

**Meeting Agenda**  
**State College Borough Council**  
**Work Session**  
**October 21, 2011**

The State College Borough Council met on Friday, October 21, 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 12:05 p.m.

Present: 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; Charley DeBow, Parking Manager; Eric Brook, Operations Manager; Carl Hess, Planning Director; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Manager; Courtney Hayden, Communications and Grants Coordinator; Thomas King, Police Chief; Kate Doe, Neighborhood Services Coordinator; Norma Crater, Accounting Supervisor; Angel Hernandez, Information Technology Director; Anne Messner, Zoning Officer; members of the media; and other interested observers.

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

**Consolidation of ABC's.** At a previous meeting staff requested Council consider consolidation of ABC's. Council agreed to consider consolidating the Design Review Board (DRB) and Historic Resources Commission (HRC) and requested the Chairs of these agencies attend today's session to share their views on the proposed ABC consolidation.

Staff indicated that Rick Bryant, Chair of the HRC, could not attend due to a last minute schedule change, but emailed his comments; however Council had not received them.

Zoe Boniface, Chair of DRB, spoke on the pros and cons of consolidation. She said there could be synergy with particular projects; however, she expressed concern that there could be a conflict of interest on historic preservation and design review. As an example she noted that if a property that is kept as an historic property, but the DRB suggests meeting environmental standards, which direction is proper. She also noted that there could be a lack of interest for a certain topic and members may not show up for a meeting that is historic related when they are from the design side. Ms. Boniface added that workload is not an issue at this time because building is currently slow. She also said public projects are not currently reviewed by the DRB, but the draft Section 94 of the agenda contradicts this.

Council agreed that ABC members may be willing to serve on more than one ABC. However, Council added that some members may not be interested in certain topics and may not attend those meetings. Council suggested compromising and preparing agendas well in advance in order to bring synergy together among the ABC's.

Council added that some ABC's could reduce their membership. Council also suggested reviewing program plans for the various ABC's to see what work can be combined, which may also eliminate attendance problems. Also, Council mentioned attendance records could also be reviewed when deciding who should continue serving.

After discussion, Council agreed not to pursue consolidation at this time.

## **Budgetary and Financial Policies.**

Staff explained that budgetary polices and processes were included in Council's agenda for review. Staff suggests the minimum project expense to be included as part of capital improvement projects (CIP) be raised to \$50,000, instead of \$10,000. Projects under \$50,000 would then be built into the operating budget, thus eliminating the amount of time Council spends reviewing the CIP. Staff also suggests Council increase the amount to at least \$25,000, but \$50,000 is recommended. Staff explained that if a project is spread over a certain amount of years, then it would still be included on the CIP.

Mr. Hahn said he does not remember the CIP review process being over burdensome and stated that this issue has been previously presented for Council's consideration and rejected. Mr. Hahn recommends staying with the \$10,000 threshold for the CIP.

Some members of Council agreed that raising the CIP threshold to \$25,000 would match the purchasing threshold. Staff reminded Council that regardless of the cost of a project, Council would still have final approval whether it is part of the CIP or the Operating Budget.

Council requested staff prepare the latest CIP taking the increase of \$25,000 into consideration to compare and see how much smaller the CIP would have been. Staff agreed to draft a policy for Council's review as well as providing the information Council requested at a future work session. Staff added that the policy would not have to be adopted until the next CIP, but budget documents now being prepared could reflect this amount.

## **Renaming of a Public Street.**

Council previously discussed the possibility of renaming a secondary street after Martin Luther King, Jr. Council Member Morris asked Council to revisit this topic; hence the discussion on today's agenda. Mr. Morris suggested renaming the open public space at the corner of Beaver Avenue and Fraser Street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza.

Ms. Lawrence said that the use of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s name is copy righted and said there is a cost for using his name.

Most members of Council did not oppose Mr. Morris' suggestion; however Mr. Daubert said he continues to be opposed to naming anything after an individual, especially someone who does not have a direct connection to State College. Mr. Filippelli said that Borough policy states renaming can occur for any person who has an impact at the national level.

Mr. Fountaine researched the copy right law during the work session and reported that the name is in fact trademarked and cannot be used for private use, but may be used for public purposes. He also reminded Council that there are private property owners involved in this plaza and said Council may have to seek permission from Susquehanna Real Estate and the Agostinelli family even though the Borough owns the public right of way.

Council agreed to consider renaming said plaza as the Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss potential litigation at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sharon K. Ergler  
Assistant Borough Secretary  
Prepared by Amy R. Miller