

**Meeting Minutes  
State College Borough Council  
August 20, 2007**

The State College Borough Council met in a regular meeting on Monday, August 20, 2007, in the State College Municipal Building Council Chambers, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Mr. Welch called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Bill Welch, Mayor  
Catherine G. Dauler, President of Council  
Thomas E. Daubert  
Ronald L. Filippelli  
Elizabeth A. Goreham  
Donald M. Hahn  
Craig R. Humphrey  
Jeffrey R. Kern

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Borough Manager; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Thomas King, Chief of Police; Beth Johnston, Human Resources Director; Arther Caccavale, Parking Manager; Ernest Dabiero, Purchasing Director and Risk Manager; Michael Groff, Finance Director; Norma Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Members of the media; and other interested observers.

**PUBLIC HOUR – HEARING OF CITIZENS.**

Bob Rightmeyer, 785 Walnut Spring Lane, addressed Council as a followup from last Monday's work session. He said the first item of request is for the Borough to assist College Township in spreading mulch chips throughout Thompson Woods. Secondly, Mr. Rightmeyer said the sidewalk should be completed on Walnut Spring Lane. The Borough indicated that after College Township installed water pipes, the sidewalk would be installed, but the pipes were completed three years ago. Mr. Rightmeyer said his third item was that Walnut Springs Wetland should be renamed a stream because of the amount of water present.

**CONSENT ITEMS.**

Mr. Daubert moved to approve the following consent items. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approve Vouchers for the month of July 2007 in the amount of \$2,407,389.60.

Approve the use of the 500 block of Westview Avenue for a block party on Friday, September 7, 2007, from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Approve the use of East Irvin Avenue (between First Alley east of Pugh Street and Berry Alley) for a block party on Sunday, September 9, 2007, (with a rain date of Sunday, September 16), from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Award a bid for one (1) 2007 model detachable snow blower to U.S. Municipal Supply, the low bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$83,992.00.

Award a bid for one (1) 2008 model dump body to Bradco Supply Company of Towanda, PA, the low bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$79,384.50.

Award a bid for streetlight poles and luminaires for Beaver Avenue and High Street to The Hite Company of State College, PA, the low bidder meeting the specifications, in the amount of \$76,085.00.

Accept resignations, with regret, from the following individuals from various ABCs:

<b>Name</b>	<b>ABC</b>	<b>Effective date</b>
Michael Freeman	Planning Commission	Immediately
Kenneth J. Mawritz	Parks & Recreation Authority	Immediately
Christopher Falzone	Transportation Commission	Immediately

Approve the following minutes for meetings held in July 2007.

July 9, 2007	Regular Meeting
July 16, 2007	Regular Meeting

**GENERAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Resolution 944 for Greenhouse Gas Initiatives.** Mr. Fontaine said that 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. He added 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. Mr. Fontaine said Council reviewed a draft resolution at the August 13 work session and a revised draft was included in the agenda packages. He said Council is asked to adopt the revised resolution declaring State College as a Climate Protection Community.

Mr. Kern said he will vote against the resolution because one cannot control climate changes that were started over 10,000 years ago. He added that he is environmentally conscious but wary of selecting technologies that are popular but not effective. He cited the use of hybrids and corn oil in diesel as specific examples.

Mr. Humphrey said the author of the resolution, Mark Whitfield, should be commended for a job well done. Ms. Goreham agreed and added that reducing pollution and involving everyone in awareness of energy use is essential.

Ms. Goreham moved to approved Resolution 944; Ms. Dauler seconded the motion.

Ms. Goreham moved to amend the original motion and change the use of the term 'corn oil' to 'biodeisel' instead. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daubert and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Daubert questioned the need for so many specifics in the details of the resolution. Mr. Humphrey explained that the specifics are needed to avoid an overly generalized policy.

Mayor Welch asked if there are anticipated costs in relation to the position and/or Office of Sustainability. Mr. Fontaine answered that a budget analysis has not yet been completed, but the Borough expects to employ a person within the Public Works Department that will coordinate a number of diverse programs. Mr. Fontaine added that the expense for the position is expected to be paid for via cost savings in terms of operating efficiency.

Mr. Kern asked why an Office of Sustainability is necessary. Mr. Fontaine said the Borough is already doing a lot for energy efficiency and environmentally conscious programs, but there is a need to be more efficient and coordinated.

Mr. Hahn said he previously expressed his reservations, but now believes this project is important to the country.

Ms. Goreham added that there are many state and national initiatives where funding could be sought.

Mr. Kern made a motion to amend the original motion that the reference in the resolution to 20 percent of Borough vehicles being comprised of hybrid cars be changed to 100 percent of Borough vehicles being comprised of the 'most energy efficient vehicles.' The motion was seconded by Mr. Filippelli and passed unanimously.

Mr. Humphrey said the resolution is a learning document for everyone and suggested no more changes to the document; staff will grow with it.

Mr. Whitfield said an energy and cost analysis will have to be conducted because all aspects should be weighed. Mr. Fontaine said the language of the document does not change the intent of the resolution; Borough staff can determine ways to measure efficiency.

Mr. Filippelli moved to amend the original motion so that item 19 referencing the community shall use 'hybrid fueled vehicles' to the 'most energy efficient vehicles.' The motion was seconded by Mr. Kern and the motion passed with a 6-1 vote with Ms. Goreham opposing.

Council then voted on the original motion to approve Resolution 944 with the amendments noted above. The vote passed with all in favor.

## REGIONAL ISSUES

**2008 Program Plan for the Centre Region Council of Governments.** Mr. Fontaine said the 2008 COG Program Plan was forwarded to all municipalities for comments to be considered during preparation of the draft 2008 COG Budget. He said Council discussed the COG Program Plan at the August 13 work session with a focus on the Major Proposals found on pages 8 through 14. Mr. Fontaine said that based on the discussions at the work session, staff has annotated a copy of the separate Major Proposals sheet to show Council responses which Council should review, note changes as appropriate and forward comments to the COG by the August 28 deadline.

Council agreed that it is too soon to comment whether a full time employee is needed for the emergency management program; but rather a decision should be made after the part time official has been in place for some period of time.

Mr. Rightmeyer asked if a fire plan was established for Lederer Park because COG did not previously have one. Mayor Welch said Council's discussion was in relation to the emergency management program; but Council would make note of Mr. Rightmeyer's concern.

Council discussed the parts of the Program Plan not covered at the August 13 work session: Regional Parks and Recreation and Pools capital.

Council agreed that \$10,000 is not necessary for an evaluation to determine a need for additional equipment storage space; this evaluation can be completed by staff.

Council supported funding for a proposed development of a master site plan for the Whitehall Road property.

Council agreed that additional information is needed to support funding to add one full-time park caretaker and a part-time staff assistant as well as whether there is a need to replace equipment.

Mr. Daubert said a local project manager with professional experience should be chosen to coordinate the CRPR projects over the next five years. He said the projects included two pool renewals projects, the development of the Oak Hall and Whitehall Road parklands, and the facility improvements to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

Mr. Daubert also noted that in regard to the pools capital, the participating municipalities should discuss funding options.

Mr. Fontaine said Council's comments would be forwarded to COG.

#### OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

**Mayor's Report.** Mayor Welch said he received a letter from the town of Macroom in Ireland presented by attendees of the Irish Youth Fly Fishing Team for the World Championships. He noted that the town clerk states that William Penn, for whom Pennsylvania is named, was born in Macroom County.

**President's Report** Ms. Dauler said last Thursday Council welcomed Governor Rendell, Senator Corman, Representative Conklin and the County Commissioners on the steps of the old municipal building where the Borough was presented with a \$2.5 million grant for the Fraser Centre.

Ms. Dauler said on that same day, she also stood in for Mayor Welch during the welcoming of the international students at Penn State University which was sponsored by Global Connections.

Ms. Dauler announced that Council would hold an executive session upon completion of this meeting to discuss real estate and personnel matters. Mr. Fontaine added that Council also held two executive sessions via conference call to discuss real estate on August 9 and 17.

**Staff/Committee Reports.** Mr. Fontaine said Council is invited to attend the Waste Watcher Awards set for September 5 at 11:30 am at the Penn Stater and directed Council to notify Amy Miller by this Friday if they wished to attend.

**Second Quarter Financial Report.** Mr. Groff presented an update to Council on the financial status of the Borough. Mr. Groff said the Borough's financial position is sound and meets staff's expectations.

Mr. Groff noted that the parking fund budget had shown a deficit and projected use of reserves of about \$850,000 in 2007 to balance the parking budget. However, the Parking Manager implemented changes resulting in less of a deficit than budgeted, about \$200,000 through the first half of the year. Mr. Groff added that parking numbers have increased with cash customers, rentals are also on the rise, and EZ card usage has also increased. He noted that the rate changes approved by Council in July are not included in the second quarter report.

Mr. Caccavale said contributing factors include improved customer service and increased business in the downtown. He added that customer service and 'word of mouth' is the best type of advertising.

Mr. Filippelli asked if Beaver Garage rentals have increased; Mr. Caccavale replied that about 90 customers have moved from the Fraser and Pugh garages since Council approved the rate changes. Mr. Caccavale added that EZ cards have been advertised and their \$5 deposit eliminated. In addition, credit card pay stations are being considered which would bring additional business.

Mr. Hahn asked if there is a limit to monthly rentals. Mr. Caccavale answered yes, at a point where there is not enough space for hourly cash customers. Mr. Fontaine added that an adjustment was made about a year ago when the demand for rentals was greater, but hourly parking is important as well. Mr. Caccavale said adjustments would be made as needed to respond to customer demand.

**2008-2012 Capital Improvement Plan.** Mr. Fontaine said Council would discuss the CIP at their meeting on September 10.

Mr. Whitfield presented an overview of the 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Plan and distributed the plan to Council. He said Council should consider whether the projects listed are important, are in the proper order of priority and if other projects should be considered.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to an executive session at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Cynthia S. Hanscom  
Assistant Borough Secretary