

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Work Session
August 13, 2007

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Monday, August 13, 2007, in the State College Municipal Building Council Room, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Ms. Dauler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Catherine G. Dauler, President of Council
Thomas E. Daubert
Ronald L. Filippelli
Elizabeth A. Goreham
Donald M. Hahn

Absent: Craig R. Humphrey
Jeffrey R. Kern

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Borough Manager; Norma J. Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Mike S. Groff, Finance Director; Herman L. Slaybaugh, Planning/Zoning Officer; Mark Whitfield, Public Work Director; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Sheila Lubold, Recording Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public hour. Bob Rightmyer, 785 Walnut Spring Lane, expressed his concerns about the absence of a sidewalk along the street across from his residence. He felt it would be beneficial to the people walking their dogs to have a sidewalk there and he questioned when a sidewalk would be installed.

Mr. Rightmyer also stated on the evening news a local gas station was fine \$850,000 for polluting a local stream. He expressed his concerns that the Borough may be fined if the problems at the Walnut Springs demonstration wetlands are not corrected and the stream is polluted. He appreciated the Borough Manager's willingness to help and asked when Council would be taking action on this matter.

Open Agenda. Council was given the opportunity to raise issues not scheduled on a future agenda. Council was provided with a list of upcoming agenda items.

Mr. Daubert asked for the September 10, 2007 work session agenda to be revised to include Council discussion in regards to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Mr. Fountaine stated all meetings from September 10, 2007 through September 21, 2007 would have time allotted for discussion of the CIP.

Mr. Daubert also requested a time to discuss the relationship the Borough has with the media. He stated the Borough should have a designated person who would talk with the media rather than having random people do the job. Mr. Fountaine stated a proposal is scheduled to be in the 2008 budget.

Ms. Goreham questioned if the CIP could be discussed at the September 4, 2007 meeting since there were no items listed for the agenda. Mr. Fountaine stated the September 10, 2007 meeting is intended to be a discussion meeting and the September 4, 2007 meeting would possibly be cancelled. Ms. Dauler stated the meeting had not been formally cancelled and a decision on that meeting would be made after the August 20, 2007 meeting.

Ms. Goreham requested the Planning Commission include a schedule of upcoming items for discussion in their report to be presented to Council. She was especially interested in the future plans for Calder Way. Mr. Fountaine stated the Planning Commission continues to work from the work plan developed last year but an update can be provided to Council.

Mr. Daubert said he was discouraged that the Planning Commission does not work on zoning issues as requested by Council. He suggested such requests be made in writing.

Mr. Filippelli questioned when the Transportation Commission would be presenting to Council their findings on pedestrian crosswalks. Ms. Dauler added she was interested in their findings as well. Mr. Fountaine stated if there is action needed by Council a presentation would be done at that time.

Projects Report. Council was provided with an updated list of anticipated Borough projects and projects currently in progress.

Mr. Daubert felt Council should have already received the results of the National Citizen Survey. Mr. Fountaine stated the survey results analysis is currently scheduled for presentation at the September 10, 2007 work session.

Mr. Daubert questioned the reason for the roadwork that was being done on Garner Street. Mr. Whitfield stated patch work is done by the Borough crew on streets that are scheduled to be resurfaced in the next few years. The work done is meant to seal the cracks in the road and maintain the road surface until the entire street is resurfaced. Mr. Whitfield stated he would check the area Mr. Daubert was referring to.

Mr. Filippelli questioned how long the delay on the Wayfinding project would be. Mr. Fontaine explained the project has been split into two phases. The first phase will deal with the static display signs and will soon be going out to bid. The next phase will include the dynamic signs but this phase has been delayed indefinitely because the signs are large and permits and approval are needed for the placement of them.

Report from Centre Region Parks & Recreation Board and the Centre Region Recreation

Authority. Donna Conway, the Borough's representative to the Centre Region Parks & Recreation (CRPR) Board and Centre Regional Recreation Authority (CRRA) along with Ron Woodhead, Director of CRPR attended the meeting and provided an update on the work of the CRPR Board and the CRRA.

Ms. Conway thanked Council for appointing her to the board and stated she has been enjoying the work.

Ms. Conway reported the CRPR and CRRA websites have been growing in popularity and the new software that will be installed will make the websites even more user friendly. The agency and the programs offered continue to do great especially the garden plots at Tudek Park, tennis, and baseball.

Ms. Conway stated the pools continue to do well and will be open through Labor Day. Community input continues to be received for pool renovation ideas and the current plan has renovations for Welch Pool starting in the fall of 2009 and the pool reopening in 2010.

Ms. Conway also announced that Millbrook Marsh would be celebrating the 10th anniversary for the natural area.

Mr. Daubert questioned the overall participation in the sports programs. Mr. Woodhead stated participation in the youth competitive sports has been dropping off but the Authority continues to try and develop leagues. The fall soccer, girls softball, and youth tennis has been the most affected. The difficulty is having enough children to form the number of teams needed for a league. Other associations are interested in competing rather than learning. Mr. Woodhead stated they try to keep the children interested by having diverse programs.

State College Area School District Presentation on Memorial Field. Mr. Fontaine noted that because of continued aging and deterioration of the west bleacher assembly at Memorial Field, the State College Area School District is proposing to replace the bleachers in 2008. Mike Spicer with the State College School District and Richard O'Donald with L. Robert Kimball and Associates attended the meeting and presented the proposal for the new west bleachers.

Mr. O'Donald stated the east bleachers have already been changed to aluminum bleachers and the referenced proposal has the west bleachers scheduled to be replaced by the 2008 football season.

Mr. O'Donald also reported projects have been done in the past to help improve Memorial Field. Drainage has been an issue and in 2003 the field surface was replaced and the underground drainage was replaced in an effort to eliminate this problem. The school district is also working to improve the press box and has worked with the Borough to have the lights replaced. Mr. O'Donald stated in the future the plan is to try and relieve some of the strain on the public streets and surrounding areas affected by the facility. One possible change would be to change the width of Fraser Street allowing for more seating and concession area inside the stadium. Mr. O'Donald stated the function of Fraser Street would not change and it would remain a one-way street with metered parking.

Mr. Daubert questioned what would happen to the informal parking on Fraser Street and was concerned making the street narrower could be dangerous. Mr. Fontaine stated the informal parking is an issue to be addressed by the Borough and enforcement may need to increase in this area. Ms. Dauler noted the churches in the affected areas should be made aware of any possible changes to Fraser Street so they could be part of the discussion.

Mr. Hahn stated he would be cautious of any changes and noted Beaver Avenue Garage should be considered in the parking equation of any changes.

Council questioned if the attendance at the football games warranted the need for these changes. It was agreed more seating would be used if available and Mr. O'Donald reminded Council that Memorial Field encounters some restraints because of the size but the plan would be to gently increase the capacity.

Ms. Dauler questioned if the proposed changes would allow for handicap accessibility from the Fraser Street side of the field. Mr. O'Donald stated the changes would allow for a handicap accessible entrance from Fraser Street.

Greenhouse Gas Resolution. Mr. Fontaine said Borough Council and staff have been working with a class from Penn State in evaluating the Borough's emission of greenhouse gases. Through the evaluation, certain goals can be established and measured in the Borough's efforts to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. As part of a nationwide movement by various cities throughout the United States lead by the U S Conference of Mayors, cities are encouraged to resolve to become Climate Protection Communities. A draft Resolution declaring State College as a Climate Protection Community was provided to Council. The resolution provides background on the issue of climate protection by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and proposed a series of goals for the Borough government and the community. Mr. Fountaine asked Council to review the draft and suggest revisions as needed.

Mr. Daubert said he felt the resolution was admirable but questioned if it would be infringing on people's rights and suggested the wording may be too strong. He felt more clarification was needed to explain what some of the goals are and the elements needed to achieve the goals. He also questioned the expense of making the changes put forth in the resolution.

Mr. Fountaine stated the resolution includes goals for the Borough and the items do not carry the effect of laws. The idea is to encourage the private sector and make this resolution a goal for the community. This would be helped by developing an Office of Sustainability and having the efforts of the Borough coordinated to move in the right direction. He added the 2008 budget is currently being prepared so expense numbers are not currently available but it is hoped the expenses and the money saved would be neutral.

Mr. Hahn felt the goals could be accomplished at a reasonable cost to taxpayers but thought it important that the Borough follow-up on the goals if the resolution is passed. Action by Council does not mandate the goals will be completed. Mr. Whitfield stated the Borough has already started to implement some of the changes such as creating more bike lanes and switching to different light bulbs. The Borough has also upgraded the diesel being used but more information is needed regarding the warranties for the diesel engines before the change is completely made to B-30 diesel fuel.

Ms. Goreham commended the work being done on this project and feels the Borough should promote the changes. She also noted state grants are being offered to communities to encourage the idea of going greener and felt education this help this effort.

Mr. Filippelli felt the general idea was a great idea but agreed with Mr. Daubert that more clarification is needed on some items. He also suggested listing the goals as Borough goals rather than community goals.

Ms. Dauler questioned item 16 dealing with the idling of vehicles. Mr. Whitfield explained this would apply to all vehicles in the Borough and a time limit would be placed on the length of time a vehicle could be left idling.

Mr. Hahn expressed his concern that changes would be made throughout the Borough to specifically meet the goals set forth in the resolution; for example making zoning changes. Mr. Whitfield stated is it important to keep in mind innovations that will be occurring in the next four to five years.

Mr. Fountaine reminded Council these would be goals for the Borough and something to work towards. The goal dealing with free transit service is achievable but could be very expensive. A pilot program through CATA has been discussed to offer discount service.

Council questioned once again that this resolution would just serve as goals for the Borough and not be a Borough ordinance. Mr. Fountaine stated it would not be an ordinance. Mr. Whitfield reiterated the resolution should indicate both Borough and community goals as well as use easier terms when stating the goals.

Mr. Hahn cautioned Council about voting for a resolution setting goals for the Borough and then not following through to make sure they are achieved.

2008 Program Plan for the Centre Region COG. Mr. Fountaine noted Council was previously given a copy of the 2008 COG Program Plan and was asked to provide comments to be considered during preparation of the draft 2008 COG Budget. Suggestions and comments will be forwarded to the COG Executive Director based on Council's discussion at this work session. If any formal Council action is needed in response to the Program Plan, the vote will be scheduled for the August 20, 2007 Council meeting, he added.

Ms. Dauler noted some of the issues have already been approved and were voted on at the COG General Forum so some items did not require discussion. Council reviewed and discussed the listing of major proposals found on pages 8 to 14 of the 2008 program plan. Council concurred with the COG administration proposals in the program plan.

Council spent some time discussing the Emergency Management Program, specifically if a full-time position should be committed to the program. The current director works part-time for Penn State and part-time for COG.

Mr. Hahn said he felt it was important to set the goals and standards for this position before Council could make a decision either way.

Ms. Goreham expressed her concerns that elected officials have been excluded from emergency management training and would welcome a change in this position if the elected officials could be more informed. Mr. Fontaine stated there have been some emergency management programs made available to elected officials and that information could be forwarded to Council.

Mr. Filippelli questioned the relationship among COG, Penn State and the County Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Fontaine stated there would be a continued relationship among the parties. Mr. Hahn added that a clear line of authority needed to be stated.

Mr. Daubert questioned why the frequency in having the plan of action revised. Mr. Fontaine stated drills are conducted and reviewed in order to make sure the procedures are current and up to date.

Mr. Fontaine stated it may be premature to make a decision about hiring a full-time coordinator because there has not been much time to evaluate the program. The workload is clearly too much for one part-time person but the new Deputy Coordinator may be able to alleviate some of the current workload. Council concluded they were not able to make a decision on this issue with the information provided to them.

Council agreed additional funding should be provided to the 2008 Library budget for additional staff hours to meet the demands of the public's use of the Library.

Council agreed Ferguson and Halfmoon Townships should be encouraged to adopt the Articles of Agreement for membership in the regional library program. Council agreed with the planning proposals in the program plan.

In reference to the CCMPO, Mr. Fontaine stated it is important to have Bellefonte Borough and Pennsylvania State University contribute funding to the CCMPO in 2008 but the Borough does not have control over this item. Council concurred.

Council concurred with fire protection and capital proposals in the program plan. Mr. Daubert said he would report at the next meeting on the Parks and Recreation and Pool Capital major proposals from the program plan. Mr. Fontaine noted that Council's response to the major proposals would be forwarded to COG following that discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm to an executive session to discuss real estate and personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary