

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Work Session
December 12, 2008

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Friday, December 12, 2008, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Ms. Goreham called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. after a brief executive session to discuss real estate and personnel.

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; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Borough Manager for Community Services; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager for Budget and Administration; Norma Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Mark A. Whitfield, Public Works Director; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Michael Groff, Finance Director; Timothy Grattan, Information Technology Director; Beth A. Johnston, Human Resource Director; Amy Story, Borough Engineer; Arthur Caccavale, Parking Manager; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public Hour. Malcolm Woollen from St. Andrew's Environmental Concerns Committee distributed a memo in support of the Office of Sustainability.

Jerry Wettstone, President of the Centre County Association of Realtors, distributed a letter on behalf of the Association opposing the increase in the real estate transfer tax.

2009 Operating Budget. Council continued reviewing the 2009 Operating Budget in preparation for the scheduled adoption on December 15.

Council reviewed a draft resolution and ordinance to increase fees which will also be on Council's agenda for enactment on December 15. The resolution attempts to consolidate all fees in one location. Changes in the ordinance create new language that authorizes Council to modify fees for permits by resolution.

Staff then presented Council with a set of proposed revenue and expenditure changes for the 2009 budget.

Council members opposed eliminating the ABC dinner but said they would consider a less expensive alternative.

Ms. Goreham distributed to Council and staff a list of suggestions for improving the budget.

Council discussed giving non-union employees a flat amount salary increase rather a half point percentage raise.

Council suggested 2009 service level reductions not necessarily starting in January and suggested the strategic planning process begin as early in 2009 as possible.

Additionally, Council discussed drawing down the reserve fund in addition to the insurance reserve fund.

Council agreed to raise the real estate tax millage by a half mil in order to balance the budget and eliminate immediate layoffs.

Items of Information. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary