

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
April 13, 2009

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, April 13, 2009, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Elizabeth Goreham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager for Budget and Administration; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Manager for Community Services (arrived as noted); Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Amy Story, Borough Engineer; Ernest C. Dabiero, Purchasing Director/Risk Manager; Herman L. Slaybaugh, Planner/Zoning Officer; Sheila Carl, Recording Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public Hour. There was no one from the public wishing to speak.

Report from the CDBG Citizens' Advisory Committee: Shelton Alexander, chair of the CDBG Citizens' Advisory Committee, reported on the activities of the Committee.

Report from the Planning Commission. Evan Myers, chair of the Planning Commission reported on the activities of the Commission over the past few months. The update included recommendations made to the Centre Regional Planning Agency on the Act 537 Update. Council received a copy of the presentation and the recommendations made to CRPA.

Mr. Rosenberger left to attend the State College Area School Board meeting.

North/South Bikeway: Removal of On-Street Parking on Portions of South Sparks Street. Council discussed the proposal to create a bikeway on South Sparks Street.

Council members expressed concern that removing the parking would cause a safety concern and allow and encourage bicyclists to travel too fast down the hill on Sparks Street. Council members were also concerned with displacing residents and their visitors who use parking along Sparks Street.

Eric Hirsch, Chair of the Transportation Commission, was also in attendance to answer Council's questions.

Council members expressed their desire to reject the proposal for dedicated climbing lanes, but approve the designation as "Share the Road" for the entire bikeway.

Resolution on Spending Federal Economic Renewal Grants. Council discussed a citizen's request to consider approving a resolution on buying American-made products and services as part of the federal economic renewal grants. Staff advised the resolution does not conflict with existing Borough procurement policies or state and federal law.

Council members stated they support purchasing American made products when feasible but felt it more important to use Borough money in an efficient manner.

Council members did not support adopting this resolution.

Street Condition Report. Council received the 2009 Street Condition Report as completed by the Engineering staff. The information was then used to identify the street resurfacing and street reconstruction projects for the 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program.

Staff noted that the alleys will be rated later this year and be a part of the report when formulating the 2011-2015 CIP.

Council requested the Street Condition Report be made available on the Borough's website.

Mr. Kurtz and Mr. Rosenberger arrived.

License Modification for Rotelli Restaurant. Mike Hughes, owner, and David Krauth, general manager, from Rotelli Restaurant, at 250 East Calder Way, asked for consideration of a modification to their 2005 liquor license conditions to allow for vocal entertainment.

Mr. Hughes and Mr. Krauth explained lifting this restriction would allow more local musicians to be heard and allow for an enhanced dining experience.

David Fryer attended the meeting and represented St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Mr. Fryer stated the concerns of the Church and their desire to keep the restrictions the same. Mr. Fryer indicated the church would not be opposed to having an open dialogue with Rotelli Restaurant in an attempt to come to an agreeable resolution.

Council members expressed their concerns regarding the food to drink ratio restriction and asked that this restriction be closely monitored. Council members also stated their desire to have Rotelli Restaurant and the Church reach an agreement.

Update to Legislative Priorities. Council was provided with an amended version of Council 2009-2010 legislative priorities, adding a state priority in support of House Bill 300, an act to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation to include sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Council directed staff to schedule the amended 2009-2010 Legislative Priority for final action on April 20th and prepare a letter of support to local state legislators.

Open Agenda/Projects Report. Council members discussed a proposal to change Calder Way to Friedman Way in memory of Sidney Friedman.

A Council member suggested the Human Relations Commission research the implementation of a domestic partner registry.

Ms. Goreham provided Council members with a draft hand-out on ideas for promoting homeownership in the Borough and requested Council's feedback.

Council also requested a copy of the study addressing lighting in residential areas.

Items of Information. Mr. Fontaine reported to Council that the traffic signal project at Allen and Atherton Street continues and next week the tree on the corner at Nittany Office Supply will be removed.

Mr. Fontaine also reported the application deadline for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program is tomorrow, April 14, 2009 and Theresa McElwain, Director of Grants and Planning, will be submitting an application. If awarded, the program would fund the salaries for three police officers for three years. Council asked if this grant would alleviate the need to layoff any police officers. Mr. Fontaine stated this grant would allow the Police Department to fill the vacant sixty-fifth position and allow the department to maintain its current staffing.

Mr. Rosenberger updated Council on the actions of the State College Area School Board in reaching an agreement for shared parking in relation to the Welch Pool project.

There being no further comments, Council adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary