

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Work Session
February 17, 2012
12 Noon

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Friday, February 17, 2012, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Present: Donald Hahn, Council President
Catherine G. Dauler
Thomas E. Daubert
Ronald L. Filippelli
Sarah Klinetob
Peter Morris
James L. Rosenberger

Also present: Elizabeth Goreham, Mayor; Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Linda S. Welker, Tax Administrator; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Kelly Aston, Community Relations Officer; Katherine Doe, Neighborhood Services Coordinator; Brendan McNally, UPUA Student Representative; Sheila Carl, Recording Secretary; and several interested residents and members of the media.

Public Hour – No one spoke during the public hour.

Report on Transient or Occasional Residential Occupancy (aka Football Rentals). Council was previously provided a report prepared by Tom Kurtz on Transient or Occasional Residential Occupancy, also known as football rentals. Council was asked if they would like to have an ordinance prepared to regulate transient or occasional residential occupancy.

Council questioned how the regulations monitoring Bed & Breakfast (B&B) establishments would compare to any possible regulations that could apply to football rentals. Mr. Hess explained the regulations applying to B&Bs and how a license is used to avoid having B&Bs become student housing.

Ms. Klinetob expressed her concern when renters are asked to periodically leave their homes so they can be rented on football weekends. Mr. Fountaine explained renters need to be cautious when reviewing and signing leases and the Borough is working with Penn State to provide guidance and address these issues.

Council concluded this issue does not currently warrant the need for an ordinance but could become a bigger issue in the future at which time Council could revisit this decision.

Discussion on the F8 Report. Council was previously provided with a copy of the F8 Report from Fall of 2011. Staff provided Council with the background and history of the F8 committee and was available to discuss the F8 Report and answer Council's questions.

Ms. Doe participated in the discussion and explained efforts like the LION Walk and the Neighborhood Dialogues has allowed the Borough to meet with students to discuss how to be a good neighborhood and deal with unacceptable fan behavior.

Mr. Hess provided a report to Council showing the refuse offenses have gone up due to a more aggressive approach and the Holmes Foster neighborhood has had the largest increase in both police and ordinance enforcement activity. However, the number of reports by citizens is down.

Council was pleased to see the number of offenses is trending downward with the exception of refuse violations.

Mr. Fontaine provided an example of a problem property in the Holmes Foster neighborhood that was able to resolve a variety of issues by working with the Borough and Student Affairs before needing to take disciplinary action. The objective is to show students can have fun but also need to be responsible and clean up after weekend activities.

Mr. Filippelli thought the progress of these programs has been good but was concerned the financial stresses of the University could affect the progress that has been made. Chief King stated there are no indications the commitment from Penn State, to these programs, will change.

Provide input on CATA's Exterior Bus Advertising Pilot Program. To deal with a funding shortfall, CATA implemented a pilot program for exterior bus advertising. CATA requested Council's input on whether this pilot program should continue as a permanent program. Council was provided with a copy of CATA's policy.

Mr. Daubert stated CATA should make it clear they are not promoting what is being advertised on the buses and a disclaimer should be visible.

Council felt this program would be a good way to close funding gaps as long as CATA made sure the advertisements were tasteful and did not become wrap around signs.

There being no further business, Council adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary

Prepared by Sheila Carl