

**Meeting Minutes**  
**State College Borough Council**  
**September 12, 2008**

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

Present: 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; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; Norma J. Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Arthur Caccavale, Parking Manager; and Sheila Carl, Recording Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

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

**Chickens.** Staff noted the current zoning regulations do not prohibit chickens but do restrict the raising of fowl to properties with 10 acres or more. The Planning Commission has recommended that Council not amend the zoning code to permit the keeping of chickens on parcels of less than 10 acres in the Borough. The Board of Health met and determined that a small number of chickens would not be considered a public health problem. There is also a conflicting provision in the Borough's Codification of Ordinances from a 1926 ordinance that allows chickens as long as the chickens are not running at large. Council should either amend the zoning code to permit chickens on parcels of less than 10 acres or repeal the 1926 provisions that permit chickens. Council was asked to provide direction on whether or not to modify the section of the Codification on chickens and/or modify the section in the Zoning Ordinance.

Lisa Baumgartner, 129 Ridge Avenue, provided a petition which 123 Borough residents signed in favor of allowing chickens (hens) on properties less than 10 acres.

Chris Uhl, 1114 S. Pugh Street, stated his family owns chickens and has spoken with his neighbors regarding the chickens and they do not have a problem with them.

Linda Hendrickson, 128 Hillcrest Avenue, referenced a letter signed by 22 residents which was submitted to the Planning Commission opposing a change that would allow for chickens in residential neighborhoods.

Diana Malcom, 1218 S. Pugh Street, stated they have had four hens for over a year and the neighbors were surprised to learn this.

Jean Morrow, 623 N. Allen Street, lives about a block away from the Baumgartner residence and thinks the chickens would be a fine addition to the College Heights neighborhood.

Jenny Fisher, veterinarian at Penn State Animal Diagnostic Lab, stated, as a professional, if kept and cared for properly chickens do not spread diseases and she does not see a problem with keeping them.

Pernille Boving, 930 Robin Road, stated Seattle does allow for chickens based on the size of the lot. Chickens are very clean and it is inhumane to keep only one chicken.

Council discussed what the pros and cons for allowing chickens in residential areas and directed staff to prepare an ordinance that would permit chickens.

**2009-2013 Capital Improvement Program**. Council continued discussion on the 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Program. Council was also provided with the Planning Commission's comments.

Council requested the Sinkhole Storm Water Tracing (Deferred-SW091) be considered as a regional project.

West End Revitalization (OP053): the Borough will not initiate action on work tasks identified for 2009 without Council's authorization.

Council discussed the Allen/Atherton Street Traffic Signal Improvement, STO022, and agreed the improvement to the traffic signals should continue but the widening portion should not be done.

Mr. Fontaine also reported to Council the Parking Manager, Arthur Caccavale, meet with the Downtown Parking Committee and will be increasing the parking rate at the parking garages for special event weekends from \$.75 to \$1.00 per hour on a trial basis.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cynthia S. Hanscom  
Assistant Borough Secretary