

**Meeting Minutes  
State College Borough Council  
Regular Meeting  
November 5, 2012**

The State College Borough Council met in a regular meeting on Monday, November 5, 2012, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Mayor Goreham called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Council present: Elizabeth A. Goreham, Mayor  
Donald M. Hahn, President of Council  
Thomas E. Daubert  
Catherine G. Dauler  
Ronald L. Filippelli  
Sarah Klinetob  
Peter Morris  
Absent: James L. Rosenberger

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, Borough Manager; Terry J. Williams, Borough Solicitor; Carl Hess, Planning Director; Anne Messner, Acting Zoning Officer; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police, Mark A. Whitfield, Public Works Director; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager; Beth Johnston, Human Resources Director; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Alan Sam, Environmental Coordinator/Arborist; Courtney Hayden, Communications and Grants Coordinator; Meagan Tuttle, Planning Intern; Laurel Petrulionis, UPUA Student Representative; Ronald Woodhead, Centre Region Parks & Recreation Director; Joe Viglione, COG Finance Officer; and members of the local media.

**Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens**

No one in the audience wished to bring a matter before Council.

**Presentations**

Downtown Master Plan Update - Mr. Tim McGilloway and Tripp Muldrow, consultants from Mahan Rykiel, provided Council with a brief progress report on their recent activities, as well as an overview of what they hope to accomplish during this week's workshops and public meeting. Mr. Muldrow said additional information about the Downtown Master Plan can be found at [www.statecollege.us/engagesc](http://www.statecollege.us/engagesc).

Mayor Goreham said she was looking forward to the Open House being held by the consultants on the Downtown Master Plan on Thursday, November 8, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Community Room.

Mr. Morris thanked the consultants for their presentation. He said he would like to see something done with the 100 block of South Allen Street where the street is closed during the summer and parking places could be used as cafes.

Mr. Daubert asked, if Council members have questions who they should be directed to. Mr. Fountaine said all questions should be forwarded to him and then he would send them to Alan Sam.

Musser Gap Greenway – Ms. Katie Ombalski, ClearWater Conservancy's Conservation Biologist, said they are working with the Penn State University to provide a safe connection to Musser Gap Greenway. She said, to date, great progress has been made on the project. The greenway was started in late 2006 and early 2007; however, they have experienced some problems because of the archaeological effects found on the site, which also means there are some funding issues that need to be addressed. Ms. Ombalski said ClearWater Conservancy is a little behind in terms of the funding needed for the additional match required for the grant. While Stahl Sheaffer has donated many of their services, \$4,000 is still needed to firmly secure the DCNR funds. Ms. Ombalski said she met with Ferguson Township Supervisors in October and they are planning to

contribute \$2,000 and have included it in their proposed 2013 budget. She urged Borough Council to consider contributing the other \$2,000 required for the match.

Mr. Morris said he would be happy to vote in favor of providing the \$2,000 needed to fulfill the match for DCNR.

### **ABC Reports**

State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) Report – Mr. Emory Enscoe, a member of the SCBWA, stated that Max Gill, the SCBWA's Manager, will be retiring effective December 31, 2012. While the Authority will miss him greatly, an extensive search has been done to select a new Manager.

Mr. Gill said the Authority has selected John Lichman as the new Manager effective January 1. Mr. Lichman has worked for the Downingtown Municipal Water Authority for the past 17 years. He has a Penn State connection having graduated from Penn State with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Mr. Gill said the Water Authority has been fortunate enough to have Mr. Lichman onboard to shadow him the last couple of months so the Water Authority will be in good hands.

Mr. Gill briefly reviewed some of the projects the Water Authority has worked on, such as the West College Avenue project, where over 100' of water and sewer lines were replaced. By doing this project, fire protection in this area was greatly improved. He said Borough staff, specifically; Mark Whitfield, Amy Kerner, and Tom Fountaine were extremely helpful during this project.

Ms. Goreham said Mr. Gill is retiring with great affection and respect from the State College community. She thanked him for his service.

Report from the Tree Commission – Mr. Bill Elmendorf, Tree Commission Chairman, said this is the best Commission he has ever worked on. He briefly reviewed the Commission's proposed 2013 Work Program, which includes tree pruning, tree removals, tree plantings, and updating the Commission's tree plan by continuing to pick trees that are both diverse and are trees that are tolerant to PA weather. Mr. Elmendorf said the Commission will continue to strive to maintain a dynamic and healthy forest. The Commission will also work with students to combat tree vandalism.

Historic Resources Commission (HRC) – Mr. Rick Bryant, Chairman of the HRC, said the Commission has continued to meet on the third Tuesday of every month. The HRC continues to look at contributing historic structures in the two historic districts. He said the HRC will continue to update the Borough's website with up-to-date information and the Commission will continue to update the State of Preservation Report.

Mr. Daubert said there are downtown buildings that should be on the National Register. He said it is a shame that only a few of those structures are included. He asked Mr. Bryant what the Commission can do to try to get property owners to make application for these historic properties. Mr. Bryant said, as he has mentioned before, the HRC would be delighted to help anyone get their historic properties onto the list. He agreed that there are many older downtown buildings that are eligible.

Mr. Bryant said some of the downtown property owners know they have a historic property and they also know what to do to apply as an historic structure. He added that there are a number of churches and other places that are a structure of great value. They are a real asset to the community and they are well cared for.

### **Consent items**

Mr. Hahn made a motion to approve all of the consent items except for the September 17<sup>th</sup> minutes. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Approve the use of various downtown sidewalks on Friday, November 9, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran's Day Parade sponsored by the Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten.

- Approve the use of various sidewalks on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the PA Coalition against Domestic Violence Philanthropy Walk sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Lambda Fraternity.
- Appoint Catherine Dauler as the Alternate to the Centre Area Cable Consortium Board with a term ending on December 31, 2013.
- Approve minutes for the following meetings held in September and October:

September 10, 2012	Regular Meeting/Work Session
October 1, 2012	Regular Meeting
October 8, 2012	Work Session
October 15, 2012	Regular Meeting

- Approve the use of various sidewalks on Saturday, November 17, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for the State College School District’s TIDES Charity Run, which benefits disadvantaged children.

Mr. Hahn made a motion to approve the September 17 minutes with the following corrections. On Page 81 of the agenda, in the seventh paragraph, replace the word “stick” with the word “sticker”. On Page 82, in the second paragraph, the word “principal” should be changed to “principled” and the word “shows” should be changed to “allows”. On Page 83, in the third paragraph, the word “consciousness” should be replaced with “conscience”. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**General Policy and Administration**

Ordinance for the Conduct of 2012 First Night® - Mr. Rick Bryant, the Executive Director, of First Night, had submitted a series of requests for the use of property public to conduct this year’s First Night celebration.

Mr. Filippelli made a motion to approve Ordinance #2003. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Planning and Zoning**

2013 Consolidated Annual Action Plan - Mr. Fontaine explained to Council that the 2013 Consolidated Annual Action Plan provides the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant and HOME grant money during the 2013 fiscal year. The CDBG Citizens’ Advisory Committee reviewed the Plan at its meeting of September 25, 2012 and recommended it be approved by Council. A public hearing was held on October 1, 2012 and no one offered any comments. The plan was available for public review in the State College Planning Office and at the Schlow Centre Region Library.

Ms. Dauler moved to approve the 2013 Consolidated Annual Action Plan. Mr. Filippelli seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Regional Issues**

Centre Region Council of Governments 2013 Budget – Mr. Daubert asked the Manager if staff has had an opportunity to look at the COG 2013 Budget request and compared it to the 2012 Budget because costs have gone up considerably. He added that Parks and Recreation costs have gone way up.

Mr. Fontaine said, in general, staff has reviewed it fairly quickly; however, we are still working in the Borough’s budget. He said overall, no specific areas stood out to staff. Most of staff’s concerns overall are related to COG programs and benefits. Staff’s main concerns are with the justification for additional staff for the Code Office. He said Borough staff does not feel there is enough information to make a specific decision. There are ongoing concerns for library and janitorial services. Presently, the State College Borough provides building management services to the Schlow Centre Region Library and there is a significant distinction between the two kinds of services. Some people on the COG Finance Committee have raised concerns that the costs to provide janitorial

services are too high. Borough staff provides the Library with overall building maintenance, in addition to custodial services. Mr. Fontaine said staff will continue to work within the parameters the COG budget provides.

Mr. Hahn raised procedural questions. If the COG Finance Committee has already completed its review, will they meet again to discuss reactions to the proposed budget?

Mr. Joe Viglione, COG's Finance Director, said the COG Finance Committee will meet again on November 13<sup>th</sup>. He added that all comments are due to COG's Executive Director by November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hahn said if staff has not had an opportunity to look over it and bring it back up again in a couple of weeks, it is a disadvantage to the COG Finance Committee. He said if staff does not feel there are significant issues Council needs to be concerned with, Council has no comments to be forwarded to the Executive Director.

### **Official Reports and Correspondence**

Mayor's Report – Mayor Goreham reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day and she encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

President's Report – Mr. Hahn said Council will adjourn to an Executive Session following this meeting to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

Staff/Committee Reports – Mr. Fontaine distributed an Update on Council's 2012-2013 Goals and Objectives with a summary on each project through the end of October. He said he will continue to update the document and provide a progress report to Council.

Mr. Fontaine reported that the consultants work on the Downtown Master Plan is ongoing. The team of consultants is doing a marvelous job and has provided great feedback thus far. He added that the results are very promising.

Mr. Fontaine said he is working with Ferguson Township to organize a meeting to reinstitute West End activity. He said Penn State University representatives will also be invited to the meeting to take part in the discussion.

The Service Building Advisory Committee is moving ahead and a contract recommendation should be available by the first of the year.

Mr. Fontaine noted that Charley DeBow, the Borough's Parking Manager, was recently appointed to the American Parking Association Board at their annual conference earlier this year.

Mr. Mark Whitfield, the Borough's Public Works Director, was recently appointed to the APWA Solid Waste Committee.

Mr. Whitfield provided Council with an update on the University Drive/Easterly Parkway signal project. Because of the recent heavy rains caused by Hurricane Sandy, this last week has been a wash out for the contractor. The contractor had put down a stone base but the rainfall made it impassible. A decision was made last Monday to close the road and to keep traffic off of it to let it dry out. A paving contractor is scheduled to come in later this week. The road should be reopened on Friday.

Mr. Fontaine said he would like to recognize a lot of people for their outstanding work over the past weekend, as well as the Monday and Tuesday leading up to Hurricane Sandy. Many of our Public Works employees came in and worked the weekend picking up leaves and cleaning storm sewer inlets in preparation for the storm. Fortunately, State College did not have significant damage; however, there was one tree that came down. The same Public Works employees worked round-the-clock throughout the storm and they did an outstanding job.

Mr. Fontaine also pointed out that Shawn Kauffman, the Emergency Management Coordinator, did a marvelous job. He kept everyone up-to-date on the storm's track and weather conditions and staffed the Emergency Operations Center.

Ms. Courtney Hayden, the Borough's Communications Coordinator, kept the public updated. She spammed the community with notifications on the Borough's website, Facebook page and Twitter.

Mr. Fontaine reminded Council that their next meeting will be held on November 13 at 4 p.m. Please note there are time restrictions on that meeting because Council members have previous commitments. The proposed 2013 Borough Operating Budget will be distributed at the meeting.

Student Representative Report – Ms. Petrulionis said the upcoming election has been the UPUA's main focus. She said the UPUA appreciates the invitation to attend the Downtown Master Plan meetings. She is grateful the consultants are seeking the students' opinions.

Ms. Petrulionis said she has heard from a number of female students who are uncomfortable walking along Waupelani Drive because it is so dark in this area. Mr. Whitfield said this is something his staff could look into in the future.

Mr. Hahn said he is aware of the concerns about Waupelani Drive since he lives in that area and is very familiar with it. He said the only lighting is at the intersections. He encouraged staff to see what opportunities are available for increased lighting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sharon K. Ergler  
Assistant Borough Secretary