

State College Borough Council
Work Session
April 2, 2004

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Friday, April 2, 2004, in the State College Municipal Building's Council Chambers, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Mr. Daubert called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present: Thomas E. Daubert , President
 Catherine G. Dauler
 Elizabeth A. Goreham
 Craig R. Humphrey
 Jeffrey R. Kern
 Janet K. Knauer
 James H. Meyer

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, Borough Manager; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Edward C. Holmes, Parking/Facilities Coordinator; Carl Hess, Director of Planning; Frank Schwab, Schlow Memorial Library Project Manager; Michele Nicolas, Personnel Director; Mark Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Terry J. Williams; Borough Solicitor; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Public Hour. There were no comments from the public.

Traffic Impact Study

Mr. Ronald A. Seybert of Trans Associates presented the results of a traffic impact study conducted for the parking garage at the corner of Beaver Avenue and Fraser Street. The results were also distributed on paper. Figures in the report showed traffic patterns before and after the garage.

Ms. Goreham questioned the impact of traffic on Highland Alley. Mr. Seybert replied that the study assumed that Highland traffic would use Beaver Avenue. The numbers on opening day were inflated to reflect traffic from Highland using Fraser to exit on College Avenue.

Aaron Fayish of Trans Associates presented computer-generated traffic simulations at peak hours after the parking garage was constructed.

Ms. Knauer asked if there were changes planned for Burrowes Street. Mr. Seybert said there were none planned at this time.

The next discussion was on the Transportation Commission's recommendations for pedestrian and vehicle traffic flows surrounding the Beaver parking garage, as follows:

- (1) maintain a 2-way traffic pattern on the 100 block of South Fraser Street;
- (2) maintain a 1-way traffic pattern northbound on the 200 block of South Fraser Street;
- (3) provide a sufficient right-of-way to construct a future 3-lane cartway on Fraser Street from Highland Alley to College Avenue;
- (4) work with the University to mitigate southbound Burrowes Road traffic signal failures at College Avenue including, but not limited to, eliminating the dedicated left turn arrow for northbound Burrowes Street traffic at College Avenue;
- (5) provide wide sidewalks and crosswalks along the 100 and 200 blocks of South Fraser Street and the 200 block of West Beaver Avenue;
- (6) eliminate the existing offset traffic pattern and reconfigure a + intersection at Beaver/Fraser; and
- (7) consider financing the reconstruction of the Beaver/Fraser intersection as part of the bond issue being let for the parking garage.

Council did not want to eliminate the left turn arrow in item 4 because if it were eliminated it would affect the study with northbound left turns and there would be delays on southbound Burrowes Street. Regarding item 5, Council wanted to make sidewalks wider where possible. Mr. Daubert felt that item 6 created a lot of problems and he would probably vote against it; Ms. Goreham and Mr. Kern felt item 6 was important to the project. Mr. Kern also stated that item 7 goes along with item 6 and suggested making south side improvements.

Schematic Design For The Beaver Avenue Parking Garage.

Robin M. Neff of Timothy Haahs & Associates, presented a schematic design for the Beaver Avenue parking garage. Council's main concern was the 72 foot height, which is higher than Beaver Plaza. Taking into consideration suggestions from the charrettes, the design team altered the front corner and eliminated the columns to soften the appearance from Beaver Avenue and Fraser Street and added curves and more glass with a set back from Beaver Avenue. Changes also include identical panels on Beaver Avenue and Fraser Street. Ms. Knauer and Mr. Kern expressed their wish to incorporate additional brick on top of each spandrel to create the look of an office building more than a garage. Mr. Daubert asked what the elevator caps were made of and Ms. Neff replied the caps are metal. Ms. Neff proceeded to explain that the March 18 drawings showed a brick façade on top, but she said with the roundness of glass, the elevator tops needed to be changed.

Ms. Goreham inquired about restrooms. Ms. Neff indicated restrooms were not requested in the design but a decision to include them did not need to be known to continue with the design.

Furniture for the Municipal Building's Courtyard

Mr. Fountaine said money for the furniture was included in the Capital Improvement Program some time ago, but council requested having time to look in to the furniture further and wanted input on choosing the type of furniture. Ms. Goreham asked if the Borough logo would be included on the umbrellas using the centennial money. Mr. Meyer indicated if logos were on the umbrellas, they would disappear quicker. Council agreed to purchase the furniture.

Council's April 5, 2004 Agenda

Mr. Daubert said if the union agrees, there will be an additional item on Monday to ratify the police contract.

PLCM Convention Update.

Ms. Dauler and Mr. Daubert met with the conference planning committee this past week. Some staff members will be needed to help with the conference. Mr. Daubert stated that Barbara Natalie, Assistant Borough Secretary, is doing a super job planning this conference. Mr. Daubert also indicated he will arrange to have complimentary meal tickets provided for spouses.

Items of Information.

Mr. Fountaine stated that he and Mr. Kern have been working on code issues and also working with the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM) to include our concerns in their legislative process. Mr. Kern indicated that there may be an alternative, to subcontract Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) code services as a consultant.

Mr. Fountaine also stated that Council was well aware of the program, the Downtown Safety Enhancement Program (DSEP), that Penn State Police and the Downtown Improvement District (DID) put together. These groups have been working on the program for about five months. Chief King indicated the program was put into effect on April 1. Student auxiliary officers walk the downtown area late at night and work with the police on this program. DID funds the project, the State College Police supervise the

project, and Penn State Police patrols. There are 28 students involved and is not be confused with the Highland Student Interns. Mr. Daubert asked how students would be made aware of this program. Mr. Fontaine said the Daily Collegian will put a notice in their paper, and a news release will be posted on the Borough's website. Mr. Fontaine also indicated that a blue light emergency call box would be installed in Calder Way very soon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara J. Natalie
Assistant Borough Secretary