

Meeting Agenda
State College Borough Council
Work Session
Monday, May 9, 2011

The State College Borough Council met on Monday, May 9, 2011, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Council President Filippelli called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

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

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Carl Hess, Planning Director; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Manager; Brendan McNally, UPUA Representative; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Michael Groff, Finance Director; Thomas Hart, Assistant Police Chief; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Norma Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Amy Story, Borough Engineer; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public Hour. There were no comments from the public.

General Policy and Administration

2010 Annual Audit Report and Year End Budget Report. Tim Morgus and Jeff Kent, Auditors from Maher Duessel, presented an overview of the 2010 Audit Report. Mike Groff also distributed the final year end budget report for 2010.

Most noteworthy was Mr. Kent's statement that the Manager assigns the funds and Council commits the funds; however if Council does not agree with the Manager's assignment, then they can commit funds to other categories by the end of the fiscal year. He added that unassigned funds can only be in the General Fund.

Council had questions about the bond rating, the unfunded liabilities, the Borough's actuaries, and the difference between assigning and committing funds, which Messrs. Morgus and Kent answered.

Council had no significant comments on the year end budget report.

Planning and Zoning

Report from the Redevelopment Authority on Alternative Uses for 254 East Beaver Avenue

Redevelopment Authority Chair, Vicki Fong, provided Council with the RDA's report on potential alternative uses for the property at 254 East Beaver Avenue. Ms. Fong said the developers still feel student housing is the best use for the site.

Council was disappointed to hear the results and hoped the developers would change their mind and come up with alternative uses.

Regional Issues

Centre Region Economic Development Assessment. Staff explained that the COG General Forum authorized an Economic Development Assessment for the Centre Region which began in August 2010 by BBP LLC & Associates. The Assessment was presented to the COG Transportation & Land Use (TLU) Committee and Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC) for review and COG asks for municipal review and comment by May 20, 2011. Borough staff comments were given to Council prior to this meeting and Council should comment. Jim May, Centre Regional Planning Director, provided an overview of the assessment.

Council did not suggest changes to staff's recommendations, but added that relationships play an important role in economic development and the assessment calls for strengthening these relationships among the Centre Region Municipalities and among others in the county.

Analysis of Business Networks in Centre County. Staff noted that the COG General Forum referred a request to fund an analysis of the Business Networks in Centre County to the individual municipalities and asked for review and comments to be submitted to the COG Executive Director by May 17. Staff recommended Council return comments to COG in support of funding their portion of the plan.

Most Council members felt this study was a waste of money, although a few members of Council were in support of the plan. Staff recommended when Council has questions or is not in favor of an issue at the General Forum, they should indicate their views at the General Forum. Council Member Hahn said he felt that a 30 member General Forum Board is too large for sufficient discussions.

Staff agreed to report back to COG that Council had no consensus on the analysis.

CATA's 2011/2012 Budget Proposal. Staff indicated that the General Forum voted unanimously to refer the 2010/2011 CATA budget to the participating municipalities for review and comment. Hugh Mose, Executive Director of CATA, provided a short overview of the Budget and explained the request for a 5% municipal contribution.

Most Council members were very supportive of the proposed exterior ads; however, one Council member objected and said he would prefer to increase the local contributions to CATA rather than allow advertising on the buses.

Council members also suggested that CATA not permit the display of ads for alcoholic beverages or adult entertainment. Mr. Mose said CATA has a policy related to unacceptable advertisements for the interior advertisement program and would also have the same policy for exterior ads.

Borough Council was generally supportive of the CATA Budget.

2012-2016 Capital Improvement Plan. Staff reviewed the Streets and Storm Water sections of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Council members had mixed opinions on the proposed pedestrian safety fence tentatively set for the block of Atherton Street between College and Beaver Avenues. Mr. McNally reported that students are strongly in favor of the fence.

Open Agenda. Staff explained that the meeting on May 16 will include a work session following the regular meeting to continue discussion of the CIP.

Mr. Daubert asked why the dedication for Bill Welch Plaza will be on a Saturday rather than before a Council meeting. Mr. Fontaine said the date is tentative but may coincide with the Community Resources Fair which is held on a Saturday. He added that Mayor Welch was also one of the founders of the Community Resources Fair.

Mr. Morris requested a proposal for posting of the following notices. In the Borough parks he would like to post: Warning: There may be armed private citizens in this park. State Law does not allow The State College Borough to ban guns here, nor does State Law ban them. In the Municipal lobby and in Council Chamber: Warning, There may be armed private citizens in this building. State Law does not allow The State College Borough to ban guns here, nor does State Law ban them.

Council Members Hahn, Filippelli and Morris will not be available for the May 20 Council meeting. Mr. Fontaine said he and the Council President would discuss rescheduling at their meeting tomorrow.

Ms. Lawrence questioned the budget allowance for Council members to attend professional conferences. Mr. Fontaine said the issue is governed by the Home Rule Charter.

Ms. Lafer requested discussion of landlords' responsibilities for paying permit fees, obeying code and ordinances and other fees relating to rental housing. She also suggests that Code or Borough employees do not scribble responses on letters from citizens, as they are not considered legal. Mr. Fontaine said staff can provide Council

with a report showing landlords do pay the required fees. He added that Staff has been working with Code Administration to ensure landlords are doing their part.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matter at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary

Prepared by Amy R. Miller