

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
November 3, 2008

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, November 3, 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 p.m.

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; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager for Budget and Administration; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Anne Messner, Planner; Thomas King, Chief of Police; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Herman L. Slaybaugh, Zoning Officer/Planner; 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.

Mr. Welch Introduced a visiting delegation of students and faculty from Shanghai University in China.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Focus on Appearance Awards. Kevin Gombotz, Chair of the Design Review Board, presented Focus on Appearance awards to Guy and Grace Pilato and to Bill Pickles Tap Room.

Beaver Avenue Overlay Project. Heath R. Brendlinger, P.E., from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation presented an overview of the 2009 Beaver Avenue Overlay project.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Use of Centennial Way for CalderFest on Friday, November 14, 2008, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

- Use of various streets and sidewalks for the Autism Speaks Foundation 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, April 4, 2009, from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Accept a resignation from Ron Davis for the State College Borough Water Authority and appoint Jeff Kern to serve the remainder of the unexpired term, ending December 31, 2011.

ABC REPORTS

Historic Resources Commission. Rick Bryant, Chair, presented the 2009 work program for the Historic Resources Commission and the 2008 State of Preservation Report. He announced the historic home survey was currently being conducted and property owners could complete the survey form on the Borough's website.

GENERAL POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

First Night. Council considered an ordinance to permit the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts to use public property for the conduct of this year's First Night® celebration.

Mr. Filippelli moved to approve Ordinance 1911 to allow the First Night activities to occur, designating the area and time during which these activities may take place, and waive Sections 203 and 204 of Chapter VI of the Codification of Ordinances, which prohibits fireworks in the Borough. Mr. Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2009 CDBG/HOME Consolidated Plan. Council considered the 2009 Consolidated Annual Action Plan for federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME grant money during fiscal year 2009. The plan was received and a public hearing held at the meeting of October 6, 2008. No comments were received. The CDBG Citizens' Advisory Committee reviewed the Plan at its meeting of September 4 and recommended it be approved by Council. The plan reflects funding at the same level as 2008. The Plan was available for public review in the Planning Office of the State College Municipal Building and at Schlow Centre Region Library, 221 South Allen Street, through November 3, 2008.

Ms. Lafer moved to approve the Plan. Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-2-0 vote, with Mr. Hahn and Ms. Lawrence opposed.

PLANNING & ZONING

Zoning Amendment: 300-400 Blocks of East College Avenue. Council received proposed zoning amendments in the 300 and 400 blocks of East College Avenue prepared by staff as directed.

Mr. Hahn moved to refer the zoning amendments to the planning agencies for review and comment, and schedule a public hearing for January 12. Mr. Filippelli seconded the motion.

Ms. Goreham moved to amend the motion to add a statement to the ordinance to maintain the retail atmosphere in Calder Way. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The amendment to the motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

Council voted on the amended motion to refer the ordinance to the planning agencies. The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

Council asked that staff review the current fee for in-lieu parking to determine if it was adequate to cover the cost of providing parking.

OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor's Report. Mr. Welch reminded everyone to vote the following day in the general election.

President's Report. Ms. Goreham announced there would be an executive session following the meeting to discuss real estate matters.

Staff/Committee Reports. Staff noted that annual audit for the Centre Area Transportation Authority had been delivered and was available for inspection.

Staff reported on the riot on October 25, 2008, following the Penn State vs. Ohio State football game.

Council discussed the riot and noted the professionalism of the police and public works staff in subduing the crowd and cleaning the area. Some Council members noted the anger of the residents about turning what should have been a celebratory event into a negative reflection on students.

There being no further business, Council adjourned to an executive session to discuss real estate matters at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary