

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 21, 2010
7:30 p.m.

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, June 21, 2010, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Ms. Goreham called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Present: Elizabeth A. Goreham, Mayor
Ronald Filippelli, President of Council
Thomas E. Daubert
Donald M. Hahn
Theresa D. Lafer
Silvi Lawrence
James Rosenberger

Absent: Peter Morris

Also present: Thomas J. Fontaine, Borough Manager; Terry J. Williams, Borough Solicitor; Sharon K. Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Lu Hoover, Planner; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager for Budget and Administration; Charles Khan, Intern; and Jinghao Lu, Administration Intern;

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

Proclamation for House of Care – Mayor Goreham presented Evelyn Wald and Phil Jones, of House of Care with a proclamation for a “Decade of Caring.”

Public Hour – No one was present to speak about items not on the agenda.

Domestic Violence Detective Deirdri Fishel reported on the PBS documentary entitled “Telling Amy’s Story,” which is airing around the country at other public broadcasting stations. This documentary was done to make people aware of domestic violence and to educate people on what to look for. Detective Fishel’s work on this case and other domestic violence cases in State College contributed to the State College Police Department national award “Excellence in Victim’s Services.”

Consent Items -

Consent Items – On a motion by Ms. Lafer and a second by Mr. Rosenberger, Council voted unanimously to approve the following consent items.

- Approved an amended Memorandum of Understanding for the Kemmerer Road Project, which makes a technical correction for compliance with I.R.S. regulations.
- Appointed the following individuals to various Authorities, Boards and Commissions: Michael Shamalla to the Design Review Board and Joseph Haloua to the Transportation Commission. Their terms expire December 31, 2013.

- Approved the use of various downtown streets for Centre Region Parks and Recreation's 65th Annual Halloween Costume Parade on Sunday, October 31, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Approved the use of streets in the downtown for the Summers Best Music Fest on Saturday, June 26, 2010, for the following streets during the hours listed:

Allen Street between College and Beaver Avenues 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Calder Way between Garner Street and Allen Street 7 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Hiester Street between College Avenue to Wilson Alley 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

General Policy and Administration

2011-2015 Capital Improvement Plan

Staff explained that they had made changes to the proposed 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) since the wrap up meeting and those changes were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Filippelli made a motion to approve the 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion.

Staff said we received comments from the Centre Region Planning Agency this afternoon and there are no comments that are inconsistent with what Council has already discussed.

Ms. Lawrence said the Borough will be seeing tough times ahead because our revenues will be staying the same as we make big plans for more projects. She said she is against with borrowing \$1.25 million over the next four years for attractive improvements in the West End.

Ms. Lawrence made a motion to amend the 2011-2015 by removing the West End Property Acquisition for \$202,500. Mr. Hahn seconded the motion.

Other Council members said the side effect of purchasing the property would be to put the property back on the tax role, since it would no longer be owned by Penn State. This property could then be shifted to the Redevelopment Authority for them to development or have the RDA enter into a public/private partnership with a developer to have the property developed.

A few Council members said they agreed that this parcel of land is in a high-traffic area. If there was a clear plan for that lot, it could be worthwhile; however, without that in place, now is not the time; however, it could be in 2012 once someone has time to developer ideas for the site.

Staff indicated there is sufficient revenue to cover this project for the next five years without a transfer from the general fund.

Council members next discussed West End development and whether or not they should support it.

Council voted on Ms. Lawrence's amendment and it failed 3-3-0 with Mr. Filippelli, Mr. Rosenberger, and Ms. Lafer voting against the motion.

Mr. Daubert made a motion to amend the 2011-2015 CIP because he was opposed to the zoning and land development rewrite. He said Council will not be ready to proceed with the State College Land Area Plan in 2011; the project should be moved ahead at least one year. Mr. Hahn seconded the motion. This amendment passed 6-0-0.

Mr. Daubert said since the West End projects were broken out into five projects, he said he is having trouble with Project 53B (West End Transportation Improvements). He said without a West End Plan in place and since we don't know what Penn State is doing with Buckhout Street, this study should be moved back at least one year. He then made a motion to amend the 2011-2015 CIP to bump back Project 53B for at least one year. Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion. Council voted on Mr. Daubert's motion and it passed 5-1-0 with Mr. Hahn voting against the amendment.

The motion to approve the 2011-2015 CIP with the amendments passed 6-0-0.

Finance and Monthly Budget Report - Staff represented the May 2010 Budget Report to Council. The report included both year-to-date and 2009 versus 2010 budget performance analysis.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Mayor's Report. Ms. Goreham reported that she gave the keynote address at the National Conference for Women recently held in State College. She said she also attended the Discovery Space's fundraiser entitled "Night at the Museum" and said Discovery Space will be moving into a space on East Foster Avenue later this year. Ms. Goreham said she attended the Holmes-Foster Historic Home Tour this past Sunday.

Regional Liaison Reports

Executive Committee – Mr. Filippelli said the Executive Committee will be concentrating on the Regional Parks issue.

Finance Committee – Mr. Hahn said the Finance Committee will discuss the future CIP at COG.

Human Resources Committee – Mr. Daubert said the Human Resources Committee did not meet in June.

Parks Capital Committee – Mr. Rosenberger said the Parks Capital Committee recently met and he left the meeting with more optimism than going in. He said if the Regional Parks project is approved, they will begin working on a master plan, which will come before Council and must be approved by COG.

Mr. Rosenberger said the Hess Field will also need a Master Plan. He said they recently agreed to have the site surveyed. He said once the funding has been determined, \$8, \$10, \$12, or \$17 million it will increase the current funding by \$450,000 or a 25% increase in the current funding. Mr. Rosenberger said this would raise the Borough's annual contribution by 50% or double the existing.

Staff/Committee Reports. Staff provided Council with an update on the COPS Grant, Tree Vitalize Grant, and the AmeriCorps Grant. Staff also explained how the Public Works Department rates street pavement conditions.

Items of Information. Staff said the upcoming RDA agenda will include a potential grant application for the Fraser Centre for the Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Program. Council should see Planning Director Carl Hess for more details.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary