

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Work Session
July 14, 2008

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Monday, July 14, 2008, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Ms. Goreham called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Present: Elizabeth A. Goreham, President of Council
Ronald L. Filippelli
Donald M. Hahn
Theresa D. Lafer
Silvi Lawrence
Peter Morris
James L. Rosenberger

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Amy Story, Borough Engineer; Beth Johnston, Human Resources Director; members of the media; and other interested observers. Herman Slaybaugh, Zoning Officer; Terry Williams, Borough Solicitor and Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Borough Manager for Community Services arrived late.

Public Hour. There were no comments from the public.

Report from Centre County Housing and Land Trust (CCHLT). Staff presented an overview of the CCHLT organization structure, its goals and the services they provide.

Parking Regulations for Nittany Avenue. Mark Tygel, owner of the laundromat at 107 West Nittany Avenue, requested on-street metered parking rather than commuter parking on Nittany Avenue near his business.

Staff recommended removing the commuter zone parking and providing short-term metered parking.

Council members expressed agreement with the installation of the meters to aid the businesses in the immediate area, but requested a copy of the commuter parking map to ensure adequate commuter parking as well.

Sewer Ordinance Revisions. Staff recommended a change to the Sewer Ordinance defining that a fee can be charged for inspection when a lateral is constructed, repaired, or replaced, and a resolution that establishes the permit fee at \$125 and an additional fee of \$50 for additional inspections in excess of the first. Staff also recommended requiring anyone who works on a sanitary sewer within the street right-of-way to post surety and provide proof of insurance.

Council was supportive of the ordinance and resolution.

Street Renaming Ordinance for 911 Compliance. Council was requested to consider an ordinance that will rename certain streets within the Borough in an effort to be consistent with the Centre County Emergency 9-1-1 Office. Council members expressed agreement with the street renaming.

Centre Region Council of Government (COG) Committee Structure. The COG proposal for amending the Committee structure was submitted to the municipalities for comment. At the Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC) meeting questions arose on how the Transportation and Land Use Committee would correlate to the CRPC. Council asked the

Borough's Planning and Transportation Commissions to discuss the proposed COG Transportation and Land Use Committee.

Council suggested the regional fire companies assign a liaison on the Public Services Committee. Staff noted that the Alpha Fire Company is the only fire company funded by COG.

Council questioned the redundancy of the Recreation Authority and the ad hoc Regional Parks Committee. Staff noted that the ad hoc Regional Parks Committee was established specifically to obtain new park land for development and financing.

Former Council member Tom Daubert, 378 Bradley Avenue, said he served on the ad hoc Park Committee for 3 to 4 years and their work could not be done by the COG Finance Committee because the work was too immense.

Regarding the COG ad hoc Regional Parks Committee, Council members Rosenberger, Hahn and Filippelli recommended renaming the committee to the Parks Committee. Council members Lafer and Lawrence suggested the name remain the ad hoc Park Committee; Council member Goreham suggested renaming the committee the COG Capital Committee; and Council member Morris suggested renaming the committee the Park and Recreation Committee.

Revision to the Home Rule Charter. A suggestion was made by a Council member to propose a change to the Home Rule Charter to remove term limits. The change would require a referendum on the November ballot. Additionally, a resolution would need to be approved at either the July 21 or the August 4 Council meeting because of the short time frame.

Conditional Use. In preparation for the public hearing scheduled for the Conditional Use request for Fraser Centre at the July 21 meeting, Staff explained the hearing procedure.

Second Means of Egress. Council held a public hearing on July 7 on proposed revisions to the regulations in the Property Maintenance Code for a second means of egress from second floor windows in two story residential buildings when a window is more than 20 feet from windowsill to grade. Staff recommendations were as follows:

- Repeal the 20 foot rule for 2 story residential properties (sprinkler/second egress requirements would continue to apply to 3 story rentals)
- Revise the definition of habitable space as used in sections 702.5 through 702.5.2 of the Property Maintenance code to exclude kitchens.

Council discussed the alternatives from the several reports to Council and requested staff prepare an ordinance incorporating staff's recommended changes to repeal the 20 foot rule and revise the definition of habitable space for consideration by Council on July 21.

Cable Franchise. Mr. Fountaine distributed documents to Council that were prepared by the Centre Area Cable Consortium (CACC) Board in preparation for the renewal of the franchise agreement with Comcast. The Board is expected to approve the documents at their meeting on August 4.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters and real estate at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary