

**Meeting Agenda  
State College Borough Council  
Work Session  
September 16, 2011**

The State College Borough Council met on Friday, September 16, 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 12:04 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; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Manager; Charley DeBow, Parking Manager; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Carl Hess, Planning Director; Ed Homes, Public Services Manager; Courtney Hayden, Communications and Grants Coordinator; Kate Doe, Neighborhood Services Coordinator; Norma Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Thomas King, Police Chief; Ed Hicks, Public Works Foreman for Sanitation; members of the media; and other interested observers. Brendan McNally, UPUA Representative, and Angel Hernandez, Information Technology Director arrived at 12:40 p.m.

**Public Hour.** There were no comments from the public.

**General Policy and Administration**

Five-Year Financial Forecast and 2010 Performance Report. Staff provided Council with a brief overview of the Borough's Five-Year Financial Forecast. Most notable was the Borough's flat tax base and the future struggle to meet expenditure growths.

Council questioned where funds will come from to meet these expected needs. Staff replied that this issue will be included in the planning of the 2012 Budget.

Staff then presented an overview of the 2010 Performance Report which contained service-level performance data for selected services provided by the Borough and Centre Region Council of Governments. Staff indicated that the report offers an objective analysis of the Borough's service-level performance compared over time and against the selected peers across the country. Staff said data will also be used as part of the 2012 annual budget in regard to performances, references and narrative explanations. Council had no questions for staff.

Consolidation of ABC's. Council previously talked about reducing the total number of ABC's by either consolidating ABC's with similar missions or in some cases eliminating an ABC entirely. Staff explained this issue is a result of attempting to fill vacancies on the ABC's and seeks feedback from Council as recruitment for volunteers to serve on ABC's will be occurring over the next several months.

Staff provided information outlining the general mission of each ABC, the number of members for each ABC, the number of vacancies and the number of meetings per year. ABC's being considered for consolidation are the Design Review Board and Historic Resources Commission as well as the Planning Commission and Transportation Commission.

Council reminded staff that at the COG level, the Planning Commission and Transportation and Land Use Committees still exists.

Council asked how much staff time would be saved by combining these ABC's. Staff replied that would depend on how often an ABC meets, but generally an hour to two hours plus meeting preparation time which is often 30 to 45 minutes. Council said reducing meetings would save staff time as well.

Council Member Daubert stated it was Council's job to recruit ABC members and felt Council needed to do a better job in recruiting volunteers.

Most Council members were in favor of reducing the number of meetings but not consolidating the ABC's. Council also favored ABC members serving on additional ABC's of similar interests.

Council agreed that the Planning Commission and Transportation Commission should not be considered for further consolidation. However, the Design Review Board and Historic Resources Commission should be given further consideration and discussed at a future work session and requested the Chairs of these ABC's to attend as well.

### **Public Works**

Proposed Changes in Refuse. Staff presented several proposed changes to the refuse system at Council's September 12 meeting and Council should continue discussion today. Staff briefly explained the proposal to expand the organic waste program and plans for a pre-hearing "open house" for public information before the October 3 public hearing. Staff also presented samples of the different size carts for Council's consideration.

Staff continued stating that every resident would receive a container and be charged on a 'pay as you throw' system. Options for an automated system should also be considered as well as where to expand the food waste collection. Staff explained that with an automated system, all services could be automated or just organic collection.

Staff added that a postcard mailing was sent to residents for their input.

Council comments included how some residents who live in very narrow areas do not have room for such large bins, what the chances are that animals could knock over the bins, and how many residents are currently participating in the food waste recycling. Council also added that use of the existing non-automated system may prove better.

Council said the real determination will result from the public open house and information obtained from the returned post cards. Council added that another vital part of the program is to educate the public to increase their comfort level with food waste recycling.

### **Planning and Community Development**

Neighborhood Sustainability Report. Planning Director Carl Hess presented the annual update of the Neighborhood Sustainability in draft form.

Mr. Hess said that most noteworthy was the increase in violations which are probably due to more aggressive and increased officer initiated contacts. He also indicated that trends indicate an increase in population, resulting in increased citations.

Council requested time to review the report and continue discussion at a future work session.

**Items of Information**

Staff introduced new Information Technology Director, Angel Hernandez, to Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sharon K. Ergler  
Assistant Borough Secretary

Prepared by Amy R. Miller