

**Meeting Minutes
Borough Council
March 17, 2008**

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, March 17, 2008 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Present: Bill Welch, Mayor
Elizabeth A. Goreham, President of Council
Ronald L. Filippelli
Donald M. Hahn
Theresa D. Lafer
Silvi Lawrence
Peter Morris
James L. Rosenberger (arrived late)

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Terry J. Williams, Solicitor; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Borough Manager for Community Services; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager for Budget and Administration; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Michael Groff, Finance Director; Thomas King, Chief of Police, Beth Johnston, Human Resource Director; Herman Slaybaugh, Zoning Officer; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

PUBLIC HOUR

Report on Greek Week Activities. Meaghan Cappelloni, Overall Chair, and Yuqing Gao, Community Relations Overall Chair, updated Council on activities planned for Greek Week 2008 and expressed their hope of Council and community involvement. Council received a schedule of events for Greek week.

There were no comments from the public regarding issues not on the agenda.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Hahn moved and Ms. Goreham seconded a motion to approve the following consent items. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

- Approve Vouchers for the month of February 2008 for the Borough of State College in the amount of \$3,727,422.74.
- Approve the use of Borough streets for Take Back the Night event on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event will not require closing of streets as participants will walk along the sidewalks.
- Approve the use of Central Parklet for Park Forest Middle School students to celebrate Earth Day with sidewalk drawings on Saturday, April 22, 2008, from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.
- Award a bid for the Atherton Street/Foster Avenue Intersection Improvements to the low bidder, Glenn O. Hawbaker, for a total amount of \$125,183.50.
- Appoint Robert Leonard to the Spring Creek Canyon Master Plan Public Advisory Committee, and Bill Brusse as an alternate, both terms effective April 1, 2008.

Mr. Hahn moved and Ms. Goreham seconded a motion to approve the February 2008 minutes with the changes as stated below. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

February 4, 2008	Regular Meeting
February 11, 2008	Work Session
February 15, 2008	Work Session
February 19, 2008	Regular Meeting
February 25, 2008	Special Meeting

Mr. Hahn said in the February 4 meeting minutes in the West End section in the second to last paragraph the sentence should read: Mr. Hahn asked if the original Urban Village prohibited commercial development on College Avenue. Ms. Lawrence added that in the same set of minutes she agreed with Mr. Hahn regarding spot zoning rather than with Mr. Hess as it was stated.

In the February 11 minutes, Mr. Hahn added that in the Open Agenda section he suggested Council consider a joint meeting with the Planning Commission to share ideas on the West End. Also in the section on the Foster/Atherton Warning Signal, Mr. Hahn said he expressed concern with vehicles traveling southbound on Atherton, rather than northbound. Ms. Lawrence said in

the Revisions to the Traffic Calming and Street Classification section she was not the person who asked about the policy for the borough-wide speed limit of 25 mph.

Ms. Lawrence said in the February 15 minutes under the Fraser Center Update she questioned adding a bike lane to Beaver Avenue rather than suggested.

ABC REPORTS

Report from the Design Review Board. Kevin Gombotz, Design Review Board Chair, presented Council with an overview of the layout of the newly revised Design Guide. Mr. Gombotz thanked Council for the funding to obtain the use of a Penn State intern to make the project possible. Council members expressed satisfaction with the fresh approach taken in preparing the new guide.

Report from the State College Borough Water Authority. Max Gill, Manager of the State College Borough Water Authority, updated Council on the Beaver Avenue Project (Atherton Street to High Street) which will be from June through October. Mr. Gill said the project must be completed before PennDOT begins to resurface Beaver Avenue.

Mr. Gill noted that the 2007 work was a learning experience and the Authority will make changes to the construction process and schedule. Construction will take place in two block segments to alleviate traffic congestion as well as having two crews working simultaneously to cut the construction time in half. Equipment will not be stored on the side streets and night work will also be considered. The Authority will make better use of the media to alert residents of the construction schedule.

Council said night work should be encouraged whenever possible. Mr. Gill added that no work would be conducted during the week of the Arts Festival.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sponsor a Renewal Application for the Local Shelter Support. In 2002 and again in 2005, State College Borough applied for and received HUD Continuum of Care funds (McKinney-Vento Act) for the Local Shelter Support Initiative Project. The purpose of the shelter project funding is to increase the capacity of Centre County Women's Resource Center, Housing Transitions, and Burrowes Street Youth Haven to provide services to homeless mental health consumers and homeless youth.

This project is an initiative of the Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition, which needs a sponsor for the application. Local governments are eligible to apply, and the Coalition has requested the Borough again sponsor this application. The application will request \$10,920 in supportive service funds for a 1-year program. There is a 20 percent match requirement, but the three organizations will supply the match and no request for funding is being made of the Borough.

Ms. Lafer moved and Ms. Goreham seconded a motion to sponsor the application on behalf of the Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Resolution on the Fifth Anniversary of the War in Iraq. At the March 3, 2008, meeting Council received a request from the State College Peace Center that a resolution be passed on the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq. The resolution urged national leaders to bring troops home from Iraq as soon as is consistent with their safety and commended the State College Peace Center for its efforts to organize a vigil on March 19 to mark the fifth anniversary of the war.

Mr. Morris moved and Ms. Goreham seconded a motion to adopt the Resolution on the Fifth Anniversary of the War in Iraq.

Mr. Hahn moved to amend the resolution to replace existing language with the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of State College as follows:

1. That the State College Borough Council honors the sacrifices of its residents, and the residents of its surrounding communities, who have died, been injured, or otherwise had their lives disrupted by their service to our country both in Iraq and Afghanistan;
2. That the State College Borough supports the safe return of all our troops from Iraq as expeditiously as possible; and
3. That the State College Borough Council recognizes the State College Peace Center for organizing a vigil marking the fifth anniversary of the war at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at the corner of College Avenue and Allen Street.

Ms. Goreham seconded to amend the motion. The vote on the motion was 3-3-0, with Ms. Lawrence, Mr. Filippelli and Ms. Lafer opposed. The motion failed.

The following residents addressed Council:

Dick Gold, 134 E. Doris Avenue, stated that the resolution was not a political issue. He added that the US would not be in this war situation if neighbors would have spoken out previously.

Mr. Rosenberger arrived at this point in the meeting.

Marsha Thorson, Boalsburg, thanked Ms. Goreham for her support and reminded Council that they are here for the people.

Julia Hicks, 500 E. Marilyn Avenue, distributed information to Council on how much the war has cost taxpayers locally as well as statewide. She said she has participated in many vigils protesting the war at the Old Main gates in opposition of the war. She said that the resolution should be passed.

Dick Hutchins, 500 E. Marilyn Avenue, said that Council represents the best interests of the citizens and it is a "cop out" saying that the issue is not a matter for Council.

Mike Sletson, 120 E. Beaver Avenue, said he feels the resolution has a great deal of meaning and suggests Council join a great number of other communities that feel the same way about the war.

Dan Letwin, 951 Crabapple Drive, said listening to the comments this evening there is no disagreement that the war is a moral catastrophe. He added that the war has had an impact on the country as well as the community. He said Council has the potential to make an impact on the community.

Reed Smith, 500 E. Marilyn Avenue, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak publicly. He said the war is a great issue throughout the county and he is sorry that Council has a narrow definition of the citizens' voice. He added that the war does affect all citizens and is directly related to us locally.

Laura Piraino, 130 Hartswick Avenue, said she is a mother of teenage children and the war reflects failed foreign policy that will disproportionately affect young people and the poor. She asked Council to consider the resolution and added that the war was a bad business decision and a waste of money.

Bob Newnhan, 500 E. Marilyn Avenue, said he would like to give a different view point on the resolution. As an engineer he sees through the eyes of international visiting scholars and listens to their opinions and what they are saying about the US government and it is not a good opinion. He asked that Council consider the resolution through an international viewpoint.

Loretta Jeffreys, 717 S. Sparks Street, said she wanted to clarify that this was not a personal issue and that many residents have written to their elected officials. She said besides personal responsibility there is also collective responsibility and Council has a collective responsibility to act on the resolution if they have any moral fiber.

Steve Hamaday, 227 W. Beaver Avenue, stated that as a young person he wanted to let his voice be heard. He said his elders have always encouraged the fact that one person can be heard and asked Council to support the resolution.

Ms. Goreham thanked those who addressed Council and asked for reconsideration of the motion to amend the resolution. Mr. Williams stated that a motion can be reconsidered if someone who was not present to vote for the original motion makes the motion.

Mr. Rosenberger moved and Ms. Lafer seconded a motion to reconsider the amendment to the original motion. The motion passed with a 6-1-0 vote with Mr. Filippelli opposed.

Mr. Rosenberger then moved and Mr. Morris seconded a motion to approve the amendment to the original motion. The motion passed with a 6-1-0 vote with Mr. Filippelli opposed.

Mayor Welch then asked for a roll call vote to approve the original motion, which was to adopt the resolution as amended. The motion passed with a 5-2-0 vote with Mr. Filippelli and Ms. Lawrence opposed.

OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

President's Report. President Goreham announced that on March 29 Council will participate in Earth Hour, which is a way to calculate the savings of electricity by turning off lights for one hour, from 8-9 pm.

She also announced that council would meet in an Executive Session following tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Each Council member who attended the National League of Cities meeting last week in Washington, DC gave a brief report on relevant information gleaned from their experience in the areas of community development block grant funding, tax revenue and bonds, transportation, environmental and energy issues, and information sharing from other university communities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary