

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
October 6, 2008

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, October 6, 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
Peter Morris
Silvi Lawrence
James L. Rosenberger

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Manager for Community Services; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager for Budget and Administration; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Lu Hoover, CDBG Senior Planner; Thomas King, Chief of Police; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Timothy Grattan, Director of Information Technology; Cynthia S. Hanscom, Assistant Borough Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Mr. Welch began with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hour. There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING

2009 Consolidated Annual Action Plan. Council held a public hearing on the 2009 Consolidated Annual Action Plan for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME grant money during fiscal year 2009.

Shelton Alexander, chair of the CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee, provided an overview of the plan.

Mr. Welch asked if there were public comments. There being none, Mr. Welch closed the public hearing.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Hahn moved and Ms. Lafer seconded a motion to approve the following consent items. The motion passed unanimously.

- o Use of the 200 block of South Allen Street between Beaver and Foster Avenues for the Fall Festival and Chili Cookoff on Saturday, October 11, 2008, from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- o Use of various sidewalks in College Heights for the Farm Sanctuary Walk on Sunday, October 26, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- o Use of sidewalks along College Avenue for the Democracy in Suffrage March/Rally on Monday, October 13, 2008, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- o Award a bid for the purchase of a 2009 model 35,000 pound GVW Truck Chassis Complete with one-man operation leaf and grass vacuum to Noerr's Garage of Lewistown, PA, the low bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$138,360.00.

GENERAL POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

Wireless Project in Central Parklet. Council received a proposal from staff to discontinue researching and planning the development of a municipal wireless network. It was noted that the private sector has expanded wireless service in parts of the Borough.

Council considered the installation of free wireless connectivity in Central Parklet at a cost of \$4,500. Council also considered an upgrade to the State College Municipal Building wireless network.

Ms. Lafer moved to suspend the municipal wireless project, approve the expansion of the Borough's public wireless network to include Central Parklet, and approve the upgrade of the Borough's internal network for secure wireless service in the Municipal Building. Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amended Debt Policy. Council considered an amendment to the debt policy that was approved at the September 15 meeting. The amendment would add to the general fund annual debt service limit of 10 percent of the general fund revenue for local debt, a limit of 12 percent for a combined local/regional annual general fund debt service.

Mr. Hahn moved to approve the amended policy. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion.

Ms. Goreham moved to amend the motion to revised the debt policy amendment to reduce the total debt service limit, including regional debt, to 10 percent of general fund revenue. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The vote was 2-5-0, with Ms. Lafer, Mr. Rosenberger, Mr. Filippelli, Mr. Hahn, and Ms. Lawrence opposed. The motion failed.

Council then voted on the main motion to amend the adopted debt policy to include a limit on regional debt. The motion passed with a 5-2-0 vote, with Ms. Goreham and Mr. Morris opposed.

Beaver Avenue/High Street Streetlight Project. Council considered a resolution to acquire five easements for the Beaver Avenue/High Street Streetlight Project. Ms. Lafer moved to approve Resolution 973 to acquire the five easements for this project by eminent domain. Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion, which passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

State Theatre Liquor License. Council discussed sending a letter to the State Theatre Board of Directors urging them not to apply for a performing arts liquor license. The license, if granted by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, would allow the sale of alcoholic beverages by the theatre beginning two hours before a performance with sales ending one hour after the conclusion of the performance.

Mr. Filippelli moved that the Borough send a letter to the State Theatre Board of Directors asking that they decline to apply for a performing arts liquor license. Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion. The vote was 4-3-0, with Mr. Hahn, Ms. Lawrence, and Mr. Morris opposed. The motion passed.

TRANSPORTATION

Parking Changes on Saxton Drive. Council considered a resident's request to post the west side of Saxton Drive NO PARKING 2 – 6 AM from Westerly Parkway to Bayberry Drive. A poll of the nine residents affected by the posting showed five favored posting the 2-6 AM parking restriction on Saxton Drive and four opposed the posting. Staff responded they did not believe a significant problem exists at this location.

Ms. Goreham moved to deny the request to post Saxton Drive with a 2- 6 AM parking restriction between Westerly Parkway and Bayberry Drive. Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE

Towing Ordinance Amendments. Council considered an amendment to the towing ordinance to increase the current towing fees and increase towing license fees.

Mr. Hahn moved to enact Ordinance 1910 to amend the towing ordinance. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion, which passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

REGIONAL ISSUES

COG Committee Structure. Council received proposed changes to the COG Articles of Agreement to reflect changes proposed in the Committee structure. No comments were made by Council.

OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor's Report. Mr. Welch reported that the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) would be holding a meeting on Wednesday, October 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the CATA Board Room at 2081 West Whitehall Road to take comments on how best to meet the needs of the community with the Centre Ride service.

President's Report. Ms. Goreham announced an executive session had been held following the special meeting on September 25 to discuss real estate and litigation. Also, an executive session would be held following this meeting to discuss litigation.

Regional Liaison Reports. Mr. Hahn reported the COG Finance Committee had been reviewing the COG budget and issues had been raised on the funding for the Millbrook Marsh and the cost for the traffic signal pre-emption system.

Staff/Committee Reports. Mr. Fontaine reported the property closing for the Fraser Centre project occurred in York and the property was conveyed to Susquehanna Real Estate.

Staff also reported they had met with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PADOT) on the turnback proposal. There was a substantial difference between what the Borough believes is necessary to maintain the roads and what PADOT is permitted to do. Mr. Fontaine noted that he would keep Council posted on the proposal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary