

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 2, 2010
7:30 p.m.

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, August 2, 2010, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Ms. Goreham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also present: Herman Slaybaugh, Planner/Zoning Officer; Mark Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Manager of Budget and Administration; Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Terry Williams, Borough Solicitor; Carl Hess, Planning/CDBG Director; Sharon Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; and members of the media and other interested observers.

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

Public Hour

There were no residents present who wished to speak about items not on the agenda.

ABC Reports

Tree Commission - Marc McDill, Chairman of the Tree Commission provided Council with an update on the recent activities of the Commission.

Council members expressed concern when a property owner does not want a tree planted in their grass plot and the Tree Commission recommends planting one. Council members felt the property owner should have some say in the matter.

Consent Items – Ms. Lafer moved and Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion to approve the following consent items. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approved the use of Hiester Street from College Avenue to Calder Alley for Quik Rock's Block Party and Concert, which benefits The Second Mile, on Sunday, August 29, 2010, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Approved the use of West Prospect Avenue from Gill Street to Barnard Street for the State College Area School District Interscholastic Tennis Matches on August 28, September 7, 18, 22, and October 5 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Accept the resignation of Dr. Robert Weaver, with regret, from the Board of Health, effective immediately.
- Approved vouchers for the month of July in the amount of \$3,658,157.66.

- Approved the use of Holly Alley and a portion of High Street for a neighborhood block party on Sunday, August 29, 2010, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Approved the use of the cul-de-sac in front of 705 Edgewood Circle for a private birthday party on Sunday, August 15, 2010, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

General Policy and Administration

Saint Andrews Episcopal Church Request - Saint Andrews Episcopal Church requested a zoning ordinance change, which would permit the Church to install a columbarium and memorial garden on the church's property as an accessory use.

Mr. Hahn made a motion to receive the request and refer it to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion.

Mr. Daubert asked if the request included any exterior lighting. Staff indicated they were not certain if there would be any lighting; however, it could be an attractive nuisance. Staff indicated lighting will be taken into consideration in the development of the ordinance.

The motion passed unanimously.

Regional Issues

COG Program Plan - Staff explained the COG 2011 Program Plan was distributed in July. Staff asked Council to review the Plan and provide comments to be forwarded to COG.

Some members of Council expressed they did not have enough time to review the Plan while others said the Plan seems to be on target.

Staff said Council members can email their comments to staff and to Mr. Hahn, since the COG Finance Committee will be discussing the Program Plan at the end of the month.

Mr. Morris suggested minimizing the cuts and level of services provided at the Schlow Centre Region Library because state aid to the library is being cut. He added that if it were economically feasible to replace part of the state aid the library had been receiving, the Borough should do that.

Mr. Daubert agreed and added he would much rather cut other areas of the COG Program Plan and add more funding to the library. He said some of the items noted in the plan were not nearly as important as the library is to the community.

Mr. Daubert said if changes are made to the Fire Station's Capital it would be a terrible idea. If the Borough agreed to this, the fire station would no longer be the Borough's property.

Staff indicated the Fire Station's Capital is a broader issue; long-range plans for fire facilities within the Centre Region should be discussed. None of the existing fire stations should be handed over to anyone, given the investment of the Borough, Patton and College Townships; those facilities should be owned and maintained regionally.

Ms. Lawrence said in looking at the Program Plan, she said some adjustments could be made to the Building Construction and Code Administration to streamline the workings within the agency.

Mr. Filippelli agreed with Ms. Lawrence. He said if a contractor would need hired to review plans for a commercial building, it would be better than adding additional staff.

Mr. Hahn said he was glad the community has stepped up to assist the library by providing the bulk of the funding for that program.

Staff indicated comments will be prepared for COG's Executive Director based on the consensus of Council and the funding for the library. Staff would also indicate the Borough would be receptive to the suggestion of providing additional assistance to the library but noted the Borough is not the only agency involved in helping the library.

Ms. Lawrence said in terms of funding for regional parks, she felt Staff's estimate of a one "1" mil real estate tax increase was premature. She suggested staff work to fine tune our numbers.

Staff then explained the reasoning behind the proposed one "1" mil increase.

Whitehall Road Regional Parklands

Staff explained that the Master Site Plan Report for the Whitehall Road Regional Parklands was received by the COG General Forum at its July 26 meeting. Council is asked to review the Whitehall Road Parklands Report and provide comments to staff. Staff said there is only issue with the report; the impact of this plan on operating costs as we move forward. Staff urged Council to provide guidance to Mr. Rosenberger, Council representative on the Parks Capitol Committee.

Council members asked where staff arrived at the 7.5 mills in operating costs. Staff indicated they developed those numbers after looking at the costs presented in the reports.

Ms. Lawrence said the present expenses and income for existing parks is much too low, considering the services given to the users and the maintenance costs.

Mr. Hahn said Mr. Rosenberger and the Parks Capital Committee have done a fantastic job under difficult circumstances. He said he would have preferred to spend more money on the library because it is a very important part of the region and important to keep in mind.

Ms. Lafer said the value of parks and library is not something Council wants to split hairs on. She said healthy children and adults need exercise and as such we need baseball and soccer fields. Books and words are also very important. She said Council cannot cut from one to give to the other. Ms. Lafer said the problem is this is a community endeavor that needs to be shared by all of us. We clearly cannot cut safety issues.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Mayor's Report - Ms. Goreham reported she recently gave the opening remarks to the State's Recycling Association. Borough employees will be given an award for their recycling efforts.

President's Report - Mr. Filippelli reported that Borough Council will be holding an Executive Session after this meeting to discuss litigation.

Staff/Committee Reports

Centre County Tax Collection Committee - Staff said the Borough is working on the Memorandum of Understanding for the Centre County Tax Collection Committee. A final agreement is being prepared and the agreement should be coming to Council for ratification within the next 60 days.

Quarterly Sustainability Report - Alan Sam, the Borough's Environmental Coordinator, provided Council with a quarterly update on the Borough's Sustainability Report

2010 Second Quarter Report for Department of Enforcement and Public Health (DOEPH) - Mr. Hess, DOEPH's new Acting Director, briefly reported the highlights of the 2nd Quarter Report.

Mr. Daubert said people in College Township do not know who to call for a dog problem. Staff indicated College Township would need to provide that information to their residents.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary