

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
August 17, 2009

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, August 17, 2009, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. President 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
Silvi Lawrence
Peter Morris
James L. Rosenberger
Absent: Mayor Bill Welch

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; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Alan Sam, Borough Arborist; Amy Story, Borough Engineer; Anne Messner, Planning Technician; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Ms. Goreham began with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HOUR: There was no one from the public wishing to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING

Street Vacation: North Buckhout Street. The Pennsylvania State University requested vacation of the section of North Buckhout Street between Grass Alley and West Campus Drive. The Centre Regional Planning Commission recommended the vacation.

Eric Boeldt, 400 South Gill Street, questioned the urgency in the vacation and said the Borough's best interest is to wait on the action.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Vouchers for the month of July.
- Resolution 1001 to allow eligible employees to elect to pay for their portion of insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis.
- Use of Fraternity Row and various sidewalks in the Highlands neighborhood for a 5K race to benefit Breast Cancer Education and Awareness on Sunday, October 4, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Use of Central Parklet by the State College Area School District for Army Strong "Game Night" in conjunction with a high school football game on Friday, September 25, 2009, from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.
- Use of Hillcrest Avenue for a block party on Sunday, September 13, 2009, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

- Use of a parking space in the 100 block of South Allen Street to create a miniature park area as part of National "PARK"ing Day on Friday, September 18, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Bid award for Project 10-2009 for the Compost Pad Repair to Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc., the low bidder, for a total amount of \$80,250.00.
- Accept a resignation, with regret, from David Hill of the Transportation Commission, effective immediately.
- Minutes for the meetings held July 13 and 20.

ABC REPORTS

Tree Commission. Council received a report from Tree Commission member, Cassandra Burke, on the activities of the Tree Commission over the last year.

Centre County Housing & Land Trust. Council received a report from Carl Hess, the Borough's representative on the Centre County Housing & Land Trust, on the current activities of the Land Trust.

Centre Region Park & Recreation Authority. Donna Conway, the Borough's representative on the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority, updated Council on the current activities of the Recreation Authority. Ms. Conway also announced that Welch pool will close for renovations on September 5 and will open for the 2011 swim season.

REGIONAL ISSUES

Centre Region Growth Forecast. The Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA) initiated a growth forecasting project in coordination with the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPCDO) for each municipality in the County to the year 2040.

Council raised these concerns:

- Data collected was based on speculation rather than actual projects that are scheduled.
- The margin for error in the data included in the forecast should be identified and discussed.
- The forecast was based on no changes in zoning when desirable rezoning should be included.
- The forecast should relate to transportation planning and the estimated number of people that will travel into the Borough from surrounding municipalities.

Council also noted that the forecast basis assumes no development in the Borough until the Herlocher project in 2021.

Ms. Lawrence moved and Mr. Filippelli seconded the motion to approve the foregoing comments as they pertain to the Centre Region Growth Forecast data for the Borough of State College. The motion passed unanimously.

COG Program Plan. Council received the 2009 COG Program Plan in July and staff prepared a draft set of comments for Council's review.

Council's issued the following comments regarding the Schlow Centre Region library to be forwarded to COG:

- Council was not in favor of adding hours of service for the Library.
- Council suggests public fundraising activities to support current library programs.
- Council suggests the Library Board base the proposed 2010 budget on no increase in funding and a possible reduction in municipal contributions.

- Council agreed that students living on campus should not be included in the Library's use-based formula.
- Council is concerned with Ferguson Township's role in the Library budget since the Township is not a participant in the Agreement.

Council noted it would consider reducing funding for a County MPO transportation planner and allocating the planner to the region rather than the County.

Council also supported deferring the discussion of funding of regional parks.

GENERAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Council Manual Changes Regarding Electronic Mail. Mr. Rosenberger moved and Mr. Filippelli seconded a motion to approve the changes to Chapter 5 of the Council Manual to reflect the open records law and records retention in regard to electronic mail communication. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal to Establish a new ABC for Finance. Council member Hahn asked that Council consider the creation of a new ABC to provide advice on matters relating to finance.

Mr. Hahn moved and Mr. Morris seconded the motion to establish a new ABC for a Finance Committee. The vote on the motion was 2-5-0, with Ms. Lafer, Mr. Rosenberger, Mr. Filippelli, Ms. Goreham, and Ms. Lawrence opposed. The motion failed.

Renaming of Central Parklet to Friedman Park. Mr. Hahn moved and Ms. Lafer seconded a motion to rename Central Parklet to Sidney Friedman Park. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

Street Vacation: Birch Alley. Council considered the vacation of the unopened Birch Alley.

Mr. Rosenberger moved and Ms. Lafer seconded a motion to schedule a public hearing for the vacation of Birch Alley on October 5, 2009, and to forward the matter to the planning agencies for comment. The motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING

West End Zoning. Council continued receiving public comment on the proposed West End Zoning District, a new zoning district slated to replace the current Urban Village District.

Eric Boeldt, 400 South Gill Street, said if Council feels the density is too large in this revitalization plan, then the proposed zoning will not work. He suggested sending the proposed zoning back to the Planning Commission for further review.

Zoe Boniface, 404 South Patterson Street, said that most people in her neighborhood are concerned about the density of the student population. She noted that not all density is bad and said businesses would be welcomed. She was happy that the Planning Commission said they would lower building heights. Ms. Boniface also said the residents prefer bike, foot, and bus traffic but not traffic as a result of additional cars.

Karen Burgos, 410 South Gill Street, said that over the past two years a lot of money has been spent developing the West End plan and zoning ordinance and suggested Council take a second look at the

zoning ordinance because there are good quality ideas that went into the vision plan that may have been forgotten. She suggested Council restrict the number of students in each apartment.

Susannah Barsom, 417 West Nittany Avenue, said her main concern is not an issue of how many students in each unit, but what the density would be overall. She suggested Council reject the proposed zoning at this time.

Kim Faulds, 805 West Foster Avenue, suggested Council Member Rosenberger review the minutes from the previous meeting when he was absent as there were important issues discussed.

Ms. Lawrence moved and Ms. Goreham seconded a motion to schedule an informal public hearing on the proposed West End Zoning for September 14, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

President's Report. Ms. Goreham reported that she stood in for Mayor Welch this week in welcoming 1200 international students to the community.

Regional Liaison Reports. Ms. Lawrence reported the Public Safety Committee discussed the policy on waiving Code Administration fees, the fire apparatus use policy and the Emergency Management budget. Mr. Hahn reported that the Finance Committee discussed the COG purchasing policy, salary merit increases as well as the COG Program Plan. Mr. Filippelli reported that Human Resources Committee discussed and supported the establishment of a principal transportation planner position. Mr. Kurtz reported that Public Services & Environmental Committee discussed a proposed ordinance to regulate the drilling of wells. Mr. Rosenberger reported on the Parks Capital Committee discussion of funding for park development. He also said the Transportation & Land Use Committee would meet this week to discuss the Centre County Growth Forecast.

Staff/Committee Reports. Staff reported that the Public Works Department will host an Open House for the Allen/Waupelani Bikeway on September 2, 2009, from 4-6 p.m. In addition, several different types of streetlight luminaries are installed on Allen Street across from the municipal building to get Council's feedback and determine which lights should be used in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary