

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
December 11, 2009

The State College Borough Council met on Friday, December 11, 2009, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Ms. Goreham called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

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

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, Borough Manager; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager for Budget and Administration; Thomas S. Kurtz, Assistant Borough Manager for Community Services; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Mike Groff, Finance Director; Norma Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Thomas King, Chief of Police; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Ernest Dabiero, Purchasing Director and Risk Manager; Tim Grattan, Information Technology Director; Beth Johnston, Human Resource Director; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Linda Welker, Tax Administrator; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public Hour. There were no comments from the public.

Council President Goreham announced an Executive Session was held prior to the work session to discuss personnel matters.

2010 Operating Budget.

Staff began with a summary of the Administration budget.

Staff spoke on the International Town & Gown Association (ITGA). ITGA is a non-profit organization that focuses on collaboration between communities and higher learning institutions through programs and initiatives. Council agreed that ITGA membership could prove to be valuable.

Council questioned generating electricity from Borough compost. Staff responded that the University Area Joint Authority is currently looking into the possibility; however grant funding would be necessary.

Staff next presented an overview of the Finance and Tax budgets.

Council questioned the fluctuation in postage costs the past couple of years. Staff replied every other year the School District absorbs the postage cost.

Next Staff reviewed the Information Technology budget.

Council inquired if contracted IT services would be economically feasible. Staff explained that although their IT services are regional, the department operates as not-for-profit. The private sector would be much more costly and vendors would not supply the security and the background checks that are necessary dealing with confidential information.

Lastly staff addressed the Miscellaneous and General Fund Revenue.

Staff indicated that the State Theatre has requested a \$2,000 donation in support of community programs. Council members Lafer, Lawrence and Morris were in favor of supporting community programming and contributing the \$2,000. Council member Hahn suggested support with \$1000. Council agreed on the \$2000 as requested.

Council members also agreed to support the Festival of the Arts with a \$20,000 contribution rather than the \$25,000 proposed by staff.

Council members Filippelli, Lafer and Morris were in favor of a tax increase of a half mil to keep the unreserved cash balance fund intact. However, Council members Rosenberg and Lawrence were opposed to a tax raise.

Staff agreed to put together tax increase scenarios and present them to Council at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary