

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Work Session
May 11, 2009

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Monday, May 11, 2009, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Ms. Goreham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Borough Manager for Community Services; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager for Budget and Administration; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Michael Groff; Finance Director; Tim Grattan, Information Technology Director; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Carl Hess, Planning Director; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public Hour. There were no comments from citizens.

Report from C-NET. Cynthia Hahn, Director of C-NET, and Elaine Prestia, the Borough's representative on the C-NET Board, presented Council with C-NET's 2008 Annual Report and reported on C-NET's 2008 program highlights.

Report from the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA). Hugh Mose, CATA's General Manager, highlighted new programs included in CATA's 2009-2010 budget. New programs and service expansions were aided by Federal funding.

Council questioned if service would be added to outlying areas such as Philipsburg, Centre Hall and Altoona; Mr. Mose replied that additional State or Federal funding would be needed to implement outlying service.

Council asked if the school district could merge and coordinate service with CATA. Mr. Mose answered that concern lies with integrating school age children with other passengers.

Council commended the CATA budget and CATA's use of natural gas.

COG Formula. Council had no questions or concerns regarding the report on the proposed COG formula revision.

PENNDOT Turnback of West Branch Road. Staff explained that College Township is considering a land development plan that may include the relocation of West Branch Road. If relocated, PENNDOT requests each municipality (College Township and the Borough) take ownership of the old roadway. The Municipal boundary line lies in the center of the roadway. Staff recommended no action be taken until a final decision is made by College Township on the relocation. Should the turnback occur, College Township has expressed an interest in entering into an inter-municipal agreement with regards to the future maintenance of the old roadway.

Council questioned if negative implications were expected for Creekside Plaza. Staff said there would be no negative implication because a traffic signal already serves the plaza and would remain unchanged.

CDBG Funding. Staff explained that approximately \$160,000 of CDBG funds programmed for the Barnard Street Reconstruction Project must be expended by October 2009 to avoid returning the funds to HUD. In addition, the Borough is now receiving an additional \$191,239 in CDBG funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Staff indicated that projects utilizing the ARRA must be given to projects that can be under contract within 120 days of the Act. The Barnard Street reconstruction project meets both priorities. Staff asked Council to authorize the project for construction in order to meet the deadlines for HUD approval and use of ARRA funds.

Staff stated there would be funds remaining after project completion to roll over into another project. Council asked if remaining ARRA funds could be dispersed to social service agencies. Staff indicated CDBG funds could be given to a social service agency but not ARRA funds. Council inquired if there were any other shovel ready projects that funds could be used for; staff replied there are no other projects ready at this time.

Council agreed to move ahead with the Barnard Street Reconstruction Project.

2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program. Council reviewed comments from the public hearing in regards to the Buildings & Parks and Information Technology (IT) sections of the Capital Improvement Program.

Staff noted that comments referring to Westerly Parkway were renamed to refer to Easterly Parkway.

Council suggested changing the term 'general funds' used in the CIP because the term could be confused with the General Fund Budget.

Staff presented overviews of the Buildings & Parks and IT projects.

Council had no questions on the building and parks projects. Council asked about the possibility of completing the IT projects in phases in order to extend the expenses.

Council suggested looking into financial shareware from PLCM or other municipalities; staff said shareware would not be a secure system.

Council asked whether depreciation costs were built in to the new IT project.

Council had no further questions regarding the Buildings & Parks and IT projects.

Items of Information. Council members Rosenberger, Morris, Hahn, and Filippelli will attend the Annual PLCM Conference in Lancaster in June.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary