

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
May 18, 2009

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, May 18, 2009, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: James L. Rosenberger

Also present: Terry J. Williams, Borough Solicitor; Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager for Budget and Administration; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Manager for Community Services; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Edward C. Holmes, Facilities Coordinator; Carl R. Hess, Director of Planning; Cynthia S. Hanscom, Assistant Borough Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Mr. Welch began with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HOUR

There were no comments from citizens.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2008 Consolidated Plan Amendment. Council held a public hearing on an amendment to the 2008 Consolidated Plan for allocation of \$191,239 in CDBG-R funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The amendment proposes that the \$191,239 in CDBG-R funds be used for the reconstruction of Barnard Street. There were no comments received from the public.

2009 Consolidated Plan Amendment. Council also held a public hearing on an amendment to the 2009 Consolidated Plan to allocate additional funds received as part of the 2009 allocation for CDBG and HOME funds. State College will receive \$715,152 in CDBG funds, \$10,941 more than anticipated. It will also receive \$541,964 in HOME funds, \$54,386 more than anticipated. The CDBG Citizen's Advisory Committee met on May 12 and recommended the additional CDBG funding be used for public services, contingency, and administrative costs. The amendment also includes reprogramming of funds to provide sufficient resources for the Barnard Street Reconstruction project. There were no comments received from the public.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Hahn moved and Ms. Goreham seconded a motion to approve the following consent items. The motion passed unanimously.

- Vouchers for the month of April 2009 in the amount of \$3,079,746.14.
- Award a bid for Project 1-2009 Sidewalk Replacement to John Spearly Construction, Inc., the low bidder, for a total amount of \$142,510.00.
- Approve the use of Sunset Park for the beginning of a Stride for Awareness 5K Race/Walk to benefit Cerebral Palsy, sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, on Sunday, September 20, 2009, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Hahn also moved to approve the minutes for meetings held on April 6, 13, 20, 24, and 27 with a change to the April 24 minutes to indicate that the discussion on the severance policy should state that "...Lafer, Rosenberger and Lawrence agreed with staff's recommendation. However, Council members Goreham, Hahn, Morris, and Filippelli disagreed." Ms. Goreham seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

GENERAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Orchard Park Bike Path Easement Agreement. Council considered revising the easement for the Orchard Park Bike Path as part of the Welch Pool renovation project. The Centre Region Park & Recreation agency has proposed a slight shift in the alignment to the west (toward S. Sparks Street) to provide additional shaded area where users of the pool can get out of the sun. Staff recommended approval of the agreement with stipulations that 1) paying for the removal of the existing path be the responsibility of the Centre Regional Parks Authority, and 2) the construction standards for the new path must equal or exceed the current design.

Mr. Morris moved to approve the easement agreement and authorize the President of Council to sign the agreement on behalf of the Borough with the stipulations as listed above. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion.

Ralph Heimer, 805 South Sparks Street, asked Council to postpone action on the agreement. He explained both he and his neighbor, Cathy Suhey, would be adversely impacted by the realignment of the bike path. He asked Council to delay the approval of the easement until he had the opportunity to provide an alternate location for the bike path that would not impact both his and Ms. Suhey's property.

Mr. Filippelli moved to postpone Council action consideration of the motion to the June 15 meeting. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion, which passed with a 6-0-0 vote.

Modification of Conditions for the Rotelli Liquor License. Council considered a request from the owners of Rotelli Restaurant, at 250 East Calder Way, to modify the conditions placed on the liquor license to allow for vocal entertainment.

Council members expressed concern that the issue became contentious between St. Paul's United Methodist Church and the restaurant. It was noted that an understanding had been reached between the church and the owners to meet quarterly and that the Executive Director of the Downtown State College Partnership would be acting as a mediator for future discussions.

Chloe Kissinger, a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, referred to the corporate website for Rotelli Restaurant and noted that it suggested restaurants promote beer and wine sales as a way to stimulate business. She asked Council maintain the current restrictions on the liquor license.

Mr. Filippelli moved to approve the request. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was 5-1-0, with Mr. Hahn opposed.

PLANNING AND ZONING

College Township Official Map. Council considered the Planning Commission recommendation to support the proposed revision of the College Township official map.

Mr. Hahn moved to transmit to College Township that there were no adverse comments on the proposed College Township official map. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0-0 vote.

OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor's Report. Mr. Welch noted that the following day was the primary election. He urged all citizens to go out and vote.

Council recessed to a work session to discuss the following:

2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program. Council continued their review of the 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program. Sections for buildings and parks, regional and other programs, and enterprise funds were reviewed.

It was noted that letter had been received asking that Bryan Lane be repaved in 2010 rather than 2011.

Council discussed the following projects and issues:

- Luminaires for the 2009 streetlight project
- Municipal service facility and the need to keep Council informed as planning and design proceeds on the project..
- The total amount of \$176,000 in the municipal building maintenance reserve based on depreciation and replacement for major building systems.
- Parkland acquisition
- Projects proposed as part of the West End redevelopment
- Bond issues proposed for the purchase of the 800 mhz radio system when the useful life is only 15 years.

- Impacts on the operating budget through the need to borrow funds.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary