

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Work Session
December 10, 2010

The State College Borough Council met on Friday, December 10, 2010, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Council President Filippelli called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Silvi Lawrence

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Michael Groff, Finance Director; Thomas King, Police Chief; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager; Beth Johnston, Human Resource Director; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Norma Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Charley DeBow, Parking Manager; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public Hour/Presentation.

Alex Weller, from Innoblue, announced that Innoblue is now a non-profit organization. He thanked Council for their continued support of Innoblue. Innoblue's mission is to help students in entrepreneurial endeavors. He also thanked Council for participating in Innoblue Demo Days.

There were no other comments from the public.

2011 Operating Budget. Mr. Hess presented an overview of the Planning and Zoning budget. He explained the reorganization of the department and shifting of responsibilities due to retirements and new hires. Mr. Hess added that there is an Economic Development Specialist position budgeted but not yet filled.

Council suggested in the future Staff add individual names to positions on the organization charts included in the Budget so that Council knows to whom staff is referring.

Ms. Lafer encouraged Staff to hire an Economic Development Specialist; she attended the National League of Cities Conference last week and said other cities spoke of the importance of such a position.

Ms. Lawrence requested a cost analysis for the Economic Development Specialist; she is leery about the Borough getting involved in real estate.

Mr. Hess continued and said he currently serves as the Director of the Department of Ordinance Enforcement and Public Health (DOEPH) and presented an overview of DOEPH's budget. He added there is also an Ordinance Enforcement and Animal Control Officer that is also budgeted but not yet filled.

Ms. Lawrence questioned neighborhood programs. Staff said programs include the lion walk and other town & gown issues but does not include salary. Staff added that currently an AmeriCorps position is handling the neighborhood programs, which previously was filled by an intern. Staff hopes to have a full time position for neighborhood programs, replacing the AmeriCorps and intern positions.

Mr. Hess then provided an overview of the allocations for CDBG and the RDA, as well as Bellaire Court. Council suggested spelling out acronyms for the public. Staff agreed and added that CDBG stands for Community Development Block Grant and RDA is the Redevelopment Authority.

Ms. Lawrence asked that the management of Bellaire Court be evaluated for cost effectiveness versus contractual services. Staff said they would provide the information to Council.

Council questioned why indirect costs went up 15 percent. Staff responded that costs were based on a central cost allocation plan, which has not been updated since 1985. Staff explained the costs include a comprehensive update to the Borough's internal cost accounting system. Council thought the system should be analyzed for cost effectiveness; staff said an outside organization would be more costly.

Next, Chief King presented an overview of the proposed Police budget. He said most noteworthy is that at the beginning of 2010 the department had 65 sworn officers and now there are 61 sworn officers. He indicated that many weeks are involved in the recruitment of an officer; a total of 41 weeks with 16 weeks being the best case scenario if an officer is already ACT 110 certified. He also noted that there are 10 officers currently eligible for retirement, which could pose a problem with regard to services provided in the Borough as the Department must provide their contractual services with College and Harris Townships. Chief King asked that Council consider allocating money to hire additional officers.

Council agreed that public safety is top priority as well as maintaining current levels of services.

Staff reminded Council that Monday night's meeting is to review highlights of the budget. Additionally staff would provide Council with a revised fee schedule.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary