

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Work Session
Monday, October 11, 2010
7:30 p.m.

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Monday, October 11, 2010, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Ronald Filippelli, Council President
 Tom Daubert
 Donald Hahn
 Theresa Lafer
 Silvi Lawrence
 Peter Morris
 James Rosenberger

Also present: Elizabeth Goreham, Mayor; Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Manager; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Kevin Kassab, Supervisor of Inspections; and Sheila Carl, Recording Secretary.

Public Hour – No one spoke during the public hour.

Centre Region Bed Bug Coalition. Dr. Edwin Rajotte, an Entomology Professor, David Manos, the Assistant Housing Director, at Penn State, and Kevin Kassab, Supervisor of Inspections attended the meeting to provide Council with an update on the bed bug situation in State College and the Coalition's efforts.

Dr. Rajotte and Mr. Manos indicated the best defense against bed bugs is to make the public aware of the seriousness of the problem and educate the public on the best treatments for extinguishing the bugs.

Mr. Kassab reiterated the seriousness of the problem and, while time consuming for Borough staff, treatment can be successful.

Student Representative. On August 9, 2010, Christian Ragland, President of the Penn State University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA), presented Council with a proposal for a non-voting student Member to Council. The proposal consisted of a three-phase process which includes becoming visible, establishing a voice and fulfilling a role. The end objective is to have a non-voting student member who reports to and interacts with Council.

After much discussion by Council and review by the Borough Solicitor, staff prepared a Student Representative Resolution for Council's consideration. Council was asked to review and discuss the Resolution and forward the Resolution to the UPUA for comment before taking action on the item.

Mr. Christian Ragland attended the meeting to share with Council the UPUA's thoughts. He stated the Resolution captures what UPUA is looking for and is supported by students.

Council also discussed and decided, during Council meetings, the Student Representative would sit with Borough staff at the staff table. The Student Representative also would not attend Council Executive Sessions unless invited to do so.

TJ Bard spoke and thanked Council for their consideration of this Resolution and for meeting with him and other students.

Mr. Charles Dumas, 516 North Atherton Street, voiced his support of this proposal and applauded Council and the students.

Council agreed this Resolution should move forward for a vote and be included on the next Council regular meeting agenda.

Student Advisory Committee. Bobby Ryan, Off Campus Student Union President (OSCU), thanked Council for considering this proposal and welcomed the opportunity to work with the Borough to strengthen town/gown relationships.

Council discussed the frequency of how often this committee would meet, who would support and chair the committee, and the number of committee members.

Council advised they were generally in agreement with developing this committee but some additional details needed to be addressed. Mr. Ryan was advised to continue discussion with the OCSU, work out the details discussed at this meeting, and then make a recommendation to Council.

PLCM Hosting. Some members of Council expressed an interest in having the Borough host the PA League of Cities and Municipalities 2013 Conference. Council was provided with additional information on the requirements for hosting the conference and were asked to discuss the possibility.

Council was supportive of this proposal and supported moving forward with hosting this conference.

Sustainable Neighborhood Implementation. On September 13, 2010, Staff presented the Sustainable Neighborhood Report to Council. Council has reviewed and discussed the report. In response to Council's discussion, staff has prepared an implementation plan. Council was asked to review and discuss the implementation memo and provide guidance to staff. Once Council is satisfied with the implementation goals, strategies and priorities, the report will be placed on an agenda for formal acceptance and approval of the implementation memo.

After some discussion, Council advised staff to prepare a Resolution to implement the plan.

Fraser/Beaver Realignment. Amy Story, Borough Engineer, provided Council with a report and update on the realignment project.

Neighborhood Alcohol Enforcement Team. Chief King provided Council with the details of the enforcement team assigned to the Highlands community since August of 2010. Consistently having the same officers assigned to this area has allowed the officers to identify where the potential trouble areas are and start to build a relationship with the residents. The Chief reported the interest of developing a similar program for the Holmes-Foster neighborhood but must first workout some staffing challenges. It is hoped this could be a joint effort with the Penn State University.

Update on Centre County Tax Collection Agreement. Mr. Fontaine reported the agreement was reviewed by the Committee with only a few modifications being requested. The agreement will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and then returned to Council for approval.

Other Items of Information. Centre County Planning and Community Development Office has submitted a green plan and it is available for review at the Library.

Mr. Fontaine advised Council the State College Area School District would be discussing the Memorial Field Project on October 19, 2010 and Council was invited to attend.

Mr. Fontaine reminded Council there would be an executive session at 11:45 a.m. prior to the work session scheduled for Friday, October 15, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary