

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Work Session
November 7, 2008

The State College Borough Council met on Friday, November 7, 2008, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Ms. Goreham called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

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

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager of Budget and Administration; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Thomas King, Chief of Police; 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.

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

Report from Tree Commission. Ken Tamminga, Vice Chair of the Tree Commission, reported on the activities of the Commission and presented the 2009 work program.

Council commented that the Commission should not give up on proposing a streetscape for Beaver Avenue that included trees; discussed other areas of the downtown and measures in place to protect the street trees; and discussed the tree diseases plaguing the Borough.

Report from Centre Regional Recreation Authority. Donna Conway, the Borough's representative on the Centre Regional Recreation Authority, and Ron Woodhead, Director of Centre Region Parks & Recreation, were present to report on the activities of the Centre Regional Recreation Authority.

Centre Region Council of Governments 2009 Budget. Council reviewed the proposed 2009 Centre Region Council of Governments summary budget and made the following comments:

- the traffic control preemption should not be included as it was not recommended by the fire director pending completion of a study.
- the Parks and Recreation staff should not be increased in 2009.

- the municipal shares for Millbrook Marsh should remain at \$25,000 for 2009.

Centre Region Council of Governments Committee Structure. Council reviewed the final draft of the Articles of Agreement to change the committee structure. Council members had no comments.

2009 Operating Budget. Staff presented a balanced 2009 Operating Budget, which included some increased taxes and some reduced operating expenditures to preserve core services. The budget also included a wide range of non-tax revenue enhancements. The real estate tax increase would be 1.5 mills, which would be an average increase of \$75.00 for the property owner.

Council members agreed a proposal could be considered for an increase of .25 percent in the realty transfer tax rate.

Several Council members commented the proposed real estate tax increase was too high. Also, comments were made that there could be negative impacts on the downtown if meter enforcement from 6 to 10 p.m. and increasing hourly rates.

Additional information was requested on the costs associated with meetings, how rental permit fee income can be used, the benefits of a certified health department, the value of a county-wide tax collection, the potential benefits of a county-wide reassessment, and data on the revenue impact of an increase in parking rates in the garages.

Council agreed the budget would be discussed at meetings scheduled for November 17, November 21, December 1, December 3, December 5, and December 8. Additional meetings could be held on December 10 and 12. A public hearing was scheduled for December 1 and approval was scheduled for the December 15 meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary