

Meeting Agenda
State College Borough Council
Work Session
Monday, April 11, 2011

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, April 11, 2011, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Council Member Hahn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Carl Hess, Planning Director; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Manager; Ben Pugh, UPUA Representative; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Michael Groff, Finance Director; Edward Holmes, Public Services Manager; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public Hour. There were no comments from the public.

Discovery Space. Art Heim and Marty Starling presented an update on the progress of the Discovery Space. Mr. Heim began with the museum's mission statement, their prospective staff and finished with a brief overview of their five year budget. Mr. Heim asked Council for a commitment of \$150,000 over the three years.

Ms. Starling added that the museum is an investment in our community and said the museum cannot succeed without community involvement. She said that the previously considered Verizon space would have cost nearly \$4 million to renovate and the current space is one-fourth of that cost.

Council members questioned the expected entrance fee to the museum, the maximum occupancy, and whether the museum was seeking funding assistance from any other municipalities. Mr. Heim responded and said entry would cost about \$5 and the maximum occupancy is less than 300. He added at this time Discovery Space has asked for support only from the Borough in the amount of \$50,000 per year for three years.

ABC Reports

Centre County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA). Joanne Shafer, Deputy Executive Director/Recycling Coordinator, and Richard Stehouwer, the Borough's Representative on the CCSWA, provided Council with an update on the CCSWA's recent activities. Highlights included the rise in commercial recycling and the great success of the food waste pilot recycling project. Ms. Shafer said that residents are asking how they can also participate.

Council questioned if wet newspapers are still recycled. Ms. Shafer said an overnight rain is not an issue and papers can still be recycled.

Mr. Stehouwer also stated that backyard composting lessons are available at various places and anyone wanting additional information can call the CCSWA.

Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA). Hugh Mose, CATA's Manager, provided Council with an overview of the service changes planned for this fall along with a brief presentation on CATA's 2011/2012 Draft Budget. Mr. Mose said given gas prices, the public should take advantage of public transportation. He added that ridership has grown in the community as well as the CATA Commute Program which now has 1400 participants.

Mr. Mose said technology now allows for a smart phone CATA application and hopefully in the near future Penn State students will be able to use their IDs as a bus pass.

Council questioned the unification of public buses with school buses. Mr. Mose said unification was not an option as this time as children cannot ride with the public at this time.

Planning Commission (PC). Planning Commission Chairman Evan Myers provided Council with an update on the Commission's recent activities. Council had minimal comments and thanked Mr. Myers for the update.

General Policy and Administration

Consider the Local Option for Enforcement of Liquor License Establishment Noise Complaints in the Borough of State College. At Council's March 18 work session, representatives from the Tavern Association presented a petition requesting that Council reconsider a resolution to take over noise ordinance enforcement at the local level. Council agreed to discuss the matter at a future work session.

John Cocolin, Gerald (Duke) Gastiger, Jennifer Zangrilli and Patrick Daugherty, representatives from the Tavern Association of State College were present to answer questions.

Council was concerned with involving extra officers should the noise control be monitored at the local level. Staff explained that Harris Township currently controls the noise at the local level and there have been no added concerns. Staff added that extra police personnel would not be required.

Sergeant Wayne Bush, representative from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Enforcement division of the Pennsylvania State Police, stated that LCB's staff and enforcement would not be affected should noise control transfer to local enforcement. Sgt. Bush said LCB does not do noise decibel readings but instead compares noise with other surrounding noise.

Clark Meacham, resident of Addison Court at 120 East Beaver Avenue, feels our local police department should not be involved.

Jennifer Zangrilli, President of Tavern Association, stated that there needs to be more education regarding the noise enforcement because a noise violation under LCB and under the Borough Noise Ordinance is quite different. The purpose of requesting local enforcement will define what the differences are and perhaps enforcement will be reasonable.

Pat Daugherty, owner of the Tavern Restaurant, said the city of Harrisburg took over the noise ordinance locally and now allows taverns to have outside seating and local entertainment.

Jody Alessandrine, Director of the Downtown State College Improvement District (DSCID), said the DSCID Board of Directors has also passed a resolution in support of local police enforcement of the noise ordinance.

Council is expected to vote on this item at its meeting on April 18. Mr. Daubert reminded the public that the April 18 meeting is at noon.

First Quarter Budget Report. Staff provided a short overview of the 1st Quarter budget performance which included the General, Parking, Sanitary Sewer and Refuse Collection Funds. Staff explained that each quarter is compared to where the budget was at the same time the previous year. Staff added that the Borough is on target and there are no budgetary concerns at this time.

Open Agenda

Council members may request an issue not scheduled on Council's agenda docket be added to a future meeting agenda.

Mr. Daubert inquired as to the planning of a 10 year anniversary open house for the new municipal building. Staff replied that something will occur but planning has not yet begun.

Ms. Lawrence said she would like to see more important agenda items added as there are few items listed as this time. Staff explained that most meetings in May will involve review of the CIP.

Council asked for revisions of the Fair Housing Ordinance to evaluate in advance of adoption on April 18.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary

Prepared by Amy R. Miller