

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
October 18, 2010
Regular Meeting

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, October 18, 2010, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Mayor Goreham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also present were: Terry Williams, Borough Solicitor; Sharon Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary; Mark Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Amy Story, Borough Engineer; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Manager; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; members of the media; and other interested observers.

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

Public Hour

Mr. John Simbeck, 601 West College Avenue, owner of 601 Enterprises explained that he will be out of town when Borough Council holds their public hearing on the West End zoning. He said he has personally watched this process for the last ten years. He said this is the West side of the Borough and not the West End. He said being known as the West End has changed the discussion over the years. Many times the West side has been known for its low-cost housing, which creates a negative factor. He said the Borough needs to be careful and we need to look carefully about drafting such descriptive zoning. The landlords on the West side will suffer if this does not work. In closing, Mr. Simbeck said housing discrimination ordinances creates legal hassles when limiting what people can and cannot do.

Special Report

State College School District Business Administrator Jeff Ammerman and Director of Physical Plant Ed Poprik provided Council with information on the School District's upcoming community meeting on the potential site design options for the renovations at Memorial Field.

Mr. Ammerman invited Council members to the School District's meeting tomorrow night on the Memorial Field improvement options.

Mr. Filippelli asked if all options being unveiled at the upcoming meeting include retaining Memorial Field on the same site; Mr. Ammerman answered yes and said the three options being proposed include differences in seating and where it will be located.

Consent Items

Mr. Hahn made a motion to approve the following consent items. Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approve vouchers for the month of September in the amount of \$2,355,422.60.
- Approve the use of the Municipal Building plaza and lobby for a menorah lighting celebration for the Chabad of Penn State on Wednesday, December 1 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Award Project #6-2010 (Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project) to Abel-Recon, LLC, the second lowest bidder, in the amount of \$141,005.00.

General Policy and Administration

Student Representative - Mr. Filippelli made a motion to adopt Resolution #XXXX, which establishes a Student Representative to Council. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UPUA President Christian Ragland thanked Borough Council for considering and approving this. He said the UPUA is extremely pleased and this is a great step to increase Town/Gown relations. He said this is an historic moment.

Ordinance for the Conduct of 2010 First Night® - Mr. Hahn made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1954 for the conduct of First Night 2010. Mr. Filippelli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2011 Earned Income Tax Rules and Regulations - Ms. Lafer made a motion to recommend Council approve Resolution #1031 which promulgates the 2011 Earned Income Tax Rules and Regulations. Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Regional Programs

COG Finance Committee Report - Mr. Hahn reported that the COG Finance Committee finished its review of the COG 2011 Budget. The COG Finance Committee is recommending passing a status quo budget because the Finance Committee recognizes the current economic difficulties and seeks to maintain the same level of services with one major exception, regional parks. He thanked Bud Graham, the COG Finance Chair, for guiding the Finance Committee through the budget review process very well.

Mr. Hahn said Ferguson Township continues to raise issues about their contribution to the Schlow Centre Region Library and the library formula does not count the students who reside on campus, much like the COG formula. He said Regional cooperation has ended up with a lot of compromises. He said this is the third year in a row and he is personally tired of fighting the same battle.

Mr. Filippelli said the Executive Committee meets tomorrow and he asked Council if there were any messages he should take to the Committee tomorrow.

Ms. Lawrence said she was disappointed with Ferguson Township's reference to the library. She said her understanding was the students who live on campus are required to live on campus no matter which municipality they are from. We have never looked at which municipality they come from. This is a temporary first-year situation.

Mr. Filippelli said in regards to on-campus students, these students live in dormitories and they do not pay any taxes to the borough. There is no revenue generated for the Borough as a result of those students. He said it is inappropriate to count these students.

COG Public Services & Environmental Committee Update on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project - Mr. Morris said the COG General Forum will be receiving an update on the Centre Region Greenhouse Gas Emissions project from the COG Public Services & Environmental Committee at their October 25th meeting. He said the Committee has asked Jim Steff and Pam Adams to prepare a Centre Region Climate Action Plan based on the Borough's Resolution #944. This plan could be modified by each municipality to suit their own needs.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Mayor's Report – Ms. Goreham said she was in Reading last week to participate in the third and final PLCM Core Communities in Crisis Task Force meeting. She said twenty municipalities participated in this Task Force.

President's Report – Mr. Filippelli said last week he attended an Open House at the Emergency Services Center at Beaver Stadium. He said because of terrific cooperation, there is a state of the art center to respond to any event of natural disaster. He said he also attended an Open House for the Alpha Fire Company last Sunday to christen a new fire engine.

Regional Liaison Reports

Public Safety Committee – Ms. Lawrence said the Public Safety Committee met last Wednesday to review a preliminary report on assessing the community impact study for large events and whether or not everyone is being reimbursed fairly, specifically fire and medical services.

Regional Parks Committee – Mr. Rosenberger said the Planning Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss the Hess Field Master Plan.

Public Services & Environmental Committee – Mr. Morris said the Public Services Committee met on October 6 and discussed greenhouse gas emissions. He said they also heard a report from Cory Miller from the University Area Joint Authority.

Staff/Committee Reports – Mr. Whitfield said he recently reported in the MIM about a situation with our storm sewer pipe that drains the downtown area. It was discovered that this pipe has a belly and it is sagging and has started to rust out. He said staff is in the process of putting together a proposal for an immediate repair, which should go out to bid later this week. He said we hope to open bids in early November for Council to award at their November 15 meeting. Mr. Whitfield said the project will not take that long to construct and we anticipate the cost to be approximately \$100,000.

Items of Information - Mr. Daubert said he thought Council would hear more information on Memorial Field than was presented. He said it was important for some Council members to attend tomorrow evening's meeting because of the existing sink holes, etc. Council members should see what the three options are that are being presented.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary