

State College Borough Council
June 21, 2004

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, June 21, 2004, in the Council Chambers of the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street. Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Bill Welch, Mayor
Thomas E. Daubert, President
Catherine G. Dauler
Elizabeth A. Goreham
Craig R. Humphrey
Jeffrey R. Kern
Janet K. Knauer
James H. Meyer

Also present were: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Terry J. Williams, Solicitor; Ronald A. Davis, Assistant Manager; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Herman L. Slaybaugh, Zoning Officer; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Cynthia S. Hanscom, Recording Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed a moment of silence.

PUBLIC HOUR.

Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM) Proclamation. Mayor Welch presented a proclamation declaring the week of June 21, 2004 as Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities Week in recognition of the 105th state-wide conference being held in State College from June 23 through June 25. Mr. Welch presented the proclamation to Mr. Daubert, member of the PLCM Board.

House of Representatives Resolution No. 775. Mr. Daubert presented a Resolution passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to State College for being listed in the May 2004 edition of *Forbes* magazine as one of the top ten small towns in America in which to do business, and the ninth-best smaller metro area in which to start a career or business.

C-NET Board Report. Cindy Hahn, Council's representative to C-NET, reported that the C-NET Board created a second full-time position of Producer because of demand. This necessitated the elimination of the Community Relations Coordinator position due to budget constraints. Because the Penn State Athletics department joined C-NET, many of their events require multi-camera and post-production hours. Ms. Hahn also reported that the educational and school board meetings would be shown on Adelphia's channel 98 and D&E's channel 15.

Ms. Hahn distributed a copy of C-NET's annual report and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Meyer asked about contributions made to C-NET from D&E and Adelphia. Ms. Hahn explained the franchise agreements do not require cable companies to contribute. D&E has been cooperative and is making a \$5,000.00 annual contribution to their capital fund; however, Adelphia does not contribute at this time. The municipal managers have been talking to Adelphia representatives but have not been able to come to an agreement. She explained C-NET would like to see the cable companies include a pass-through amount added to the cable subscribers' bill that would directly fund the government and education access channels.

Mr. Meyer noted that Council's meetings were listed as being the second most-watched program (the weather being first). Ms. Hahn explained Patton Township sponsors the weather that is produced by the Meteorology Department at Penn State. It is successful because it provides an opportunity for many students in that department to get in front of

a camera to present the weather. Patton Township was very close to actually getting what they pay for in the number of hours of air time and are actively trying to get the Meteorology Department to join C-NET.

Urban Village Steering Committee. Don Hahn, 225 Bradley Avenue, member of the Planning Commission, spoke to Council's desire to expand the Urban Village steering Committee. He believed this would make the process more cumbersome. The Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) General Forum is an illustration of what happens when a group gets too big. Expanding the steering committee, he thought, would make it unmanageable and interfere with the Commission's process. Mr. Meyer asked if the Commission voted to proceed with the expansion. Mr. Hahn said there was no vote but the consensus was to oppose the expansion.

Mr. Kern noted that it is Council's wish to expand the Committee. He exemplified the downtown plan included property owners who bought into the concept to make it successful. Council wanted something economically viable and did not believe the Planning Commission would be able to impose their concepts on the stakeholders. Ms. Knauer agreed. She was not opposed to hiring a consultant but agreed that the stakeholders should be involved.

Mr. Hahn agreed that the comments of the stakeholders should be heard and incorporated, but believed an expanded group would inundate the process. The Commission, he said, has every intention of involving the property owners. Mr. Kern noted the property owners need to do more than comment on the plan; they need to be invested in the plan.

Mr. Hahn said the Planning Commission is only an advisory board. They are cognizant about the input from the Urban Village stakeholders. The Commission's work program is very strained and members are aware of the time needed to spend on the urban village.

Ms. Dauler said it would be a mistake to exclude the property owners right from the start. She believed they would feel they were being treated negligently by the Planning Commission. Council discussed this and agreed the Commission members were incorrect and misguided if they believed the plan would be embraced by the property owners.

Mr. Welch thought this issue would be best discussed jointly with the Planning Commission. He asked that a combined meeting be scheduled so that this could be discussed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Zoning Amendment to Allow Off-Site Parking for C District. Mr. Fontaine said Council was to take public comment on an amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow off-site parking for the commercial (C) district to be located in the RO district. The amendment would reinstate a regulation that was previously eliminated in error. The Planning Commission reviewed the amendment and, on May 12, voted to recommend that Council adopt it. He reminded Council that an inquiry was made on June 7, when the amendment was received, about the potential detrimental affects of a parking lot if placed at the perimeter of the 400-foot site limit. To address this concern, he recommended Council amend the ordinance to require off-site parking lots be located within a 100-foot radius of the commercial district and at least 100 feet from any lot zoned R2.

Mr. Kern moved that Council authorize publication of its intent to enact the ordinance on July 6—with the change recommended by staff. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion.

Ms. Goreham suggested those lots east of Locust Lane also be excluded from the area permitting off-site parking lots.

Ms. Goreham moved to amend the proposed ordinance excepting off-site parking lots on any property adjacent to an R2 lot. Ms. Knauer seconded the motion

Mr. Welch asked if the amendment would significantly change the proposed ordinance. Mr. Williams replied affirmatively and counseled that a second public hearing would need to be held. It would, he said, reduce the allowable area by 70 percent.

Mr. Meyer felt this would make Council's previous discussion moot. He believed the 100-foot buffer would be sufficient to protect single-family property owners. The need to provide off-site parking for downtown businesses is also important, he said. Ms. Knauer disagreed. She felt this would impinge into the residential area and invade the investments that property owners have made to their homes. Ms. Goreham was sympathetic to the business community but believed the residential property owners would appreciate a message sent by Council that it values the quality of their neighborhood. Ms. Knauer did not believe the RO was inadvertently dropped when changes were made to the ordinance and encouraged Council to continue looking out for the neighborhoods.

At Council's request, Mr. Slaybaugh explained that lots were 200 to 220 feet deep west of Hetzel Street and approximately 130 feet deep between Hetzel and High Street. Mr. Kern asked how the off-site parking lots would detrimentally affect the neighborhoods. Ms. Goreham believed it would deteriorate the residential quality of the neighborhood by adding noise, traffic, trash, and lighting. Mr. Welch noted that a multi-family residential building could do the same thing and Mr. Slaybaugh agreed that a 4-four-story apartment building, with parking, would be permitted in the RO district. Mr. Williams added that the amendment clarifies an existing conflict in the regulations.

Ms. Knauer asked about buffer requirements for these commercial parking lots. Mr. Slaybaugh said there would have to be a 5-foot screened area plus a 100-foot buffer when the lot abuts an R2 lot.

Mr. Daubert moved to table action pending further discussion on July 12. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion. With a motion on the floor, this motion was declared out of order.

Mr. Welch called the question on the amendment to the motion. The motion failed 3-4-0, with Mr. Meyer, Mr. Daubert, Mr. Kern, and Mr. Humphrey opposed.

The vote on the original motion to enact the ordinance with the 100-foot buffer passed 4-3-0, with Mr. Daubert, Ms. Goreham and Ms. Knauer opposed.

Zoning Amendment to Add Religious School as a Permitted Accessory Use. Mr. Fontaine said that, on June 7, Council received a proposal to amend the zoning ordinance to add religious schools as a permitted accessory use in R3, R3B, R4, RO and UV districts. The amendment was prepared at the request of a religious school's representative and because the ordinance was unclear. As written, the ordinance clarifies religious instruction and religious school. It also allows a second-party religious school to operate at a place of worship, provide the lot has frontage along and vehicular access from an arterial street and where required parking is met. If approved, religious schools would be allowed in those zoning districts where private academic schools are already permitted as a special exception. Mr. Fontaine noted the Planning Commission reviewed the amendment on May 12 and voted to recommend Council adopt it.

Nancy Witmer, 350 Matilda Avenue, Lemont, said she was a parent of students who attended the Greenly School, which was hoping to take up residence in the Calvary Baptist Church at 1250 University Drive. She urged Council to allow the school to use the church. She did not believe there was any difference in this school or a public school, which was already permitted in the R2 zoning district.

Mr. Daubert moved to authorize Council's intent to enact this ordinance on July 6. Mr. Kern seconded the motion, which passed with seven in favor and none opposed.

CONSENT ITEMS

Request to Use Fraser Plaza for the Summer Reading Program. Council received three applications to use Fraser Plaza for the Schlow Memorial Library’s summer reading program on June 30, July 15 and July 28 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Humphrey moved to approve the use of Fraser Plaza for the library’s summer reading program. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion. The vote was approved with 7 in favor and none opposed.

BIDS/CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

Project 13-2004, Beaver/Atherton Pedestrian Node. Mr. Fontaine said bids for Project 13 were opened on June 8. Project 13 consists of the construction of a concrete pedestrian node at the southwest corner of Atherton Street and Beaver Avenue. The bids were advertised in accordance with the Purchasing Ordinance. Three contractors expressed an interest in doing the work; two bid on it:

- Paradise Contracting, LLP\$ 18,861.00
 Mark Campolong, Partner
 Bellefonte, Pennsylvania
- M&E Construction.....\$ 22,095.00
 Scott Aumiller, Owner
 Lewistown, Pennsylvania

If awarded, Mr. Fontaine added, a notice to proceed will be issued on July 12. Construction time is 30 days. The estimate for this project was \$15,000.00; however, there is additional prior authority funding in Account 30-439-615.

Ms. Knauer noted the Atherton/Beaver intersection is used heavily by pedestrians. Ms. Story agreed. She said the nodes would prohibit vehicles from making illegal right turns onto Atherton Street from Beaver Avenue.

Mr. Kern moved to award the bid for Project 13-2004 to Paradise Contracting, the low bidder, in amount \$18,861.00. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion, which passed 7-0-0.

Project 14-2004, Replacement of School Speed Limit Signs. Mr. Fontaine said bids for Project 14 were opened on May 25. Project 14 consists of the replacement of flashing school speed limit signs, poles, foundations, and accessory equipment at each of four school zones. The base bid called for complete replacement, including poles and foundations; Alternate A included new equipment but retained the use of most existing poles. The School District will share in the cost of replacing these signs by paying one-half of the difference between the base bid and the amount given by the County, which is \$12,079.38.

The availability of specifications was advertised in accordance with the Purchasing Ordinance. Three suppliers expressed an interest in bidding on the equipment; one bid was received:

	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alternate A</u>
Tel-Power, Incorporated William J. Bottenfield, President Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania	no bid	\$ 46,338.75

Because only one bid was received and that bid did not include a base bid option, the Solicitor recommended that it be rejected and the project rebid.

The availability of specifications for Project 14R-2004, the rebid of Project 14, was advertised. Again, only one bid was received:

	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alternate A</u>
Tel-Power, Incorporated	\$60,158.75	\$ 46,338.75
William J. Bottenfield, President		
Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania		

Ms. Knauer asked if Alternate A was offered because of the possibility of keeping the existing poles. Ms. Story replied, “No. The bidder did not bid on the initial base bid because they believed the poles could be retained. The existing poles really need to be replaced.”

Mr. Kern asked about problems with the existing signs. Ms. Story said the Borough can no longer get parts.

Mr. Daubert if the controls could be installed so that they do not run when school is not in session. Ms. Story explained the new equipment could be deactivated on specific calendar days.

Ms. Goreham moved to reject the bid offered by Tel-Power on May 25 for Project 14, and award them the bid for Project 14-R, opened on June 15, in amount \$60,158.75. Ms. Knauer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

ABC RECOMMENDATIONS

Signal Prioritization System Study for Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA). Mr. Fontaine reminded Council that in 2001, CATA was awarded a research and demonstration grant to study the feasibility of a transit signal priority system along the North Atherton Street corridor, between Curtain Road and North Atherton Place, with a spur on Vairo Boulevard. This corridor serves the highest public transportation ridership area outside the core campus.

The transit signal priority system is similar to the signal preemption used by the Alpha firefighters because it uses the same hardware on the intersection and the vehicle. The difference is in the frequency that is transmitted between the vehicle and intersection. Signal preemption, which is used by the Alphas, automatically changes a light to green regardless of where the cycle is; the transit signal priority system, proposed for the buses, is a passive form that “requests” either an early or extended green light. Patton and Ferguson Townships and the State College Transportation Commission voted to support the CATA signal prioritization system study, and Council is being asked to do the same.

There being no discussion, Ms. Knauer moved to recommend that Council support PaDOT’s study of the transit signal priority system for CATA. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Free Parking for Varsity Football Games. Mr. Fontaine said a request had been made by the State College Area School District for free parking in the Fraser and Pugh Street parking garages for spectators attending the High School’s varsity football games at Memorial Field.

In 2002, the Borough of State College, in cooperation with the State College Area School District, agreed on a parking plan for high school football games as part of the effort to save Memorial Field as a varsity football venue. The School District has restated its request for this parking and provided dates for their 2004 varsity football home games. The parking agreement was a critical component of the agreement to maintain Memorial Field as a varsity sports venue and continues to be in effect, although minor changes in the way parking is validated may be necessary after the Beaver garage is opened. This year’s schedule of games includes the Fridays of September 17, September 24, October 8, October 15, and November 5. (Playoff games may also be scheduled following the completion of the regular season.)

Mr. Welch noted that there was no objection from Council, and no action was required.

McAllister Street Parking Deck. Mr. Fontaine reminded Council that staff was asked to investigate a solution to make additional parking available for faith-based organizations on Sunday morning and to allow municipal garage maintenance to occur. Staff is recommending the following operational changes for the McAllister Street parking deck:

- prohibit parking in the deck between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings (Those motorists who need overnight parking on Saturdays will be directed to the Pugh Street parking garage. Existing permit holders will be permitted to use the deck for overnight Saturday parking until December 31, 2004; after that, they will be offered a permit to use the Pugh Street parking garage.);
- issue new parking permits only for the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except Sundays;
- tickets will be issued to motorists who park in violation of the new regulations and, if necessary, towed at the owner's expense;
- signs will be posted at deck entrances and within the structure to alert motorists to the parking prohibition;
- new parking restrictions will take effect in August, before the return of students for the fall semester; and
- an evaluation of the changes will be made in six months, and a report given to Council.

Ms. Goreham asked if the churches agreed with staff's proposal. Mr. Fontaine replied church representatives agreed the proposal would be useful. Ms. Knauer did not agree that free parking should be provided for specific groups. All users should be encouraged to use public parking. Mr. Fontaine noted the proposal would not reserve the spaces for church use.

Mr. Kern asked if other faith-based organizations had asked to use either the Pugh or Fraser Street garages. Mr. Fontaine replied that no such requests had been made.

Mr. Welch noted that Council previously agreed to provide free parking for State High football games; this request would provide for the use of the deck for churches. He saw strong similarities in the two requests. Ms. Knauer disagreed; free parking for the football games was part of an agreement to retain Memorial Field.

Mr. Meyer noted that parking in the deck from Saturday at 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon on Sunday is free; therefore, the Borough is generating no income from the cars being displaced. If it would provide a service with no loss of income, he saw no problems in granting the request.

Ms. Dauler moved to enact Ordinance 1784 to approve the operational changes to McAllister Street deck. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion. The vote was 6 in favor with Ms. Knauer opposed; the motion passed.

Courtesy Parking Program. Mr. Fontaine explained that, in the past, the Borough and Downtown State College offered a courtesy parking program during the Christmas holiday season. The program works by providing the Parking Enforcement Officer with a cash key. Vehicles parked at expired meters are given an additional 20 minutes by the Officer's use of the cash key. If the vehicle continues to be parked in violation after the courtesy time has expired, a ticket is issued. Downtown State College reimburses the Borough for the courtesy meter time. Previously, this program has not been offered during the summer months but Downtown State College has requested implementation of the program during the summer months to encourage shopping. There are potential costs to the Borough in implementing this program, he said. As a result, staff is concerned that a summer-long implementation is excessive and there is no data yet available to determine if the program accomplishes the goals of Downtown State College. Staff believes a more appropriate strategy would be to undertake a 4-week trial immediately following the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts. Data collected during this trial period can then be used to evaluate the program and determine if it should be continued

or if the resources can be used more effectively in other efforts to promote downtown State College.

The following performance measures have been identified to evaluate the effectiveness of the program:

- vehicles that are repeat beneficiaries of the program;
- on-street parking space vacancy before and after;
- overall parking system revenue comparison for the same period over the past three years for meter revenue, garage revenue, and fine revenue.
- business activity, as surveyed by the DID;
- number of tickets written compared to the same period over the past three years.

Mr. Meyer asked about the potential loss in fines. Mr. Groff estimated a loss of \$11,000 to \$12,000. Mr. Fontaine noted that, as vehicle owners become aware of this benefit, they may no longer use the garages for quick trips into town; therefore, there may be additional losses in garage revenue. He noted there were several financial issues he would like to evaluate during the 4-week trial period. Mr. Meyer said the Borough has become dependent on parking fines, and Ms. Sparacino encouraged Council to discontinue the dependency.

Mr. Daubert asked how they would evaluate whether or not this service brings more people downtown. Teresa Sparacino, Executive Director of the Downtown Improvement District, explained it was not a cost issue, but rather an aid to those customers that are just a few minutes late in getting back to their vehicle. She said she would not propose to do this all year round. It is something done during the holidays and summer months for local residents. She hoped to get a feel on how the program was working based on customer satisfaction.

Mr. Kern felt the loss of income to the Borough was high and asked if there was another way to address this problem. Mr. Fontaine hoped the data collected over the 4-week trial would provide an answer.

Mr. Humphrey moved to approve a 4-week trial, beginning on July 12, 2004 and extending through August 7, 2004, for the courtesy parking program. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

Merchant Validation Parking (MVP) Program. Mr. Fontaine told Council that Downtown State College has proposed a program to provide merchant parking validation for the garage system. Council tentatively agreed to share in the cost of this program with the Borough, Downtown State College, and participating merchants each contributing one-third of the cost. Under the program, customers would receive validated parking for up to three hours. A similar program is currently offered without any contribution by the Borough.

The MVP is a popular means for providing parking incentives for customers in downtown business districts across the country. The program provides a relatively low-cost way to promote business. The direct cost to the Borough of the first 20,000 validations will be \$5,000.00, and it is likely that this cost will be spread over several years.

As is the case with other programs, Mr. Fontaine said, it is important to evaluate the effectiveness of the program over time. Staff recommends an evaluation over the first year of the program to determine if it should be continued. Performance measures should include:

- levels of business activity compared to the same period from previous years;
- garage revenue for the same period from previous years;
- total number of validations;
- number of parking complaints by customers.

Ms. Sparacino said, at this point, the goal is to get merchants to validate the parking in the garages and increase the customer base so that parking will not need to be subsidized.

Mr. Kern moved to approve the MVP subject to review after one year. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0-0.

Grant Access to the Relocation of Utilities. Mr. Fontaine said the closing and vacation of Highland Alley between A Alley and Allen Street necessitated the relocation of public utilities located in the right-of-way. Presently, the utilities are above-ground, with the exception of Verizon's, which has facilities above- and underground. The proposed utility relocation will place all utilities underground from the just west of A Alley, along the boundary between the Municipal Building and the Library properties, to Allen Street, then along Allen Street to Highland Alley, then along Highland to a point just west of Allen Street. A 20-foot easement is required by the utility companies for maintenance of the facilities, which will include land occupied by the Municipal Building.

Mr. Kern moved to approve the easement agreement and authorize the President of Council to execute it on its behalf. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0-0 in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Extend the Bus Stop in Front of the Schlow Memorial Library. Mr. Fontaine explained that building plans for the new Schlow Library show a dedicated area for bus patrons along Beaver Avenue at the east end of the new building, in front of what was Romeo's Pizza storefront. The expansion of the bus zone was part of the Library's plan and is necessitated by the construction of a pedestrian node planned for that corner of the intersection. Funding for the bus stop is being provided by a federal transportation grant that the Library received. To accomplish the expansion of the bus stop, staff is recommending two meters be removed on the 100 block of East Beaver Avenue.

Mr. Welch verified that there were only two meters in the block. Mr. Whitfield replied affirmatively and added there was also a small loading zone. Mr. Daubert said this would eliminate all of the temporary areas in the block where someone could park for just a few minutes. He believed it would hurt businesses in the 100 block of East Beaver Avenue.

Ms. Goreham moved to enact Ordinance 1785 to extend the bus stop. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion. The vote was 6-1-0 with Mr. Daubert opposed. The motion passed.

Revised Articles of Agreement for the Centre Region Code Administration and Centre Region Housing & Building Code Board of Appeals. Mr. Fontaine said, in March, the Centre Region Council of Governments' General Forum received and referred to the participating municipalities for adoption revised Articles of Agreement for the Centre Region Code Administration and Centre Region Housing & Building Code Board of Appeals. Adoption of the new Articles admits Halfmoon Township as a participant in the Code Enforcement program.

Mr. Kern moved to approve the new Articles and authorized the President of Council to execute them on its behalf. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

State-Wide Uniform Construction Codes. Mr. Fontaine explained that, in November 1999, Governor Ridge signed Act 45, which established a state-wide Uniform Construction Code for the Commonwealth. Each municipality in the state was required—on or before July 8, 2004—to decide whether or not it will administer and enforce the Code and notify Labor & Industry of its decision. Since the adoption of Act 45, Centre Region municipal officials have been reviewing the Codes and conducting public hearings on them. An ordinance will adopt all codes associated with the state-wide construction code.

Mr. Kern moved to enact Ordinance 1786 and authorize the President of Council to execute the notice to the Department of Labor & Industry. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously with a 7-0-0 vote.

Support of the Commonwealth's Growing Greener II Program. Mr. Fontaine said Council is being asked to support the Governor's proposed Growing Greener II initiative, which will provide funds for a number of state programs, including Revitalization Communities Program, Community Parks Program, and Community Redevelopment and Housing Programs. The Program also provides funds to return brownfields and other polluted sites to productive uses, protect farm land and open space from development, and clean up polluted streams and abandoned mines.

Mr. Fontaine noted that funding for these projects is planned to be supplied by an \$800 million bond issue to be approved by the voters of the Commonwealth. To pay for the bond, the Commonwealth is proposing a \$5.00-per-ton increase in the solid waste tipping fee, which translates into an additional \$5.00-per-person fee for every Pennsylvania resident. The Borough expects to dispose of about 16,400 tons of municipal waste in 2004. The additional cost to the Borough that will result from the increased tipping fee is approximately \$82,000.00. If the tipping fee is raised \$5.00, approximately 25 percent would be assessed to residential collection and the balance to commercial (25 percent of the tonnage is residential and 75 percent is commercial). The result would be a 2 percent increase in the residential rate, or 4.80 per year (\$234.00 to \$238.80). Commercial rates vary from \$156.00 to \$345.00 per cubic yard. These rates would most likely increase by 4.25 percent.

Mr. Welch noted that he had sent a letter to local state representatives supporting the measure.

Ms. Goreham moved to adopt a resolution of support for Growing Greener II. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously with a 7-0-0 vote.

VOUCHERS. Upon motion of Ms. Knauer, second by Ms. Dauler, Council voted 7-0-0 to receive vouchers for the month of May 2004 for the Borough of State College, in amount \$1,942,161.60, and, acting as agent for the Centre Region Council of Governments, vouchers totaling \$535,845.58.

MINUTES. Upon motion of Ms. Goreham, second by Ms. Dauler, Council voted unanimously to approve minutes of previous meetings as follows and as submitted:

- A. Work Session, April 30, 2004;
- B. Special Meeting, May 3, 2004;
- C. Regular Meeting, May 3, 2004;
- D. Work Session, May 10, 2004;
- E. Regular Meeting, May 17, 2004; and
- F. Work Session, May 21, 2004.

REPORTS

Mayor's Report. Mr. Welch reminded Council the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities was holding their annual conference in State College from June 22 through June 25, 2004.

President's Report. Mr. Daubert announced an executive session, held by Council on June 14, 2004, to discuss a matter concerning the lease of land for government purposes.

Mr. Daubert noted the COG Executive Committee had discussed the \$300,000 grant for a park in Oak Hall. The park would be owned regional and run by Centre Region Parks and Recreation. Mr. Daubert questioned whether or not land could be owned by COG and asked that this be put on a future work session agenda for Council to discuss further.

Staff Report. Mr. Fontaine informed Council the Pennsylvania House of Representatives had adopted a Bill which would exempt one- and two-family houses

from the Uniform Construction Code. The Bill includes language that would prohibit municipalities from placing restrictions on one- and two-family homes. The Bill has been sent to the Senate. The COG Executive Committee discussed sending a letter expressing their concern and opposition. He recommended that Council also send a letter explaining their reservations.

Mr. Daubert moved to send a letter to the local state senator expressing Council's reservations on the proposed bill. Mr. Kern seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 7-0-0 vote.

Ms. Story updated Council on the Garner Street reconstruction project. She informed members that the 100-200 block would be paved within the week. Mr. Daubert asked where residents would be able to cross Garner Street. Ms. Story replied that vehicular traffic would be open at Foster Avenue. Other streets would be open as construction permitted.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Ms. Goreham announced there would be COG Metropolitan Planning Organization workshop on Hometown Safe Routes to School. Mr. Fountaine noted the same funding source is being considered to assist in funding the realignment of Fraser Street.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Natalie
Assistant Borough Secretary