

State College Borough Council  
Work Session  
February 9, 2004

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Monday, February 9, 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 7:33p.m.

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

Absent:                    Janet K. Knauer

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, Borough Manager; Ronald A. Davis, Assistant Borough Manager; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Carl R. Hess, Director of Planning/Community Development; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Edward C. Holmes, Parking/Facilities Coordinator; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; members of the media and other interested observers.

**Public Hour**

There were not comments from the public.

**Proposed Parking Structure on Beaver Avenue at Fraser Street**

Timothy Haahs, President of Timothy Haahs and Associates, gave a brief presentation on a proposed parking structure at Fraser Street and Beaver Avenue. Mr. Haahs said he takes into consideration a building that gives a good first impression, one that will be user-friendly, safe, and comfortable. One of the features that Mr. Haahs said he would concentrate on is retail and commercial space. He will also keep in mind the one-way traffic patterns on both streets. Other issues of importance are the function and purpose of parking as well as security and safety. An open house will be held for the public to see his plan for the garage so everyone involved has an opportunity to address their concerns.

Mr. Meyer asked Mr. Haahs what his thoughts were on precast versus poured-in-place concrete. Given the 10-12 months construction time frame, Mr. Haahs felt that the weather would require precast construction so long as the foundation is done before cold weather sets in. With today's technology, precast is just as durable and long lasting with only a few small differences from poured-in-place concrete; precast is also less expensive and the weather has no effect on construction time. Mr. Meyer asked if Mr. Haahs has roofs on any of his garages. Out of about 150 garages Mr. Haahs said only 2 have roofs. If a roof is added, the structure would have to be another 13 feet higher.

Mr. Haahs stated during the first week of March there will be an update on the project.

**Transportation Commission's Work Plan for 2004**

A work plan approved by the Transportation Commission on January 20, 2004, was distributed to Council. Mr. Whitfield asked Council to share any comments they had.

Mr. Kern suggested better cooperation between the Borough and Penn State and thought the planning process for transportation issues should be a joint effort. Ms. Dauler asked if all 20 items listed could be completed this year. Mr. Whitfield replied that it was an aggressive plan, one that is unlikely to be completed in one year.

Mr. Chris Falzone, 517 East Foster Street, Chairman of the Transportation Commission, said the important thing to clarify is that some issues will not take up much time. Mr. Kern felt it is critical to work with Penn State, the institution that has formally agreed to

work with the Borough. Mr. Falzone stated he will ask the university to participate in the project.

Mr. Hess explained that land use required coordination with the Planning Commission and suggested coordinating a meeting between the two commissions. Council asked for a revision of the plan at their next session.

### **New Food Regulations Adopted by the State**

Council discussed an amendment to ordinance 1183 so that the Health Department staff, when necessary, can issue citations under a Borough ordinance rather than state law. By issuing citations under a local ordinance, the Borough receives any fine imposed (rather than turning it over to the state).

### **Quarterly Report on Ordinance Violations**

Mr. Fountaine advised that the purpose of this report is to better inform Council and the public of enforcement efforts by staff in the areas of health, zoning, codes, and police and to deal with problem property and food establishment owners who have exercised dangerous food handling practices. The report will not contain routine inspection information but will focus on severe and/or repeat problems. By focusing attention on these problems, staff believes that property and food establishment owners will be more likely to take corrective actions. This report will also be available on the Borough's web site and to the media following Council's receipt of it. Council agreed to the report, but wanted to see details as to why violations were issued as well as the number of violations received, the charge, and who were repeat offenders. Council also wanted the report broken down by topics and the definition of the violation included.

### **Ideas for Increasing the Borough's Programming on C-Net**

Mr. Fountaine noted that this subject was requested by Council after hearing about the possibility of adding programs. Mr. Fountaine offered to compose a list prioritizing items Council deemed important for programming, which could be discussed at a future work session. Mr. Meyer suggested sending a letter to Ferguson, College and Halfmoon Townships offering them air time for their regular meetings because the Borough has a lot of unused air time. This would enhance the community via the media. Mr. Meyer also stated that once citizens see the meetings, they would want to see them regularly and the townships would then eventually become members of CNET. Ms. Goreham suggested televising the Transportation Commission because citizens are very interested in the Commission. Mr. Falzone said he would approach the Transportation Commission and ask them if they are interested in the meetings being broadcast. Mr. Fountaine agreed to draft a letter to the townships, but said the letter should come from Council.

### **Items of Information**

At the last COG Code Enforcement Committee meeting, Mr. Kern said he expressed displeasure about Penn State being inspected by someone from Labor & Industry rather than the Centre Region Code Inspectors. Mr. Kern suggested that Council members write letters to legislators and express their views on keeping inspection of Penn State construction with the COG Code Administration. Penn State should be treated as any other developer in the Centre Region. Mr. Kern said he would report back to Council on February 17.

Mr. Meyer said he took a tour of the Borough's Information Systems (IS) Department server room and auxiliary closets on each floor. He suggested each Council member take a tour so they can understand how the Borough is tied to other townships.

Ms. Dauler stated that she and Mr. Daubert are in the midst of planning the PLCM conference and the deadline for programming is approaching. An item that was suggested was a bar tour which she is not in favor of. Council agreed the tour should not be part of the conference

Mr. Humphrey referred to a letter he received from John Harris, 120 East Beaver Avenue, regarding the 234 South Allen Street property (across the street from the municipal building). Mr. Harris felt the property was historical and would like to see it donated to either Interfaith Mission or Centre House for low income individuals. Council empathized but indicated that plans to demolish the property would continue as planned.

Mr. Daubert described a letter he received regarding maintenance of Park Avenue west of Atherton Street. The citizen's concerns are that this part of Park Avenue is not an ordained street and the Borough has been spending tax dollars to maintain it. Council felt it would not be appropriate to stop maintenance abruptly without giving the residents adequate notice. Council suggested Mr. Fountaine respond with an explanation. Mr. Fountaine noted that this was already done; however, because this was a letter addressed to Council, he suggested a response also come from Council stating that Council is not interested in discussing this issue further.

Mr. Daubert also stated he received complaints from citizens in the Urban Village about dumpsters being overloaded by people not living there. Mr. Whitfield replied that citizens who have their own dumpsters could install their own security cameras for surveillance but, as a municipality, the Borough cannot do anything. White goods can be taken to the transfer station at no charge. Mr. Daubert said the problem with the citizens is that the Borough is charging extra for removal of items even though the garbage is not theirs. Mr. Whitfield stated that the property owners could sue if they caught the individuals. Mr. Whitfield also suggested that citizens work with the police on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Barbara J. Natalie  
Assistant Borough Secretary