

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 16, 2010
7:30 p.m.

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, August 16, 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: Terry J. Williams, Borough Solicitor; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Manager of Budget and Administration; Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Carl Hess, Planning/CDBG Director; Sharon Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Norma Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Beth Johnston, Human Resources Director; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Michael Groff, Finance Director; Amy Story, Borough Engineer; Ross Momyer, Administration Intern; 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 comments from the public.

Consent Items

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

- Approve the Resolution authorizing the President of Council to Execute a Winter Maintenance Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
- Accept, with regret, the resignation of Tom Hettmansperger, the Borough's representative on the Schlow Library Board, effective August 31, 2010.
- Approve the use of Sunset Park and various sidewalks in the College Heights neighborhood for a Stride for Awareness 5K race to benefit United Cerebral Palsy on Saturday, October 2, 2010, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Approve the use of Westview Avenue for a College Heights block party on Friday, September 3, 2010, from 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Approve the use of Hartswick Avenue, from North Allen Street to McKee Street, for a neighborhood block party on Monday, September 6, 2010, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Approve the use of Fairway Road, from Clarence Avenue to Ridge Avenue, for the annual Ruth Fergus Memorial Neighborhood Picnic on Sunday, September 12, 2010, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Approve the use of the 100 block of Hiester Street from College Avenue to Calder Way on Thursday, September 2, 2010, from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for Downtown State

College Improvement District's First Thursday's Concert Series. The concert itself is from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- Approve a Resolution authoring the Borough Manager to act as the Borough's agent in the Execution of an Agility Agreement and Amendments with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
- Appoint or reappointed the following individuals to various Authorities, Boards and Commissions:

Authorities Board	Alfred Triolo	Appointment	December 31, 2014
Water Authority	Rachel Brennan	Appointment	December 31, 2010
Centre Region Schlow Memorial Library Board of Trustees	Lynn Myers	Appointment	December 31, 2010

Ms. Lawrence said her neighbors have block parties annually and she recommended other neighborhoods consider doing the same. It is a great way to get to know your neighbors.

General Policy and Administration

Five-Year Financial Forecast. Staff reviewed the Five-Year Financial Forecast in preparation for the 2011 Operating Budget. Staff said the model used in preparing this information was developed for ten years of actual data. Future budgets are projected for the next five years as images of the next five year projections.

Mr. Hahn questioned existing fund balance as well as projects planned for the remainder of this year and in 2011. Staff explained accounting changes resulted in switching expenditures in different funds and consolidating them into the General Fund.

Mr. Rosenberger asked what inflation assumptions Staff has made on expenditures, particularly what assumptions were made about the Fraser Centre. Staff replied expenditures are based upon a ten and five year mean along with staff assumptions, which is then broken out by department rather than line item. Each department is different and it is based on historical trends in expenditures and revenues. In terms of the Fraser Centre, the Borough delayed revenue and expenditures from 2012 to 2013.

Mr. Filippelli said the Borough's financial forecast does not look good and suggested Staff send an introductory summary and the projection to Penn State President Graham Spanier and Vice President for Finance and Business Al Horvath, providing them with the realistic view of the Borough's finances. He added if we look at our population and percentage that does not pay income tax to the Borough (students), and we were able to model this in a way that points out if we were to take the same population in the Borough and use a normal distribution of 38,000 to 40,000 people in a non-university community for services we provide, with a normal distribution of property and income taxes, we would see a totally different scenario. We would have a figure that would show the difference between revenue and service costs. Staff indicated the Borough can try to model Mr. Filippelli's request; Staff is beginning to track earned income taxpayers by classes.

Council concurred that most of the Borough's population does not pay taxes; students pay property taxes when they pay their rent but they do not pay any earned income taxes, unlike the residents who pay both. Council said the Borough needs to find other sources of revenue, such as the per drink tax.

2009 Performance Report. Mr. Momyer, Administration's Intern, provided Council with the 2009 Performance Report, which contained service-level performance data for selected services provided by the Borough and Centre Region Council of Governments. Mr. Momyer said the report increases the accountability in the organization and Staff has been setting goals for services for the 2011 year.

Mr. Hahn said from reviewing the data the Public Works employees need to drive more carefully; Staff responded they have instituted a program to help with defensive and safety driving, which is a good example of how Staff uses the data to address the specific needs and improve employee skills in specific areas.

Regional Issues

Hess Field Articles of Agreement. Mr. Hahn made a motion to approve the Hess Field Articles of Agreement. Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion.

Mr. Daubert said if we have a facility use agreement, organizations must agree to pay the costs incurred by the CRCOG. For example, we cannot rent out facilities at a cost of \$10 per hour when it actually costs CRCOG \$100 per hour.

Mr. Rosenberger said this point was raised by a Consultant who looked at the costs associated with the facilities rentals and the Consultant said the Parks Authority is very generous. He said the Parks Director, Ron Woodhead, has been advised of the Consultant's thoughts.

Ms. Lawrence asked if Staff could contact COG and let them know the Borough's concern and ask COG to formally look into Parks programs and whether or not the services they are providing meet the costs of their programs. Staff said the appropriate time to pass along that information is when COG's annual budget is reviewed.

Council agreed the Borough should let COG know the Borough is taking this on with the proviso that the operating maintenance budget should be there also.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the Ordinance approving the Articles of Agreement for Hess Field.

Ms. Lawrence then made a motion that due to the past problems of maintenance for Hess Field, a proviso be included for a maintenance fund is incorporated so the property is properly maintained. Also, income should be done on a basis to meet those expenses so all costs are recovered. Mr. Daubert seconded the motion.

Mr. Fontaine said there is no assumption that the parks will generate enough revenue to be self sustaining without adequate usage fees.

Mr. Hahn made an amendment to Ms. Lawrence's motion, which she and Mr. Daubert accepted, that the Borough send along a proviso instead of attaching a condition that the Borough would like to see adequate fees incorporated to assist in properly maintaining the fields.

The motion passed unanimously.

COG Program Plan. Staff stated that Council previously reviewed the COG Program Plan and provided staff with comments. Mr. Hahn made a motion to recommend approving the

comments and direct the Borough Manager to forward these comments to the COG Executive Director. Mr. Filippelli seconded the motion.

Mr. Daubert expressed his concern about the Fire Station Capital and the replacement of capital items. He said the existing capital investment has already been provided by the host municipalities and the same holds true in both College and Patton Townships.

Mr. Hahn said the Borough is not giving up the Fire Station in the Borough; this is the program plan and previous discussions did not involve conditions or transfers of such. If COG does have to engage in such improvements, they should be entitled to the lease holds comparable to the life of those.

Staff said the comments prepared have addressed the issue, but will clarify the sentence in the comments being sent to the COG Executive Director, which reads the Borough is not intending to transfer ownership of the fire station to COG. COG should proceed cautiously on this matter.

The motion passed 7-0-0.

Whitehall Road Regional Parklands. On a motion by Mr. Rosenberger, and a second by Ms. Lafer, Council unanimously approved comments prepared by staff regarding the Whitehall Road Regional Parklands, which will be forwarded to the COG Executive Director. The motion passed unanimously.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Mayor's Report. Ms. Goreham reported she recently took part in the re-opening of the Weis Market on Martin Street. She also welcomed 150 international students during a recent staff retreat on campus.

President's Report. Mr. Filippelli reported Council will be meeting in an Executive Session immediately following this meeting to discuss personnel.

Regional Liaison Reports

Human Resources Committee. Mr. Daubert reported the Human Resources Committee met recently and discussed policy and staff reductions.

Public Services & Environmental Committee. Mr. Morris said the Public Services and Environmental Committee met on August 4 and heard presentations from two interns.

Transportation & Land Use Committee. Ms. Lafer reported this Committee will meet this coming Wednesday.

Parks Capital Committee. Mr. Rosenberger reported the Parks Capital Committee will meet on Thursday to continue discussing the Whitehall Road plan.

Staff/Committee Reports

Staff reported that Mayor Goreham and Council President Ron Filippelli will host a Neighborhood Association Leadership meeting this coming Wednesday. Staff plans to talk about the Borough's efforts which are in place to assist the neighborhoods, such as the F8

program, the Neighborhood Sustainability Report, upcoming new program, and the ABC Recruitment Process and a general discussion.

On Wednesday, August 18, there will be a special Council meeting at 12 noon to review the West End Zoning Ordinance.

The 2010 Lion Walk will be held on Monday, August 23. The walk will start here in the building. Those invited to participate include Borough staff, Penn State University faculty, Law Enforcement personnel, and representatives from the different student organizations.

Mr. Fontaine said Kim Wyatt, the Centre County Tax Collection Committee's Secretary, recently distributed two formulas presented being considered by the CCTCC at their meeting on Thursday, August 19. One formula is based upon the Act 32 weighted vote percentages for assessing costs and the other is a uniform form of collection. He said he plans to support the straight percentage cost of collection because it is the fairest way to go. This formula reduces the overall administrative costs in the program. He said he does not see much basis for the alternative formula, however, he noted there will be winners and losers with each formula.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.