

**Meeting Minutes**  
**State College Borough Council**  
**July 20, 2009**

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, July 20, 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; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Manager for Community Services; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager for Budget and Administration; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Carl R. Hess, Director of Planning; Herman L. Slaybaugh, Zoning Officer/Planner; Edward Holmes, Facilities Coordinator; Chelsea Puff, Intern; 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.**

Robert Barnoff, 606 Nimitz Avenue, said he had come to speak on the removal of parking restrictions on Nimitz Avenue. Mr. Welch noted that that item would be included on the agenda with other proposals to modify various parking regulations.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

- Approve vouchers for the month of June in the amount of \$1,771,345.04.
- Approve Resolution 999 to appoint a representative and two alternates to the Centre County Tax Collection Committee.
- Approve a letter of support be sent to the COG Transportation Commission in seeking a Bicycle Friendly Community designation.
- Approve the use of Borough sidewalks in the downtown for a Dog Walk-a-Thon sponsored by PAWS and Alpha Kappa Psi on Sunday, October 18, 2009, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- Award a bid for Project 2-2009 for a Street & Alley Resurfacing Project to HRI, Inc., the low bidder, for a total amount of \$268,176.00
- Reject a bid for Project 3-2009 for a Street & Alley Sealcoating Project due to insufficient funds.
- Approve minutes for the meetings held on June 1, 8, 15, and 17, as written.

## GENERAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

**Street Vacation: North Buckhout Street.** Council received a petition from Penn State University requesting the vacation of the unopened North Buckhout Street right-of-way as part of the former O.W. Houts property.

Ms. Goreham moved to receive the petition, schedule a public hearing for August 17 and refer the petition to the planning agencies for review. Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**West Branch Road Agreement and Turnback.** Council considered a resolution to accept PennDOT turn back of a portion of West Branch Road located in the Borough, an agreement with College Township to transfer the turn back payment to College Township with College Township accepting responsibility to maintain that portion in the Borough, and an ordinance approving the intermunicipal agreement between the Borough and College Township.

Mr. Hahn moved to approve Resolution 1000, enact Ordinance 1932, and authorize the President of Council to sign the agreement. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0-0 vote.

**Nuisance Gathering Ordinance.** Council considered an ordinance to help stabilize the residential character of the neighborhoods close-in to the downtown. The ordinance would make the individuals who hold a party of a large gathering responsible for incidents that occur. It was noted that this would supplement the crimes code and had been an effective means of preserving the health, safety and welfare in other communities.

Ms. Lafer moved to receive the ordinance and schedule discussion for a work session in the Fall. Mr. Hahn seconded the motion, which passed with a 6-0-0 vote.

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Parking Regulations on Various Streets.** Council considered changes in parking regulations to Bayfield Court, Stratford Court, North Ashwicken Court and South Ashwicken Court to resolve problems associated with street maintenance activities and refuse and leaf collection problems that arise due to parked cars. In addition, a change was proposed on Logan Avenue to address street maintenance which cannot be completed due to the constant presence of parked cars. The proposed ordinance would also remove the restriction for parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. in the 600 block of Nimitz Avenue, which was requested by a resident

Robert Barnoff, 606 Nimitz Avenue, spoke in support of his request to have the signs removed that prohibited parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. in the 600 block of Nimitz Avenue. Mr. Barnoff understood there was a cost for removal of the signs which he had agreed to pay.

Mr. Hahn moved to receive the proposed ordinance and schedule a public hearing on August 3. Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris moved to amend the motion to limit the parking prohibition in the proposed ordinance on Bayfield Court to 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays only. Ms. Goreham seconded the amendment. The vote on the amendment passed with a 6-0-0 vote.

Council then voted on the amended motion, which passed unanimously.

**CATA Request for Bus Stop Changes.** Council considered a request from the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) to change three bus stops located on College Avenue. The first would remove a parking space in the bus loading/unloading area on the north side of College Avenue adjacent to Hiester Street. The second would remove four parking spaces west of Pugh Street along the north side of College Avenue. The third would relocate the bus loading/unloading area west of Burrowes Street. Staff offered an alternative to the removal of the parking on College Avenue west of Pugh Street to restrict parking at the meters from 2 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. to increase the queuing area for buses during peak hours.

Mr. Hahn moved to accept the Transportation Commission's recommendations for the first and third request and modify the second request as stated above. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Staff noted that the ordinance language to implement the request would be included in the proposed changes to the parking ordinance as stated in the previous item.

## REGIONAL ISSUES

**College Township Official Map.** Council received a revised official map for College Township for comment. No comments were made by Council.

## OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

**Mayor's Report.** Mr. Welch announced he had spent the previous weekend with the State College Area High School Class of 1959.

**President's Report.** Ms. Goreham reported a press conference had been held on July 15 with other municipalities in support of the House Bill to provide property tax relief.

Ms. Goreham also announced there would be an executive session following the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**Regional Liaison Reports.** Ms. Lafer reported the COG Finance Committee met and reviewed the COG annual budget process and the 2010 COG Program Plan. Mr. Morris reported the Public Services & Environmental Committee had met at the Centre County Solid Waste Authority and received a tour of the facility. He also reported the bid for the COG contract for the collection of residential refuse was accepted from Veolia as the low bidder. Ms. Lafer reported the Transportation & Land Use Committee had met and discussed support for the federal programs for high speed rail and open space. Mr. Kurtz reported the ad hoc Regional Park/Park Capital Committee had selected Pashek Associates as the design consultants for the Whitehall Road project. He noted that concerns had been expressed about the costs of regional park development by both the Borough and Patton Township.

**Staff/Committee Reports.** Mr. Fountaine reported, as part of the Strategic Planning process, the staff management team had met on July 15 and reviewed the goals and objectives as proposed by Council and began to come up with action steps for implementation. He noted that the August 10 Council meeting would be the next step in the process and reminded members the meeting would begin at 5:00 p.m.

Council recessed the regular meeting to a work session to discuss the following:

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Public Works Service Facility.** Council received a presentation from Hoffman Architects and Stahl Sheaffer Engineering on the site plan and land development for the Public Works Service Facility located at 330 South Osmond Street. The purchase agreement between the Borough and Sheesley requires the land development application must be submitted and approved by Ferguson Township prior to December 31, 2009. Council was reminded that the Borough is acquiring the Sheesley property to relocate facilities out of a floodplain and to improve overall storm water management at the site and for neighboring properties. It was noted that there would be a meeting planned with the residents to address concerns. The next step will be to present the concept plan to Ferguson Township.

## PLANNING & ZONING

**West End Zoning.** Council continued its review and discussion of the West End zoning, which was presented to Council on July 13. Council members initial comments included:

- inclusionary housing should be included in the ordinance to get a mix of residential and commercial uses.
- density issues should include a limit on the number of people per unit.
- the height limit of three to five stories may be too much was of some concern.
- planning the project around a paper street (West Campus Drive) seems premature.
- it is not clear that there was sufficient incentive for redevelopment.
- redevelopment is important and is key in improving the tax base but the density controls may limit the amount of redevelopment.
- pedestrian and vehicle connections between the University and West End are important.

John Simbeck, 601 Enterprises, stressed the importance of promoting the pedestrian elements of the area and the ability to walk. He urged Council to get commercial uses that would serve the residents such as a grocery store. This would help to inspire redevelopment. He also indicated that small infrastructure improvements, such streetlights and pedestrian amenities, would go a long way in encouraging redevelopment by the property owners.

There being no further business, Council adjourned to an executive session at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cynthia S. Hanscom  
Assistant Borough Secretary