council vacancy and what would you hope
18 to accomplish as a member of city council?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, as a lifelong
20 resident of the City of Scranton, as a
21 parent and a grandparent, I have seen family
22 members and many of my friends move out of
23 this area seeking opportunities elsewhere
24 that weren't offered in Scranton. I believe
25 with my blue and white collar background I

1 could work with the council and mayor to get
2 more family sustaining jobs in this area. I
3 would also like to -- I have the ability to
4 work on the budgets and contracts and I
5 would like to see all of the city employees
6 receive the proper training, tools, and
7 equipment necessary to do their jobs.

8 MR. MCGOFF: What do you feel is the
9 proper role of city council in our strong
10 mayor form of government?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, city council is
12 the legislative branch of city government
13 and as such I believe city council has the
14 prerogative and the power to draft
15 legislation that would be beneficial to all
16 city residents. I believe city council has
17 the opportunity to subpoena and investigate
18 when necessary and the city council I think
19 the whole system is basically based on a
20 checks and balances system. The city
21 council should work with the mayor, but I
22 don't think necessarily work for the mayor.

23 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
24 parts. One, do you support opening the
25 mayor's annual budget to examine them and

1 make cuts? If so, what cuts do you foreseen
2 making? And number two, are you willing to
3 raise taxes and if so under what
4 circumstances?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would be willing to
6 open the mayor's budget. As far as cuts
7 specifically, I can't say that. I think the
8 budget would have to be looked at department
9 by department, item by item, and determine
10 if any cuts are possible at that point
11 whether it be positions or salaries. I'm
12 sorry, the next part of the question?

13 MR. JOYCE: Are you willing to raise
14 taxes and if so under what circumstances?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would never be
16 willing to raise taxes, that would be a last
17 resort. I have a mother that's on a fixed
18 income and I know what every dollar increase
19 means to her. I think we should look at
20 alternate revenue sources as a first option
21 before we came to that point.

22 MR. ROGAN: You lead into my next
23 question which was what ideas do you have
24 for new revenue streams for the annual
25 operating budget?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Ideas for new revenue
2 streams. Well, based on personal
3 experience, I could think of a few ideas.
4 One might be a more user friendly permit
5 system, building permits. By that I mean
6 maybe we can generate a little more income
7 from the permit office if it was made easier
8 for the public and the contractors to obtain
9 a permit. Right now they have to find a
10 parking spot in the downtown, go to the
11 fourth floor, sometimes wait in line. I
12 mean, the personnel up there are great, but
13 they can only do -- deal with what they
14 have.

15 Two options might be today with
16 today's internet technology maybe we can
17 look at applying on-line and paying on-line
18 for permits. They actually have the
19 application on-line that you can printout,
20 but you can't fill it in.

21 Another alternate might be setting
22 up a satellite office where the contractors
23 and the public could have easier access,
24 maybe say the DPW compound as an example.
25 They can pull in there, drive in, get their

1 permits and applications and it's much
2 easier for them. I think that would help
3 generate, in a business I know people who
4 have bypassed the permit system taking a
5 chance because of the frustration.

6 Another idea which is -- which I
7 have been a proponent of for years and I
8 have actually spoken as this podium and
9 council several years ago is to bring an EMS
10 system back into the fire department. I
11 think the ambulance service would generate
12 revenue for the city and also enhance the
13 public safety.

14 Some other ideas might be amusement
15 taxes, but I would look around the country
16 for different ideas for cities like ours
17 that are struggling. I'm not sure there is
18 other ideas out there that may work without
19 impacting the nonusers of the services.

20 MR. ROGAN: And the second part
21 would be, would you actively pursue
22 increased PILOTS from nonprofits, and if so
23 from whom?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: That would be in lieu
25 of taxes?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Definitely. I
3 would look at the PILOTS and as far as who,
4 I would look at the major institutions
5 first, the Universities, the hospitals, they
6 are using the largest amount of services.

7 MS. EVANS: And, Mr. Loscombe, why
8 you are the best candidate for this
9 position?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good question. No, I
11 believe I'm the best candidate for this
12 position. I believe I have proven my
13 dedication to the city and the public
14 through my career on the fire department.
15 I'm a businessman and a family man. I have
16 had both blue collar and white collar
17 experience. I'm a fresh face. I don't have
18 any political agenda. I'm not looking to
19 advance any political career and I believe I
20 could work well with the current council and
21 the mayor.

22 MS. EVANS: Do you have any
23 questions for us?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Off the top of my
25 head, no. I'm sorry.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you so much
2 for participating in the process today.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you very much.
5 Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

6 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

7 (Mr. Joseph Schirg enters council
8 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

9 MS. EVANS: Our next candidate is
10 Joseph Schirg. Welcome.

11 MR. SCHIRG: Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you for your
13 interest in the position and the opportunity
14 to interview you today. Please keep your
15 answers concise and on point so that we may
16 adhere to the 15-minute time limit for each
17 interview.

18 MR. SCHIRG: Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. Schirg, please
20 provide us with a brief summation of your
21 professional background?

22 MR. SCHIRG: Okay. I'm Joe Schirg,
23 I live in South Scranton. I'm with Classic
24 Properties, Clarks Summit. I work out of
25 the Dunmore office. I have an associate

1 degree in business administration, market
2 management.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. SCHIRG: You're welcome.

5 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
6 two parts. One, why you are interested in
7 the city council position; and two, what
8 would you hope to accomplish on city
9 council?

10 MR. SCHIRG: I'm interested in the
11 city council position because I'm tired of
12 seeing everything look like a three-ring
13 circus on Comedy Central. It needs to have
14 some professionalism and I hope to represent
15 the taxpayers being a long-time resident of
16 the City of Scranton myself, whatever needs
17 to be done to take care of the budget has to
18 be done.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Schirg, what do you
20 think is the proper role of city council in
21 a strong mayor form of government?

22 MR. SCHIRG: It has to represent all
23 of the people and make all of the necessary
24 cuts and adjustments. In other words, you
25 have to balance a budget every year. You

1 just can't spend more money than you have
2 coming in. You can't do it in your own
3 house, it has to be done. Whatever cuts are
4 necessary either difficult or hard it has to
5 be done. The city has to run properly.

6 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
7 parts. Number one, do you support opening
8 the mayor's annual budgets to examine them
9 and make cuts? If so, what cuts could be
10 foresee making? And number two, are you
11 willing to raise taxes and if so under what
12 circumstances?

13 MR. SCHIRG: I think the budget
14 should be opened. It should be opened for
15 everybody to look at it. Whatever cuts are
16 necessary to make must be made. We must
17 look for different sources of revenue. With
18 the revenue you have now, you have to look
19 for ways of increasing that revenue. There
20 is a lot of different ways you could
21 increase the revenue.

22 MR. ROGAN: You lead into my
23 question as well, what ideas do you have for
24 new revenue streams for the annual operating
25 budgets?

1 MR. SCHIRG: Well, you have to look
2 at existing revenues of what you have now.
3 You have to look at ways of increasing, and
4 if it's necessary to raise taxes you are
5 going to have to do it, but you are going to
6 have to justify your tax increases to the
7 people.

8 MR. ROGAN: And would you actively
9 pursue increased PILOTS from nonprofits, and
10 if so from whom?

11 MR. SCHIRG: Yes, I would because we
12 are providing police and fire protection to
13 the local colleges and nonprofits. They
14 must come up with their fair share. No
15 longer can very they have a free ride.

16 MS. EVANS: And, Mr. Schirg, why are
17 the best candidate for this position?

18 MR. SCHIRG: Why am I the best
19 candidate?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. SCHIRG: Because I feel I could
22 represent all of the people because in my
23 profession I deal with all of sorts of
24 people from different backgrounds and I have
25 listened to people, for instance, you asked

1 where do you want to buy a house, 99 percent
2 of the people tell me not in Scranton. And
3 I ask them why and they tell me why. It's
4 because of the taxes, the way the city is
5 run and the job opportunities could be
6 vastly improved, but I think that we would
7 have more people buying houses in the city
8 of Scranton and providing more income.

9 MS. EVANS: Do you have any
10 questions for us, Mr. Schirg.

11 MR. SCHIRG: From reading the paper,
12 I see you are going to make your decision by
13 Tuesday; right?

14 MS. EVANS: Hopefully so, yes.

15 MR. SCHIRG: Yes, okay.

16 MS. EVANS: And that would be part
17 of our agenda for Tuesday evening when the
18 nomination and appointment occurs the office
19 would then contact the individual who has
20 been selected.

21 MR. SCHIRG: Okay, I appreciate it.

22 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. And thank
23 you for your participation today.

24 MR. SCHIRG: Thank you all for your
25 time.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

2 MR. SCHIRG: Take care now.

3 MS. EVANS: Bye-bye.

4 (Mr. Daniel Hubbard enters council
5 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

6 MS. EVANS: Our next candidate is
7 Danielle Hubbard. Welcome.

8 MR. HUBBARD: Good morning.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you for your
10 interest in the position and the opportunity
11 to interview you today. Please keep your
12 answers concise and on point so that we can
13 adhere to the 15-minute time limit for each
14 interview. And, Mr. Hubbard, please provide
15 us with a brief summation of your
16 professional background?

17 MR. HUBBARD: I am currently a
18 licensed federal merchant marine officer. I
19 hold a 100-ton captain's license. I have
20 worked in the graphic and advertising
21 industry since the early 1990's, and the
22 boating industry as well. Both industries,
23 building, of course, and advertising for
24 different boat companies and running the
25 boats as well. Currently, I am a stay at

1 home father after spending the last two
2 years taking care of my ailing father.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
5 two parts. Why are you interested in the
6 city council vacancy, and what do you hope
7 to accomplish on city council?

8 MR. HUBBARD: Well, obviously, I'm
9 interested in the vacancy because I'd like
10 to be able to make some -- help make some
11 changes in this city for the better of the
12 residents on various levels. Accomplish, I
13 would like to see council and the mayor or
14 the administration itself work more
15 cohesively to try to help the residents of
16 this city, try to bring the neighborhoods
17 together, unify the city as one instead of
18 having it fractured in so many various
19 pieces that don't really work well together.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Hubbard, what do
21 you think is the proper role of city council
22 in a strong mayor form of government?

23 MR. HUBBARD: Checks and balances.
24 The council should be here to be
25 legislative, but also to put a -- put in

1 place a set of checks and balances to try
2 and keep a mayor strong form of government
3 on the right track towards helping the
4 residents of the city equally across the
5 board.

6 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
7 parts. Number one, do you support opening
8 the mayor's annual budgets to examine them
9 and make cuts? If so, what cuts could be
10 you foresee making? And number two, are you
11 willing to raise taxes, and if so under what
12 circumstances?

13 MR. HUBBARD: Certainly I am
14 definitely for opening the budget. I think
15 any budget could be trimmed and shaped a
16 little bit better to help streamline it and
17 allow the city to function more efficiently.

18 Cuts, I mean, there is -- where
19 would you start with the cuts? I mean, you
20 would have to really look at the budget
21 intently to see exactly where to start
22 making the cuts, but I believe there is a
23 lot of departments in the city where we
24 could scale back on some of the personnel.
25 Unfortunately, that's not what a lot of

1 people would want to hear, but in trying
2 times obviously things have to be done. I
3 mean, cuts would have be made in order to
4 streamline the budget. You would have to
5 just go department by department and try to
6 I guess trim the fat and try to streamline
7 that.

8 As far as raising taxes, I don't
9 think that is something that should be put
10 on the table as of yet. I think that if the
11 budget is cut properly and streamlined we
12 can avoid raising taxes considering
13 everything else in the city is going up.
14 Electric rates, sewer rates, everything is
15 increasing on the residents of the city, so
16 to put more of a tax burden on them right
17 now would definitely be I think unnecessary
18 to the people of the city. I think that the
19 money can be found in other places within
20 the budget to help alleviate the debt and
21 finances of the city without putting more of
22 a tax burden on the people of the Scranton
23 certainly.

24 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
25 no new revenue streams for the annual

1 budget?

2 MR. HUBBARD: I mean, I think if we
3 can look at the tax structure in the City of
4 Scranton and businesses and work with the
5 tax structure and help lower some of the
6 taxes on small businesses in the City of
7 Scranton then we would be able to bring more
8 business into the downtown, into the smaller
9 neighborhood centers, North Scranton,
10 Petersburg Corners, things like that, where
11 you can bring small businesses into the
12 neighborhoods and build, you know, like the
13 neighborhoods used to be in the city. I
14 mean, every neighborhood had basically it's
15 own downtown, so if you could adjust the tax
16 structure and make it more friendly for
17 businesses to come into the City of Scranton
18 and operate I think that would be a good
19 revenue stream and would definitely increase
20 the taxes on the money coming in.

21 I mean, right now we see most of the
22 businesses in and around Scranton are
23 literally outside of the city. Dickson
24 City, Moosic. They are -- they received a
25 lot of businesses that Scranton could have

1 had in it if they had a tax structure that
2 was more business friendly.

3 MR. ROGAN: And the second part is
4 would you actively pursue increased PILOTS
5 from nonprofits.

6 MR. HUBBARD: Yes.

7 MR. ROGAN: And if so from whom?

8 MR. HUBBARD: From who?

9 MR. ROGAN: Um-hum?

10 MR. HUBBARD: I think that would be
11 based on the institution. You would have to
12 look at each nonprofit individually and see
13 what type of impact they've have on the tax
14 roles in the City of Scranton. I mean, if
15 their footprint is a fairly large footprint
16 meaning they do use a large of property in
17 the City of Scranton then obviously that
18 institution should be able to contribute
19 more than say a small church on a corner.
20 But that would be based on an institution by
21 institution basis, again, what kind of
22 impact are they having on the tax roles to
23 determine how much you would increase their
24 PILOT payment.

25 MS. EVANS: Mr. Hubbard, why are you

1 the best candidate for this position?

2 MR. HUBBARD: That's a loaded
3 question. I mean, I wouldn't necessarily --
4 I don't want to say I'm the best candidate.
5 I'm don't think anybody should say I'm the
6 best for anything, but I think I would be a
7 very good candidate for this because I've
8 worked with the people in the city, I'm a
9 neighborhood association president. I've
10 talked to a lot of people day in and day out
11 throughout the city and I kind of have I
12 guess a thumb on the pulse of the city. I
13 have worked with the administration with
14 council on various projects in the city in
15 regards to flood control and things like
16 that, so I feel like I'm fairly involved in
17 the process of Scranton, so I think that
18 would help give me I guess the leg up on
19 some of the other candidates possibly. But
20 I would never certainly want to say I'm the
21 best for anything because I think that that
22 that just sounds so self-involved.

23 MS. EVANS: Do you have any
24 questions for us?

25 MR. HUBBARD: No. No. I look

1 forward to 2010 and wish you guys the best
2 and whatever candidate you do so chose I
3 hope that he or she would work to the
4 betterment of the city and help the
5 taxpayers.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much, Mr.
7 Hubbard.

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

9 (Mr. Michael Taluto enters council
10 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

11 MS. EVANS: We shall next hear from
12 candidate Michael Taluto, welcome.

13 MR. TALUTO: How are you?

14 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you. And
15 thank you for your interest in the position
16 and the opportunity to interview you today.
17 Please keep your answers concise and on
18 point so that we may adhere to the 15-minute
19 time limit for each interview. Mr. Taluto.
20 Please provide us with a brief summation of
21 your professional background.

22 MR. TALUTO: Okay. First of all,
23 I'd like to thank you for giving me the
24 opportunity to come and speak before you. I
25 have been in Scranton -- I'm a Scranton

1 resident all my life, 46 years. I went to
2 college here, University of Scranton.
3 Bishop Hannon High School, St. Patrick's
4 elementary school, Marywood for graduate
5 school, public administration.

6 My current prior position was deputy
7 press secretary for Lackawanna County. So
8 in that role we created the first press
9 office and created the line of
10 communications for the county and informed
11 the citizens and the taxpayers of Lackawanna
12 County.

13 Prior to that I worked for Dunn and
14 Bradstreet for 15 years as a credit analyst,
15 promoted to senior analyst until they moved
16 out of town and closed their Scranton office
17 and currently I'm seeking employment, but
18 currently working full-time with Sear's as a
19 sale's person, and I have a master's degrees
20 in public administration so I feel that that
21 would be one of my strong points to bring to
22 council.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. TALUTO: You're welcome.

25 MR. ROGAN: The next question has

1 two parts. Why are you interested in the
2 city council vacancy and what would you hope
3 to accomplish as a member of city council?

4 MR. TALUTO: Okay. Well, as I seek
5 employment and see what's going on in
6 Washington and the frustration and the
7 arrogance in Washington, I feel I can't sit
8 by and not do anything anymore. I have to
9 be part of the process. You can't sit --
10 you can't come and complain and do things,
11 you have to be part of the process, so I
12 want to be part of the process. And another
13 thing is I was helping a friend on election
14 day and I saw too many vacant properties in
15 Scranton, and I would -- I would want to see
16 that as my one major goal is to clean up and
17 bring -- clean up and brighten our
18 neighborhood, the blight in our
19 neighborhoods.

20 And also I would I also like to see
21 job creations in Scranton and for the
22 council to become the catalyst for creating
23 jobs. We let too many opportunities pass us
24 by and we need to bring good high paying
25 family sustaining jobs to Scranton. And

1 also I would like to see an all new total
2 transparency and financial responsibility.
3 We no longer have anymore money to pay the
4 bills, so we have to stick -- live within
5 our means. We can't print money like
6 Washington does, we can't live the deficit,
7 so we have to live within our means and make
8 sure we spend our taxpayers' money
9 carefully.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Taluto, what do you
11 feel is the proper role of city council in a
12 strong mayor form of government?

13 MR. TALUTO: I mean, I would say you
14 are all on the same page. You are all
15 working for the taxpayer and you have to
16 work as a team and make it happen for the
17 people of Scranton. The taxpayers should be
18 the major concern and it's time for action.
19 It's time to work together and get things
20 done and it's not about one person, it's
21 about the whole team making things happen in
22 Scranton.

23 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
24 parts. Number one, did you support opening
25 the mayor's annual budget to examine them

1 and make cuts, if so, what cuts could you
2 foresee making? Number two, are you willing
3 to raise taxes and if so under what
4 circumstances?

5 MR. TALUTO: I would always look at
6 every financial situation. I would
7 absolutely be in favor of opening the
8 budget, looking at where we can save -- it's
9 always the taxpayers' money, it's your
10 money, so we need to look and see where we
11 can save money and I would definitely be
12 open in looking at where we can save money.
13 In specific cuts you have to look at the
14 situation and see what is available at the
15 time. You can't really say what's specific
16 cuts you would make, but you have to see
17 what the budget has to offer and public
18 safety would have to be a major concern, so
19 you really can't cut anything from public
20 safety.

21 And at the present time I would be
22 against raising taxes on the taxpayers
23 because they no longer can afford it
24 anymore. I mean, we look around in
25 Washington, we look around everywhere, we

1 cannot afford anymore. We have to save
2 money as possible.

3 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
4 for new revenue streams for the annual
5 budget?

6 MR. TALUTO: Well, we can -- I would
7 like to see what other cities are doing,
8 examine what our opportunities are out
9 there. I don't know if we can -- did we try
10 the nonprofits giving money. If that's not
11 going to work maybe we have to get some
12 other some other forms of revenue. Maybe we
13 would look and see what other cities are
14 doing, bring some ideas. I don't have
15 specific ideas, but to bring some new ideas
16 to the table to generate some new revenue.

17 MR. ROGAN: And you already touched
18 on the second part which was would you
19 actively pursue increased PILOTS from
20 nonprofits, and if so from whom?

21 MR. TALUTO: Well, we have to look
22 at the mission of a nonprofit. We can't --
23 we can't -- if we are going to take money
24 from a nonprofit and they go out of business
25 and the need they are serving it's not --

1 it's not a two-way street. I think maybe we
2 have to offer them and give them
3 alternatives to give us in-kind service.

4 I do feel that if the University of
5 Scranton buys a property they should pay the
6 taxes on that property. I mean, that's the
7 bottom line. You can't -- they can't keep
8 taking property off the tax roles, so I
9 think if they buy a house and tear it down
10 they should be responsible for the taxes
11 that was generated. And not just the
12 University of Scranton, I mean other
13 universities, other nonprofits.

14 MS. EVANS: Mr. Taluto, why are you
15 the best candidate for this position?

16 MR. TALUTO: Well, I think the
17 person -- the candidate that gets appointed
18 has a higher standard because they are not
19 elected by the people, so you have to make
20 yourself -- give your qualifications and I
21 think that I've lived in Scranton for 46
22 years. I have been involved in a lot of
23 campaigns. I have actually started with
24 Scranton Tomorrow. We did the ten-year
25 vision, ten years, we created the TV

1 station, created a lot of things. I was --
2 I served on the planning commission for six
3 years under the prior mayor. I just feel
4 that I bring my enthusiasm, my education and
5 I want to get -- I want to see time for
6 action. The bickering is over.

7 MS. EVANS: And do have you any
8 questions for us?

9 MR. TALUTO: Yes. What do you see
10 like this council like accomplishing?

11 MS. EVANS: We are going to work
12 very hard for the people. I believe we are
13 going to be making sure that budgets are
14 balanced. We would like to avoid borrowing
15 when possible. We certainly do not advocate
16 tax increases. We know there needs to be a
17 review of the budget and cuts must be made.
18 There should be respect, a reciprocity of
19 respect between council members and the
20 members of the public. And finally, we look
21 forward to working with the mayor to keep
22 the progress going in the city, but we do
23 not work for the mayor, we work for the
24 people of the City of Scranton who pay the
25 taxes and certainly they deserve the best

1 services for those taxes and we intend to be
2 sure that those services are provided.

3 MR. TALUTO: I have one more
4 question, what do you see for future job
5 growth in Scranton?

6 MS. EVANS: This is a difficult
7 time, but I think certainly we have to look
8 toward attracting business to the city and
9 not minimum wage positions that are
10 typically offered by the businesses that
11 come into the city and I think the Chamber
12 of Commerce needs to, let us say, get with
13 the program because I have seen over the
14 years a number of businesses in our area
15 shutdown and leave the state for other
16 parts, leave the city for other parts of
17 this state or leave this city for another
18 country, and I frankly saw very little on
19 the part of the Chamber of Commerce being
20 offered as an incentive for those businesses
21 to remain within this city, so certainly
22 that is a priority because our people are
23 suffering from double digit unemployment, we
24 suffer a great brain drain. We need to keep
25 our young people here and living and working

1 in the City of Scranton and receiving family
2 sustaining wages.

3 MR. TALUTO: Excellent. I totally
4 agree with you 100 percent, and even if I
5 don't get appointed to this position I would
6 like to be involved, and I totally agree. I
7 think we should make the Chamber come to the
8 meetings at least once a month and tell them
9 what they are doing for job growth. That's
10 one thing I would seek, and when a business
11 comes to you for a loan, we want the
12 business to come and tell them how many jobs
13 they are going to create.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes,

15 MR. TALUTO: Right here. "I'm going
16 to create five jobs if I get that money from
17 the city."

18 We have to know, and not at \$7.25 an
19 hour. They need to be high paying jobs or
20 then we don't loan them the money. That's
21 excellent what you said.

22 MR. ROGAN: I would like to add, you
23 know, when I ran in 2007 and again last time
24 I stressed transparency, and we all have,
25 and I think today is just a testament to

1 that that we are having interviews held with
2 a crowd on TV, and the residents at home can
3 see exactly what their government is doing,
4 and I think that's something that's very
5 important over the next four years for this
6 council.

7 MR. TALUTO: Well, I'm totally in
8 favor. Maybe you can rub it off in
9 Washington and give us transparency in
10 Washington. That's why I think this is
11 excellent to have it on TV.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

13 MR. TALUTO: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: And thank you for your
15 participation today, Mr. Taluto.

16 MR. TALUTO: Oh, thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: At this time we will
19 take a brief recess.

20 (Recess taken.)

21 (Ms. Marcel Lisi enters council
22 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

23 MS. EVANS: Our next candidate is
24 Marcel Lisi. Welcome.

25 MR. LISI: How are you. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you for your
2 interest in the position and the opportunity
3 to interview you today. Please keep your
4 answers concise and on point so that we may
5 adhere to the 15-minute time limit for each
6 interview. Mr. Lisi, please provide us with
7 a brief summation of your professional
8 background.

9 MR. LISI: Yes. I worked for two
10 United States Senators, Arlen Specter and
11 Senator Robert Casey. I currently serve as
12 a volunteer for Congressman Paul E.
13 Kanjorski. All offices are located in the
14 City of Scranton, and would you like to know
15 my education?

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. LISI: Okay. I'm also a
18 graduate of West Scranton High School. I
19 was an academic student. Also, I was in
20 advanced placement programs and currently
21 I'm working on finishing my degree at
22 Marywood University. My major there is
23 history and political science.

24 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
25 two parts. Why are you interested in the

1 city council vacancy and what would you hope
2 to accomplish on city council?

3 MR. LISI: Well, I'm interested in
4 the position for city council because I feel
5 I can better the city more than other
6 applicants. Basically, I think I can make
7 the necessary choices, the tough decisions I
8 guess you could say, when it requires higher
9 taxation, lower taxation, what needs to be
10 cut. Basically, I mean, any programs that
11 are going to benefit the majority, if not
12 all of the citizens of Scranton willing to
13 make those efforts.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Lisi, what do you
15 feel is the proper role of city council and
16 the strong mayor form of government?

17 MR. LISI: Basically to guide the
18 city into a better quality of life. Do
19 what's necessary, make the tough choices
20 when, you know, others obviously can't.

21 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
22 parts. Do you support opening the mayor's
23 annual budgets to examine them or make cuts,
24 if so, what cuts could you foresee making?
25 And number two, are you willing to raise

1 taxes and if so under what circumstances?

2 MR. LISI: Okay. I do support an
3 examination of the mayor's budget and, you
4 know, things that should be cut in there I
5 feel is wasteful spending such as
6 overinflated contracts and/or overinflated
7 salaries for a city employees. And, I'm
8 sorry, what was second part of your
9 question?

10 MR. JOYCE: Are you willing to raise
11 taxes, and if so under what circumstances?

12 MR. LISI: I am willing to raises
13 taxes as long as it's going to benefit the
14 citizens of Scranton when it comes to issues
15 like regarding public safety or
16 transportation in regard to the roads.

17 MR. ROGAN: What idea do you have
18 for new revenue streams for the annual
19 budget?

20 MR. LISI: I'm sorry, could you
21 repeat that, please?

22 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
23 for new forms of revenue for the annual
24 budget?

25 MR. LISI: New forms of revenue?

1 Actually, I do have a contention with the
2 city wage tax, I believe it's too high. I
3 feel if we lowered that, new businesses,
4 people would invest in the city and thus
5 expand our tax base and so I feel that's
6 where we are generate new revenues from, new
7 investors in the city.

8 MR. ROGAN: And would you actively
9 pursue increased PILOTS from nonprofits and
10 to if so from whom?

11 MR. LISI: I'm sorry, what was that?

12 MR. ROGAN: Would you actively
13 pursue increased PILOTS from nonprofits?

14 MR. LISI: I believe so, yes.

15 MS. EVANS: And from whom would you
16 seek these contributions?

17 MR. LISI: Probably the citizens of
18 Scranton, would pass on the expenses to
19 them?

20 MS. EVANS: Maybe I could explain
21 this a bit for you. PILOTS are payments in
22 lieu of taxes made by nonprofits to their
23 host cities, and so keeping that in mind,
24 from whom would you seek such contributions.

25 MR. LISI: From nonprofit

1 organizations?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. LISI: Oh, probably the Catholic
4 church for one in the area, I know they own
5 a lot of businesses, a lot of expanses, but
6 again there is different laws in regard to
7 taxing religion, so I'm not sure how that
8 would work, but other nonprofit agencies.
9 It would really depend on the agency itself,
10 like if we are talking about United Way or
11 something like that, no, I'm completely
12 against that.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Lisi,
14 why are you the best candidate for the
15 position?

16 MR. LISI: Because I have an
17 interest in bettering the city. I have
18 spent most of my life here. I wish to
19 continue spending most of my life here and I
20 feel I can do what's necessary to better the
21 city such as making the tough decisions
22 whether it's in the favor of the public or
23 not as long as it benefits the majority of
24 the citizens of Scranton.

25 MS. EVANS: Do you have any

1 questions for us?

2 MR. LISI: Not at this point, no.

3 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you very
4 much for your participation in this process
5 today.

6 MR. LISI: Thank you.

7 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

8 (Ms. Courene Loftus enters council
9 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

10 MS. EVANS: Our next candidate is
11 Courene Loftus. Welcome.

12 MS. LOFTUS: Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: And thank you for your
14 interest in the position and the opportunity
15 to interview you today. Please keep your
16 answers concise and on point so that we may
17 adhere to the 15-minute time limit for each
18 interview.

19 MS. LOFTUS: Okay.

20 MS. EVANS: Ms. Loftus, please
21 provide us with a brief summation of your
22 professional background?

23 MS. LOFTUS: Well, my professional
24 background is I have a bachelor of fine arts
25 degree in design and photography, and a

1 master's degree in public administration. I
2 belong to several graduate Honor societies.
3 I have been involved with the greater
4 Scranton Jaycee's for the last six years. I
5 have been on the board many times as
6 historian, community development director,
7 vice president and last year as president
8 and this year as chair of the board. I work
9 at Marywood University where I'm director of
10 human participants protection.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
13 two parts. Why you are interested in the
14 city council vacancy and what would you hope
15 to accomplish on city council?

16 MS. LOFTUS: Well, I'm interested
17 because I am a Scranton resident. I was
18 born and raised and still live here. I live
19 in North Scranton. I'm a concerned citizen
20 and I really want to do what I can do for my
21 community. Being involved with the Jaycees
22 I have been able to do some thing for the
23 greater Scranton area, and I think that I
24 believe in balance and I think we really
25 don't have that right now. You really need

1 to have a balance fiscally and I believe in
2 transparency in the government, the people
3 have a right to know what is happening and I
4 think I can add to all of that.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Ms. Loftus, what do you
6 feel is the proper role of city council in
7 the strong mayor form of government?

8 MS. LOFTUS: The role is, again, to
9 provide a balance and to decide what
10 direction the city will be going in.

11 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
12 parts. Do you support opening the mayor's
13 annual budget to examine them and make cuts?
14 If so, what cuts could you foresee making
15 and are you willing to raise taxes and if so
16 under what circumstances?

17 MS. LOFTUS: Being that we are in
18 the current financial situation that we are
19 in, that would be necessary to possibly look
20 at that. I don't know all of the details of
21 that. Of course, I don't make a decision
22 without knowing all of the facts and
23 investigating, but I would have to do that
24 and make an informed decision based on what
25 the current situation is, but it is possible

1 cuts would have to be extraneous programs.
2 Of course, you need to have certain services
3 that are vital, you know, that's something
4 that you cannot cut, but then you might want
5 to cut other projects or not take on
6 projects or further debt, so you want to
7 make sure that you have a balance there as
8 well.

9 MR. JOYCE: Are you willing to raise
10 taxes, and if so under what circumstances?

11 MS. LOFTUS: It's not something that
12 someone wants to do, but if it has to be
13 done it would have to be done, but, you
14 know, in an educated manner. I don't know
15 what those circumstances would be without
16 knowing all of the facts and investigating
17 that, but it would be something that would
18 have to be looked into.

19 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
20 for new revenue streams for the annual
21 budget?

22 MS. LOFTUS: I know one of the big
23 issues is PILOT programs, and I just wanted
24 to talk briefly on my thoughts on that.
25 First off, I don't know the whole situation

1 in the City of Scranton, I can identify many
2 nonprofits, but I don't know all of them in
3 that whole picture, however, my
4 understanding is that under the Pennsylvania
5 Constitution, I believe it is Article 8,
6 Section 2-A, nonprofit charitable
7 organizations are allowed exceptions, but
8 they must meet strict criteria in order to
9 qualify. They provide services that would
10 otherwise be very burdensome to the
11 government. They employ people and in turn
12 those people pay payroll taxes and also
13 purchase homes which bring in revenue.

14 That being said, I understand that
15 there are very large nonprofits that own
16 quite a bit of property and when they
17 purchase more property that is taken off of
18 the tax roles, so therefore, the city would
19 lose revenue. So I feel that something
20 might be negotiated and large nonprofits
21 might perhaps ethically contribute
22 voluntarily, but that would have to be
23 negotiated, mutually agreed and be
24 equitable.

25 MR. ROGAN: The second question was

1 about PILOTS and you already answered that,
2 so thank you.

3 MS. LOFTUS: You're welcome.

4 MS. EVANS: Finally, why are you the
5 best candidate for the position, Ms. Loftus?

6 MS. LOFTUS: Well, I think I'm the
7 best candidate because not only was I born,
8 raised and still live in Scranton, it's a
9 city that I believe in, I have never left
10 and I'm sure there were other opportunities
11 but I love Scranton, and I feel that with my
12 education and leadership experience I would
13 have that experience to provide to Scranton
14 City Council and the City of Scranton.

15 MS. EVANS: Do you have any
16 questions for us?

17 MS. LOFTUS: I do. I understand
18 that each of you are in charge of certain
19 subcommittees and that this person would be
20 in charge of public safety and downtown
21 revitalization, exactly what would that
22 entail?

23 MS. EVANS: As Chair of the
24 Committee of Public Safety, you would
25 receive the legislation that comes down from

1 originally the mayor to the legal office,
2 you want to examine that legislation very
3 carefully, you're presenting it at council.
4 You should digest the information and be
5 able to explain that to the public certainly
6 after your homework, your research and
7 consideration you are making a decision on
8 your vote and explaining that vote to the
9 public as well.

10 We also need someone who would be a
11 liaison to our branches of public safety,
12 specifically, the fire department and our
13 Scranton Police Department, someone who can
14 serve as a role model to them, someone who
15 will communicate with them in a fair, open
16 and honest manner.

17 And in terms of the subcommittees,
18 that would be -- they aren't I should say
19 quite as active as are the major committees
20 that are assigned to each council person,
21 however, when issues might arise concerning
22 that particular subcommittee, you would
23 serve as a representative of council just as
24 you serve as the representative of council
25 to the fire department, the police

1 department, etcetera, and then your
2 responsibility would be never to act as a
3 single person or a single council member
4 because after all no one council member
5 possesses any power, our authority lies in
6 our action as a body, so you would report
7 back to the council on whatever the issue
8 might be and then council as a body would
9 decide how to go forward with that.

10 MS. LOFTUS: Okay. And also, about
11 how many hours, how much of your time is --

12 MS. EVANS: It's a time consuming
13 position, I'm sure Mr. McGoff can attest to
14 that. Of course, there are weekly meetings
15 which are required by the Home Rule Charter
16 and caucuses, public caucuses which precede
17 each meeting, but throughout the week you
18 would find that you are working daily, in
19 fact, you are on duty 24/7. You will
20 receive many phone calls either through our
21 office or directly to yourself at home,
22 numerous e-mails from not only let us say
23 other government entities, but equally as
24 important from the citizens of the Scranton
25 who have concerns, complaints or suggestions

1 that this would like you to answer for them,
2 and so it responsibility to communicate with
3 them, to find answers for them, to then
4 return with those answers and, of course,
5 the answers won't always be what the
6 individual might want to hear, but it's
7 important to be open, and truthful, and
8 honest and most of all respectful toward all
9 of the residents of this city.

10 I think often times in an emergency,
11 let's say a natural disaster when there's
12 been flooding conditions within the City of
13 Scranton, you will find yourself out in
14 those neighborhoods in the middle of a
15 flood, even if it's knee deep, going into
16 basements to see the damage to people's
17 homes and then communicating with various
18 branches of local government and even state
19 government to try to ensure that their needs
20 are taken care of as completely as possible.

21 For example, during one of the
22 floods I had worked with the Scranton Sewer
23 Authority to make sure that those victims of
24 flooding conditions would have their sewer
25 bills adjusted because obviously they are

1 going to use an inordinate of water
2 consumption for the cleanup process and I
3 had asked that all of that be waived, and we
4 were very fortunate in that the sewer
5 authority was agreeable. So
6 it's multi-tasking, and it's a daily job and
7 many people, I think, unfortunately,
8 perceive it as merely the three hours or two
9 hours that you might see us on the Tuesday
10 evening on television. The job continues
11 through vacations. We may not be here over
12 Christmas, for example, but you are still
13 working over Christmas and responding to the
14 needs of your committee and always being
15 mindful of the budget, keeping your eye on
16 it's expenses and on bids, on lack of bids,
17 on job creations, etcetera, and so your
18 plate is very full. Your plate is
19 overflowing if you want to do the job
20 properly and serve the people of the City of
21 Scranton well.

22 MS. LOFTUS: Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: And thank you so much
24 for your participation today.

25 MS. LOFTUS: Thank you for your

1 time.

2 MS. EVANS: We are running ahead of
3 schedule unexpectedly, and so we will again
4 take a brief recess until such time as our
5 next candidates arrives. Thank you for your
6 understanding in this situation.

7 (Recess taken.)

8 (Mr. William Gaughan enters council
9 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

10 MS. EVANS: At this time once again
11 we will resume our interviews and the next
12 candidate is Thomas Galella. Excuse me,
13 it's not. This must be William Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: And welcome.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Thanks for
17 having me.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you for your
19 interest in the position and the opportunity
20 to interview you today. Please keep your
21 answers concise and on point so that we may
22 adhere to the 15-minute time limit for each
23 interview. And, Mr. Gaughan, please provide
24 us with a brief summation of your
25 professional background?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I'm a resident
2 of Minooka section of Scranton. I am a
3 graduate of Scranton High School 2005. I
4 recently graduated from the University of
5 Scranton in December of 2009. I am
6 currently employed at Rite Aid in Old Forge
7 as a shift supervisor. I have been working
8 part-time and full-time on and off since I
9 have been 16 years old. I worked at the
10 United States Post Office as a casual mail
11 carrier during one summer, so I think like
12 working since I have been 16 I know how to
13 be responsible, I can hold a job. I take
14 pride in my work.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
17 two parts. Why are you interested in the
18 city council vacancy and what will you hope
19 to accomplish on city council?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I'm interested
21 in the city council vacancy because as an
22 educated person, as a person who comes from
23 a loving family I have been given many
24 opportunities and now I think it's time for
25 me to give back to the community. There is

1 a lot of people that I see even that I
2 graduated from high school with that weren't
3 afforded the opportunities that I was, so I
4 think that as a member of the younger
5 generation now it's time to stop sitting on
6 the sidelines and to stand up and be a part
7 of government. Many decisions that you make
8 affect us, so I want to be a part of that.

9 I think I can bring a lot to the
10 table with regards to being responsible,
11 having pride in my work, in doing a good
12 job, you know, being good at what I do.

13 MR. MCGOFF: What do you feel is the
14 proper role of city council in a strong
15 mayor form of government?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: What was the question
17 again?

18 MR. MCGOFF: What do you feel is the
19 proper role of city council in a strong
20 mayor form of government like we have in the
21 City of Scranton?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I think it's to help
23 the people really. I mean, what else are we
24 here for if we are not here to help the
25 people. I think you don't want to hurt the

1 citizens of Scranton and I think a lot of,
2 you know, the tax increases and everything
3 like that, I don't think people could pay
4 it. I don't think they could do it
5 especially in times like these. I think you
6 need to -- you need to have compassion. I
7 think city council should be compassionate
8 to people's needs. There are a lot of
9 people that, you know, that you may not see
10 or you may not come in contact with that
11 don't have what you have or what I have, you
12 know, they are poor, they can't pay their
13 taxes, they can't turn their heat on, so I
14 think city council has to reach out to these
15 people and help them.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
18 parts. Do you support opening the mayor's
19 annual budget to examine them and make cuts?
20 If so, what cuts could you foresee making?
21 Two, are you willing to raise taxes, and if
22 so under what circumstances?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: I am in favor of
24 opening up the mayor's budget. I would have
25 to look at the budget before I can say what

1 needed to be cut, but I think that it's just
2 common sense to be able to look at a budget.
3 I mean, if you part of city government why
4 wouldn't you be able to look at a budget and
5 open it and go line by line and look at what
6 you can cut?

7 To the second question, I would
8 not -- in this recession I couldn't see
9 myself voting to raise taxes. I just don't
10 think -- I don't think it's possible. I
11 don't think people can't pay taxes as they
12 are now. They can't pay their water bill,
13 there sewer bill, so, I mean, I think we
14 would have find another way, there has to be
15 another way, and that's why I would like
16 to -- that's why I'm applying for this
17 position to work with all of you to find
18 that other way.

19 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
20 for new streams of revenue for the annual
21 budget?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I think there is a lot
23 of things that we can do. I thought a good
24 idea was the parking meters. I mean, that
25 was an idea. I don't know. I would have to

1 really look at it, I'd have to get together
2 with you all and we could put our heads
3 together. If it doesn't harm the citizens
4 then I'm for it, so I wouldn't like to just
5 because of the city -- the city's reckless
6 spending habits, I wouldn't want to take
7 that out on nonprofits and on the citizens.

8 MR. ROGAN: You kind of lead into my
9 second question, would you actively pursue
10 increased PILOTS from nonprofits?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: I would be in favor of
12 it, however, not if it's going to harm the
13 nonprofit, you know what I mean? Like, I
14 mean, I could see going after the University
15 of Scranton because they make so much money.
16 I wouldn't want to harm a nonprofit that,
17 you know, go after them for money when they
18 can't really -- that's what they rely on,
19 so.

20 MS. EVANS: And finally,
21 Mr. Gaughan, why are you the best candidate
22 for the position?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I think I'm the
24 best candidate for the position because I
25 know I'm a good leader. I'm very

1 compassionate towards people. I think that
2 on city council you need to be
3 compassionate. There is so many people in
4 our city that are just having hard time. I
5 would like to help those people. I have
6 been working since I have been 16 years old,
7 I take pride in what I do, I try to be the
8 best at what I do. I try to work with other
9 people, but I'm my own person. Nobody pulls
10 my string, I'm not a puppet, I'm not a
11 rubber stamp, I wouldn't be a rubber
12 stamper. I have my own mind, I have my own
13 ideas, but I would have an open mind on city
14 council, and I would like to work with you.
15 But, as I said, I wouldn't -- nobody would
16 be pulling my strings.

17 MS. EVANS: Do you any questions for
18 us?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: No. Did I get the job
20 yet or?

21 MS. EVANS: That hopefully will be
22 decided on Tuesday, January 12, at our city
23 council meeting, but thank you for your
24 participation and interest.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thanks for having me.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

3 (Mr. Thomas Galella enters council
4 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

5 MS. EVANS: And Mr. Galella has
6 arrived, Mr. Thomas Galella. Welcome.

7 MR. GALELLA: Thank you. Thank you
8 for having me.

9 MS. EVANS: You are very welcome,
10 and thank you for your interest in the
11 position and the opportunity to interview
12 you today. Please keep your answers concise
13 and on point so that we may adhere to the
14 15-minute time limit for each interview.

15 MR. GALELLA: Okay.

16 MS. EVANS: Now, Mr. Galella, if you
17 would please provide us with a brief
18 summation of your professional background?

19 MR. GALELLA: Okay. My name is Tom
20 Galella. I graduated from West Scranton
21 High School. I went to -- attended the
22 University of Scranton and also Penn State
23 University. I had my own insurance agency,
24 operated out of West Scranton and I sold all
25 forms of life insurance, health and

1 accident, car insurance, casualty, fire and
2 so on.

3 From there, I went to city treasurer
4 under Mayor Jim Connors. I was a city
5 treasurer for 12 years. I feel -- did you
6 want me to stop, Mrs. Evans, there or do you
7 want me to continue.

8 MS. EVANS: You can certainly
9 elaborate a bit more.

10 MR. GALELLA: I think one of the
11 main reasons is why am I here, and the
12 reason I'm here is I see the electorate, the
13 people that attend, that I see attending the
14 meetings, these people are very, very
15 interested in a good form of government and
16 you can see with the new faces up here these
17 people were correct. My dad always
18 instructed me of one thing, two things
19 actually. He always told me, put yourself
20 on the other side of the table. When a
21 person comes in with a complaint that's when
22 I put myself on the other side of the table
23 and I hear that complaint and if I feel as
24 though that person who I'm speaking to
25 should do that favor, whatever you call it,

1 for me then I should do it for these people,
2 and that's very, very easy.

3 When I became city treasurer that's
4 when the one of the first thing I met with
5 my staff downstairs and I told them the same
6 thing. People come in to the city
7 treasurer's office they are mad. They only
8 come in that office to spend money. They
9 don't want to spend money, they are walking
10 out without anything in their hands, not a
11 bag of groceries, and I told them the same
12 thing, put yourself on the other side of the
13 table because I saw before I became city
14 treasurer I would go in with a parking
15 ticket and I wasn't greeted. I told these
16 people, greet them, this is a store. These
17 people are here spending money, but they are
18 going out without anything, and I think some
19 of these people know me personally.

20 And I succeeded in the 12 years, I
21 brought money into the City of Scranton.
22 Another thing, if I could go on, Mrs. Evans,
23 would be a couple ways of bringing more
24 finances into the city.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, if you

1 want to hold that information for another
2 question.

3 MR. GALELLA: Okay. Some of the
4 things that I was involved in professionally
5 because of being city treasurer, I was
6 elected twice as a former president of the
7 city treasurer's state association. I was
8 elected twice before that two years prior as
9 vice-president of the state association for
10 city treasurers.

11 I was a member of the Pennsylvania
12 State Attorney General's Office for senior
13 citizens abuse, and that's something where
14 the common person doesn't realize how much
15 abuse is going on, and we saw. One example
16 was a lady had her house painted, had a
17 garage painted, excuse me, and it was only a
18 couple of months later the paint started to
19 peel. She called the painting contractor.
20 Well, tough. Tough luck. Wouldn't show,
21 wouldn't come up to look at it or anything.
22 The daughter told me about it, I made a
23 call. All I did was say my name and I was a
24 member of this task force, he came up the
25 following day, repainted that entire garage

1 at no premium because he was supposed to,
2 but these are different things that the
3 average person doesn't know, and I can go on
4 and on.

5 I was a former advisory board member
6 for the Blue Cross non paid, nonpayment. I
7 was a former president of the Center for
8 Independent Living. I was former
9 vice-president of Scranton Kiwanis. I as a
10 former chairman of the Scranton Kiwanis
11 activities where I started a foul shooting
12 contest and also swimming. Former chairman
13 of the life underwriter's ethics committee,
14 and I can go on and on because for me to
15 achieve these positions the people had to
16 have faith in me because I wasn't the only
17 person on these committees. There were a
18 lot of people involved, so for these people
19 to select me as chairman or assistant
20 chairman or what have you, they had to have
21 faith in me and they knew from one
22 organization to another I worked and
23 definitely I would work tirelessly with you
24 people.

25 You know, the people didn't like the

1 way they were being treated and the way they
2 were being treated is something why there is
3 new -- that's the main reason why these
4 people -- are two new faces up there, okay?
5 And when you are not being treated properly
6 and you being televised it creates a
7 laughing joke for the City of Scranton,
8 that's one thing. I had attended a meeting
9 for three weeks, it was an educational
10 meeting not -- nothing to do with the city,
11 but insurance for three weeks. You know
12 what the topic was? Listening. Listening.
13 Not staring at someone because they are at
14 this podium, staring. No, open your ears
15 and listen because once -- if I'm up there,
16 if I'm fortunate enough to be up there with
17 you people and I make a decision I will
18 always let these people know, not only these
19 people the whole City of Scranton, know why
20 I made that decision, and this is very, very
21 important. I mean, I have seen people up
22 here prior looking at other people, talking
23 among themselves, give the person courtesy.
24 That's about all. I can go on and on.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: My question has two
2 parts, and you started to touch on it. The
3 first part is why you are interested in the
4 city council vacancy, and the second part is
5 what would you hope to accomplish on city
6 council?

7 MR. GALELLA: Okay, the first point
8 I believe I answered --

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MR. GALELLA: Already that, and the
11 second part on what did you think I could
12 achieve?

13 MR. ROGAN: What would you hope to
14 accomplish?

15 MR. GALELLA: By achieving, which
16 when I speak on city council there is only
17 two people up here, Janet and Mr. McGoff
18 that are previous city council members. You
19 two new members I would be really joining
20 along with you two, but also bringing in
21 experience that I achieved and also a couple
22 of ideas which was formerly introduced by a
23 prior city councilman, Mr. Reap, and also
24 one that I did and at the beginning I got a
25 lot of complaints, but I brought in a lot of

1 money for the City of Scranton, and then all
2 of a sudden it became quiet.

3 One, Mr. Reap, he contacted the
4 nonprofits. I believe there is money out
5 there. When I was city treasurer we had
6 people voluntarily paying. We had the Girl
7 Scouts I believe that I think they were
8 sending a check for \$300, I might be
9 incorrect on that amount, but I believe it
10 was \$300 a year. No one ever approached
11 them, they just paid it. There was the Girl
12 Scouts and then there was a church, I
13 believe it was a presbyterian church that
14 sent a donation in every year, it was a few
15 hundreds dollars. Well, Mr. Reap had the
16 right idea by contacting the nonprofits and
17 he brought in money, but I don't think it's
18 followed through.

19 Another way that I brought in money
20 was, once again, it wasn't my idea, I don't
21 want to mention names, but I received three
22 phone calls from three good friend of mine
23 and two were previous officer holders, one
24 was a previous tax collector, one was a
25 chairman -- I said the names, but I didn't

1 say the names anyhow, chairman of the
2 Democratic city party, city organization,
3 and the other guy happened to be a personal
4 friend of mine, and they were very, very
5 aggravated to know that there were so many
6 people delinquent with their taxes, with
7 their property taxes. And, you know, it's
8 ashamed. I wouldn't notice the people not in
9 this building does not know what goes on.
10 They don't.

11 I believe I can be an asset to this
12 city council because I know a lot of what
13 takes place in various offices. In the city
14 treasurer's office it was so easy to look up
15 records to see who is delinquent with the
16 city property taxes and you would really,
17 really be astonished at how many money
18 people were delinquent. Money people. I
19 don't mean the little old little or little
20 old man that would come in and thank me.
21 Oh, Mr. Galella, thank you so much for
22 helping me out on this, okay. They paid.
23 They paid. But if I had a lean backwards to
24 save them a few dollars, I would. Not on
25 their, taxes, not on the interest, but on

1 that penalty.

2 I had people call. What I did was I
3 had people call and say if they pay one year
4 and I'd say no, I need three years, three
5 years to bring you up-to-date, so they would
6 come and they would pay. Some people called
7 as though they were doing me a favor. Me.
8 Call and say, "Mr. Galella, I'll come in and
9 I'll pay two years."

10 No, you are three years back, I want
11 the whole three years then I can help you
12 with the penalty, not the interest. The in
13 terest is illegal, so anyhow those are ways
14 what I did to bring in additional money.

15 Another way was the big one. I
16 printed names. I had my office staff do an
17 inventory, do a search of all the delinquent
18 accounts. I got permission from my boss at
19 the time, the business administrator, and I
20 told him what I was going to do, what I
21 intended on doing. Listing all of the names
22 of city residents, not county, city
23 residents that are delinquent three years
24 are more. Well, we did, and the first
25 complaint I got was, my God, it's going to

1 cost the city something like I think it was
2 \$60,000, 40,000, \$60,000 to advertise. We
3 had to advertise in the two papers. So it
4 was the Tribune and Times.

5 Well, you show me I'll take this
6 gamble any time to bring in-between \$400,000
7 and \$500,000 advertising that list of names
8 I'll gladly put up \$60,000 of my own money
9 to bring in \$400,000 to \$500,000. We tried
10 to sell previously, we had two different
11 companies in. We tried to sell the
12 business, unfortunately, we couldn't sell
13 it. Once they got in to all of the records,
14 there is so many abandoned land, there is
15 coal, there is railroad, but they don't even
16 know who owns the stuff. So they backed
17 out, okay. I just want to let you people
18 know that I know that's something that might
19 be coming up in the future, but I know a
20 faster way is listing the names of the
21 delinquents, and I don't mean by penalizing
22 the poor little person, I mean a lot of
23 people. Okay, that's about it.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Galella, what do
25 you think is the proper role of city council

1 in a strong mayor form of government?

2 MR. GALELLA: I think the strong
3 role of city council is to represent the
4 people, that's number one. You are up
5 there, I hope I will be as a representative
6 to go between, let's say, between these
7 people plus the people that don't attend
8 meetings. There's a lot of people that's
9 interested in the meetings, but they don't
10 attend. A lot of my neighbors are
11 interested, but yet they don't attend. I'm
12 interested, I don't attend, but I read the
13 paper, I watch TV, I worked here for 12
14 years, I know the system. And once again,
15 that would be a primary role if I sat up
16 there and using the best judgment that I can
17 use, Mr. McGoff, but once again if I vote
18 yes or no it's not just going to be a yes or
19 no, I might take an extra minute or so and
20 let the people not only here, but the people
21 that's watching on TV or what goes into the
22 paper know on why I voted yes or no, not
23 because I like you or not because I like
24 you, or not because I like you, Mrs. Evans,
25 or the two gentlemen here, but the reason.

1 And I definitely, definitely, you people up
2 there, there are not too many up there that
3 I speak to before, I spoke to before, but
4 you know when I complimented you on certain
5 things that I was on your side because I
6 believed in you, and that's the same thing
7 that will go now if I sat up there.

8 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
9 parts. One, do you support opening the
10 mayor's annual budgets to examine them and
11 make cuts, if so, what cuts could be foresee
12 making? Two, are you willing to raise
13 taxes, and if so under what circumstances?

14 MR. GALELLA: The first part again,
15 please? Could you repeat the first part?

16 MR. JOYCE: Do you support opening
17 the mayor's annual budgets to examine them
18 and make cuts.

19 MR. GALELLA: Yes.

20 MR. JOYCE: If so, what cuts do you
21 foresee making?

22 MR. GALELLA: Yes, definitely. I
23 think the budget should be opened, examined,
24 to see if cuts -- no matter who is the
25 mayor, if I was the mayor, Mrs. Evans, you,

1 anybody there they should be proud. You do
2 the best budget you can possibly, but hey,
3 there is five heads up there and it should
4 be open. And the second part?

5 MR. JOYCE: Are you willing to raise
6 taxes, and if so under what circumstances?

7 MR. GALELLA: Well, that's something
8 there, I don't want to see my taxes raised,
9 but, no. At the present time, no. I
10 couldn't see raising taxes right now. There
11 is too many people out of work and being
12 hurt. If you are talking about right now,
13 no, definitely not. There is people in this
14 building who are personal friends of mine
15 too, but yet they are making a lot, a lot of
16 money. They are making good salaries where
17 the average person out there does not make
18 this kind of salary, and I know I'm going to
19 hear about what I'm saying right now
20 because, I mean, there is 60, 70, 80,000
21 dollar salaries out there, and I wasn't
22 making anywhere near that. The lowest
23 figure I quoted I was making no where near
24 that here, so, that's my answer. No.

25 MR. ROGAN: My second question was

1 about revenue streams and increasing PILOTS
2 from nonprofits, but you already pretty much
3 answered that.

4 MR. GALELLA: Yeah, I had to give
5 Mr. Reap the credit because he is the one
6 that thought of that.

7 MS. EVANS: Mr. Galella, finally,
8 why are you the best candidate for the
9 position?

10 MR. GALELLA: The best candidate for
11 the position, why am I? I started out by
12 saying that the electorate was not -- they
13 were not happy with the present council
14 members up there. Why? Once again, I'm
15 friends with them, but I call a spade a
16 spade. You don't laugh in someone's face.
17 If I don't like -- if I'm sitting up there
18 and none of these people come up to this
19 podium and they say something, when you are
20 up there you kind of know it's directed at
21 you because it might be something that you
22 agreed with in a prior meeting or whatever,
23 you don't argue. You don't argue with them.
24 You try to find out. There is no one up
25 there sitting up there now, including me,

1 that is 100 percent right all of the time
2 and if anyone believes that they don't
3 belong in any office, and I know office
4 holders that they think they are God
5 almighty, they don't belong there. I'm open
6 to criticism, as long as the person comes up
7 to me and tells me a complaint, I promise to
8 have that complaint answered by the next
9 meeting. There is too many times when I've
10 watched TV when someone up here at the
11 podium would register a complaint and the
12 reply would be, "Well, I'll find it out,"
13 because you are not expected to know
14 everything. How could you know everything?
15 You have to find things out, but then when
16 the following week comes and you are sitting
17 up there, I don't mean any of you people,
18 but you are sitting up there and then that
19 question has to be raised again and the
20 response is, "Well, I made the contact, but
21 I don't have the answer yet."

22 No, I have been here. You hound the
23 department. You hound the person because
24 then you put the blame on them. You don't
25 make the contact one time. You go after it

1 and you come back to the next meeting and
2 you let it be known before the person comes
3 up and asks you again. It's simple. It's
4 simple. You have to be a people person.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. Do you have any
6 questions for us?

7 MR. GALELLA: No. No.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you. Thank
9 you for your participation today.

10 MR. GALELLA: One more thing I
11 wanted to say, Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. GALELLA: I'm very flexible,
14 okay, and I might have mentioned this, but
15 not in these words because I consider myself
16 a flexible person, I think I did. I think I
17 did this already because I consider myself a
18 flexible person when I do make a decision I
19 do promise to let the electorate know why I
20 made that decision because I think they
21 deserve it no matter if -- no matter if it's
22 five to zero, I think they deserve at least
23 one person saying why we voted that way, and
24 that's all. Thank you very much for your
25 time.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 (Mr. Richard Jones enters council
5 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

6 MS. EVANS: Our next interviewee is
7 Richard Jones. Welcome.

8 MR. JONES: Good morning.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you for your
10 interest in the position and the opportunity
11 to interview you today. Please keep your
12 answers concise and on point so that we may
13 adhere to the 15-minute time limit for each
14 interview.

15 MR. JONES: Yes, ma'am.

16 MS. EVANS: Mr. Jones, please
17 provide us with a brief summation of your
18 professional background.

19 MR. JONES: Sure. I am a 35-year
20 insurance and risk management professional.
21 I received my four-year bachelor's degree
22 from the University of Scranton. During my
23 professional work experience, I went to
24 night school for three years at Marywood
25 University to obtain my MBA. I have worked

1 with the exception of three years
2 exclusively in the insurance and risk
3 management area starting my career with
4 Aetna Casualty, whose headquarters are in
5 Hartford, Connecticut. I worked in three
6 other offices, Reading, Pennsylvania,
7 Nashville, Tennessee, and Philadelphia.

8 I was recruited to come back to the
9 area with a local insurance agency. I spent
10 12 years as their insurance sales manager
11 supervising a staff of five people. Then I
12 spent three years with the greater Scranton
13 Chamber of Commerce which were my three
14 years outside of the insurance area. I
15 spent those three years as vice-president of
16 community development at the Scranton
17 Chamber, and from there I went to
18 Transcontinental Refrigerated Lines, a
19 coast-to-coast transportation company in
20 Pittston Township. I worked for them for
21 over 12 years until they sold their business
22 to Prime Trucking out of Springfield,
23 Missouri, and at that point I was fortunate
24 enough to interview and accept a position
25 with Lackawanna County government as their

1 first risk manager. I started January of
2 2008 with the new administration.

3 During my 28 years of living as a
4 full-time resident in Scranton since 1981, I
5 spent four years on the city planning
6 commission, the last two of which were
7 chairman of the city planning commission.
8 Our major initiatives during that period of
9 time were developing a new zoning ordinance
10 for the City of Scranton and a new city
11 master plan which I believe is still the
12 operational document from a master plan
13 standpoint for the city.

14 I ran for the school board once, was
15 defeated in the general election after
16 having won the primary, and that's the
17 extent of my political endeavors up to this
18 point.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MR. JONES: You are welcome.

21 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
22 two parts. One, why you are interested in
23 the city council position; and two, what
24 would you hope to accomplish on city
25 council?

1 MR. JONES: Thank you. As a
2 resident for 29 years here in the city and a
3 taxpayer, I think I have a lot to offer to
4 the city in terms of my background. I
5 consider myself a professional person. I
6 would conduct myself professionally as I
7 have in the past serving on the city
8 planning commission those four years and
9 have run for office once. I am not a -- I
10 don't consider myself a very political
11 person even though I did run for the school
12 board once, and I think the city has a lot
13 of challenges facing it and I would hope to
14 be able to be a constructive resource to
15 solve some of those problems.

16 MR. MCGOFF: What do you feel is the
17 proper role of city council in a strong
18 mayor form of government?

19 MR. JONES: Thank you for that
20 question. It's a legislative body of the
21 city. It provides, obviously advice and
22 consent to the initiatives of the
23 administration, and it serves as a check and
24 balance just as our Congress serves as a
25 check and balance for the executive branch

1 of our federal government. Be that as it
2 may, obviously, if the council has four or
3 more votes it can set it's own path for the
4 city because of it's super majority.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you very much.

6 MR. JONES: You are welcome.

7 MR. JOYCE: My question has two
8 parts: One, do you support opening the
9 mayor's annual budgets to examine them and
10 make cuts? If so, what cuts could you
11 foresee making? And number two, are you
12 willing to raise taxes, and if so under what
13 circumstances?

14 MR. JONES: In preparation for
15 today, I pulled out the budget summary that
16 was in the Scranton Times on November 20. I
17 didn't know I would have a chance to be here
18 before you today on that, but in just
19 reviewing that brief budget summary
20 approximately 60 percent of the city's
21 budget is constricted to personnel,
22 benefits, pension, health insurance, life
23 insurance, salaries, wages, etcetera, so
24 obviously, as with any government entity you
25 are going to have a majority of your budget

1 in those areas.

2 One area, which happens to be my
3 area of expertise, the city is spending
4 apparently over the last several years at
5 least four million dollars in the worker's
6 compensation area. That's a huge amount of
7 money for a city with approximately 600 to
8 700 employees, I don't know the exact number
9 I haven't really delved into that deeply,
10 but I can tell you at the county we have
11 1,500 employees and we spend a million
12 dollars in worker's compensation expense.
13 Now, granted, we do not have city firemen,
14 we do not have city policemen, however, we
15 do have a prison to run and a nursing home
16 to run and the claim's experience in those
17 areas are by and large the claims that we
18 received at the county. So that's one area
19 that I think really needs to be looked at.

20 If you remember back when the
21 Recovery Plan was developed, and I'm not
22 trying to look for a new job because I
23 already have a job, but the plan coordinator
24 I believe made a recommendation for the city
25 to hire a risk manager back as early as the

1 early 90's. I do not believe that's ever
2 happened, so without the city on a
3 day-to-day basis examining what it could do
4 on it's individual claims, you are at the
5 mercy of either the insurance company or the
6 third party administrator, I believe the
7 city is self-insured so have you a third
8 party administrator overseeing your claims,
9 they have a book of business, the city
10 wouldn't be the only customer that they
11 have, and you would have to really examine
12 what you are getting in terms of your
13 service there and how they are working with
14 the city to try to reduce your claims and
15 your expenditures in that area.

16 Second part of your question I
17 believe had to do with taxes?

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Are you willing to
19 raise taxes and if so under what
20 circumstances?

21 MR. JONES: The city must provide
22 services. We obviously have a full-time
23 police department, we have a full-time fire
24 department, and we have other necessary
25 services that the city provides in terms of

1 DPW, etcetera. Obviously, the city has to
2 balance it's budget, so there is -- there is
3 weighing that has to be done between
4 providing essential services and meeting
5 whatever fiscal responsibility the
6 legislative body has to the population.

7 One of the things that I have
8 noticed in doing some research is our
9 residents per capita earn less than 80
10 percent of the statewide median income, so
11 our residents are stressed to the max as far
12 as their ability to pay, however, again,
13 that has to be balanced against providing
14 essential services, so obviously if the city
15 was in a position where there was no other
16 alternative but to increase taxes that would
17 have to be seriously considered, but I
18 wouldn't be one to look at any possible area
19 of either revenue enhancements outside of
20 taxes, be they fees for service from non for
21 profits or reducing expenditures in any area
22 where that's possible before I would vote to
23 raise taxes.

24 MS. EVANS: Before we move to the
25 next question, I just would ask you to

1 repeat something for me. There are how many
2 employees in the county?

3 MR. JONES: 1,502 as we sit right
4 now. The county nursing home is up for
5 sale. There is a letter of intent to sell
6 the nursing home. That would reduce the
7 number of employees by approximately 325.

8 MS. EVANS: And you are paying 1
9 million dollars in worker's comp?

10 MR. JONES: Give or take a dollar or
11 two.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. JONES: You're welcome.

14 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
15 for new revenue streams for the annual
16 budget?

17 MR. JONES: Obviously not sitting in
18 -- well, you were just elected, Mr. Rogan,
19 so I don't know how much of a chance you
20 have had to look at it either, but I have
21 not really taken the time to examine all of
22 the revenue streams into the city nor am I
23 privy to that information as I am not privy
24 to all of the expenditures of the city other
25 than the budget summary that was in the

1 paper, the listing revenue and expenses in
2 general categories.

3 However, I believe I'm a quick study
4 and I believe I would be able to get my arms
5 around what the revenue streams are coming
6 into the city other than taxes and then look
7 to try to enhance those. I know the
8 University of Scranton for one does make a
9 contribution in lieu of taxes to the city
10 and has for years. However, their campus
11 has more than doubled. It's probably
12 increased four-fold since I went in the
13 early 70's and I don't believe that
14 contribution has increased significantly. I
15 don't know what we are getting from the
16 hospitals. I don't know what we are getting
17 from some of the other not for profits who
18 also with the recession I'm sure their
19 budgets are stressed to the max as well, but
20 the city provides essential services. We
21 have that new, relatively new \$52 a year, I
22 don't know what you call it, the emergency
23 services tax or fee or whatever that is
24 taken out of the individual wages to fund
25 some essential services, but there has to be

1 a complete review I believe of all revenue
2 streams, all potential revenue streams and
3 what our expenditures are.

4 For example, the new Commonwealth
5 Medical College is going to receive
6 significant funding just from the new table
7 games and slot machine revenue, so as a
8 continues community to Luzerne County where
9 a slot machine business is located, I think
10 we should look for an opportunity to secure
11 revenue from that as well. Why not?

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

13 MR. JONES: You are welcome.

14 MS. EVANS: Finally, why are you the
15 best candidate for the position, Mr. Jones?

16 MR. JONES: That's a very
17 interesting question. There is -- I saw the
18 article in the paper as to how many people
19 had expressed an interest. I know maybe six
20 or seven of those people. I do not know all
21 of the 22 or 23 people that made themselves
22 available for the interviews over the last
23 two days, however, and I'm not going to
24 stand here and say that I'm the best
25 candidate of those 23 people because I don't

1 know all 23 people, but I do -- I will tell
2 you that with my education, my professional
3 experience, and having been a resident and
4 taxpayer of the city for nine years I think
5 I would be an addition to council that would
6 be insightful, truthful, and would be
7 keeping the best interest of the city and
8 all of it's residents in mind when making
9 any decisions before city council.

10 MS. EVANS: And do you have any
11 questions of me us?

12 MR. JONES: Well, my major question
13 I think has already been answered that you
14 are looking to try to fill the position
15 possibly as earlier as next Tuesday --

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. JONES: -- at your first
18 official, not official, but your first full
19 meeting, regular meeting of the new year.

20 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

21 MR. JONES: And I would just ask for
22 the same consideration that you giving all
23 of the candidates.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much for
25 your participation today and your interest

1 in our city.

2 MR. JONES: You are welcome. Thank
3 you. Good luck.

4 (Mr. James Freethy enters council
5 chambers and is interviewed as follows:)

6 MS. EVANS: Our final candidate has
7 just arrived, Mr. James Freethy. Welcome.

8 MR. FREETHY: Welcome. Thank you.
9 Good morning.

10 MS. EVANS: Good morning and thank
11 you for your interest in the position and
12 the opportunity to interview you today.
13 Please keep your answers concise and on
14 point so that we may adhere to the 15-minute
15 time limit for each interview.

16 Mr. Freethy, please provide us with
17 a brief summation of your professional
18 background.

19 MR. FREETHY: I have a bachelor's
20 degree in engineering. Most of the credits
21 were in civil engineering. I went to work
22 for the Department of Transportation of New
23 Jersey right out of college. I worked for
24 them for about 14 months. I came back up to
25 this area and I went to work for Weston

1 Controls for ten years as a process --
2 electrical process engineer. I have worked
3 on serving crews for personal contractors
4 and I worked on the survey crew for
5 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation my
6 junior year of college. That's my technical
7 background.

8 I have worked in many other jobs
9 that are factory oriented. I was a
10 purchasing agent for Allied Services. I
11 worked in their covered workshops, so I have
12 experience in salaried positions, hourly
13 positions. Volunteering, I volunteered at
14 the Community Medical Center and Allied
15 Services for two years, so I have that
16 experience working with the public. Too.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. FREETHY: You are welcome.

19 MR. ROGAN: The next question has
20 two parts. Why are you interested in the
21 city council position and what would you
22 hope to accomplish as a city council person?

23 MR. FREETHY: I'm interested in the
24 city council position because of the fact
25 that I wanted to get into some type of

1 government work. I know that one of my
2 friends who most recently passed away, and I
3 have only known her for six years, used to
4 say to me, "You should be over there working
5 for the city. You should be on the
6 council."

7 And I said, "No, Helen. No, Helen,
8 not yet."

9 Well, the opportunity is now because
10 there wasn't any opening I don't believe at
11 that time. What I hope to accomplish as
12 working for the city is to be involved, and
13 I believe if I read the article correctly in
14 the paper, that this position that was
15 opening, you people were interested in
16 hiring somebody to take care of two areas
17 and I think I would be very good at that
18 because of the fact that my grandfather was
19 a policeman in this town back in the 40's
20 and 50's and 60's of last decade, and I
21 would see him come in from work and I would
22 know that because he was doing a good job
23 that I got that training almost from him in
24 the sense that he was a beat cop. He put in
25 a full day's work and he helped the public.

1 And of those two areas that I read
2 about in the paper that one of the wisbang
3 ideas that I figured came to me was, you
4 know, there are a lot of people in this town
5 that are almost afraid to go down into
6 center city for a couple of reasons and one
7 of those reasons is because of the
8 tomfoolery from young people and the crime
9 and I believe that one of my ideas was to
10 enable some area of government that's
11 responsible for this, and I don't know if
12 it's the police department, but to encourage
13 them to have many plain clothes policemen
14 around to control the safety of downtown and
15 by bringing people downtown they will spend
16 their money hopefully downtown, so different
17 businesses would relish and at the same time
18 to have street performers, different booths
19 selling their items, whatever those items
20 may be, and I know that there is some down
21 here right now doing that because I pass
22 them and they are like hot dog vendors and
23 things like that.

24 So by doing that we would be getting
25 the elder people out and having them spend

1 money, making them happy, and contributing
2 to access to the city and making it more
3 available for other people to come downtown
4 because the word would get out and the word
5 of safety and enjoyment, so that's what I
6 hope to accomplish by being on the council
7 and also accomplish the work assignments
8 that are given to me.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: What do you feel is the
11 proper role of city council in our strong
12 mayor form of government?

13 MR. FREETHY: I believe that city
14 council form of government should work
15 hand-in-hand with the mayor. Now, I also
16 believe that the previous mayors of this
17 city didn't do too much. They -- it's
18 appeared to me were too much interested in
19 performing for the older people, so
20 therefore, they didn't do too much and now
21 with this administration he seemed to have
22 the ability to get federal funding and get
23 funds to move the city forward and because I
24 believe that he has a managerial background
25 that he is able to do that, so he is able to

1 open up this city to forms of funding to
2 enable the city to blossom on many tracks,
3 whether that be fixing the sidewalks,
4 whoever is responsible for that, to make it
5 easier for the people to walk, to have the
6 different businesses feel comfortable
7 working in a city where they are welcomed.

8 I believe that the council form of
9 government also needs to be responsible for
10 keeping the mayoral form in line and that is
11 to -- and I was thinking about this before I
12 came over, that is to look at the past
13 budgets, see how the funding was spent and
14 to prioritize needs so there is better use
15 of that funding.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: My question has several
18 parts: One, do you support opening the
19 mayor's annual budgets to examine them and
20 make cuts? If so, what cuts could you
21 foresee making? And two, are you willing to
22 raise taxes, and if so under what
23 circumstances?

24 MR. FREETHY: I'm all for opening up
25 and having a review of any money that's

1 make.

2 MR. FREETHY: Oh, what cuts. I
3 definitely believe that cuts can be made and
4 should be made in salary positions of
5 administrators, not every administrator, but
6 the salaries that are possibly above \$35,000
7 a year because as it stands now I don't
8 think there is -- would be any position in
9 the city to be filled by somebody that right
10 now should be paid more than \$35,000 a year.

11 MR. ROGAN: What ideas do you have
12 for new revenue streams for the annual
13 budget?

14 MR. FREETHY: That is a hard one. I
15 was thinking about this before I came down,
16 and again, I would have to take a look at
17 the data from last, you know, 12 years or so
18 because I'm the type of individual because
19 of the engineering degree, I look at
20 empirical data and I make judgments on part
21 of a budget process, and I can evaluate the
22 different usages of monies by bar graphs,
23 chart graphs, whatever, so I could compare
24 the money that's coming in and how it's
25 being used, but at the same time the graph

1 would show areas where it was needed in the
2 first place that it wasn't spent and how
3 those areas looked presently in 2010. I'd
4 have to -- I'd have to look at graphs and
5 charts and tables before I could give a
6 valid answer for that.

7 MR. ROGAN: Secondly, would you
8 actively pursue increased PILOTS from
9 nonprofits?

10 MR. FREETHY: Increased what?

11 MR. ROGAN: PILOTS, payments in lieu
12 of taxes from nonprofit--

13 MR. FREETHY: No.

14 MR. ROGAN: -- organizations. No?

15 MR. FREETHY: No.

16 MR. ROGAN: Okay. Thank you.

17 MR. FREETHY: You're welcome.

18 MS. EVANS: Finally, why are you the
19 best candidate for the position?

20 MR. FREETHY: I'm honest, I'm
21 trustworthy. I have a wonderful outlook on
22 life and I'm accountable for my actions.

23 MS. EVANS: And, Mr. Freethy, do you
24 have any questions for us?

25 MR. FREETHY: I have a comment.

1 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

2 MR. FREETHY: I can say that I'm
3 looking forward to the phone call when it's
4 going to be said to me that you've joined
5 the council. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you for your
7 participation.

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

9 MR. FREETHY: You're welcome.

10 MS. EVANS: That concludes the
11 interviews of the candidates to fill the
12 vacancy of Councilman Courtright. I'll
13 entertain a motion to adjourn?

14 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: Meeting is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
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