

State College Borough Council
January 18, 2005

The State College Borough Council met on January 18, 2005, in the Council Chambers of the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street. Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also present were: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Ronald A. Davis, Assistant Manager; Terry J. Williams, Solicitor; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Michael S. Groff, Director of Finance; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Mark S. Henry, Health Officer; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; Cynthia S. Hanscom, Recording Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed a moment of silence.

PUBLIC HOUR. There were no comments made by the public.

CONSENT ITEMS

Keystone Country Ride MS 150 Bike Tour. Mr. Fountaine indicated a request had been received from the Keystone Country Ride MS 150 Bike Tour to use portion of East Park Avenue for a bike tour on July 23 and 24. The tour will benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Mr. Knauer moved to permit the use of Park Avenue, as requested, for this activity. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a 7-0-0 vote.

Destruction of Records. Mr. Fountaine noted that, in accordance with Act 428 of 1968, adopted for use by Council through enactment of Resolution 706 in 1993, each individual act of record disposition must be approved by Resolution of the governing body. The Finance Department has requested the following list of records be destroyed:

Ledgers – Journals	1997
Vouchers	1997
Cancelled checks	1997
Journal Entries and Backup	1997
Time Cards and Time Sheets	1997
Receipts	2000
Payroll Backup	2000
Quarterly Federal-State-Local Tax Forms	2000
Refuse Billing Records-Receipts-Ledgers	1997
Special Assessment Bills	1997

Ms. Knauer moved to enact Resolution 877, authorizing the destruction of obsolete records being held by the Finance Department. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0-0 in favor of the motion.

ABCs: Appoint a Member to the Centre Region Planning Commission Mr. Fountaine noted that, although most of the ABC appointments were made in December, Council has not yet appointed a Borough representative to the Centre

Region Planning Commission. Since 1998, the Borough's representative was Peter Hulbert, whose term on the Borough Planning Commission expired December 31, 2004. The State College Planning Commission met and recommended Council appoint Donald M. Hahn to serve as the Borough's representative on the regional commission. Council agreed that appointments to the regional commission be made for a period of one year to increase the Planning Commission members' opportunity to participate in discussion of regional issues.

Ms. Knauer moved to appoint Donald M. Hahn to serve on the Centre Region Planning Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2005. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion, which passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

ABC RECOMMENDATIONS

East Highlands Traffic Calming Study. Mr. Fontaine reported that Trans Associates, the Borough's traffic engineering consultant contracted to complete the East Highlands Traffic Calming Study, presented a report to the Transportation Commission on December 21. The report completed Step 1 of the Traffic Calming Study and Approval Process. Upon reviewing the report from Trans Associates, the Commission decided there was sufficient data to warrant further consideration and voted to recommend that Council proceed with the development of a traffic calming plan to address speed mitigation. The Public Works staff concurred with the Commission's recommendation.

Council met with Trans Associates and the representative from the Transportation Commission on January 10 to receive the report and discuss the findings and recommendations. Residents from the Highlands neighborhood were also present and participated in the discussion.

Mr. Fontaine recommended that Council approve a resolution to authorize Trans Associates to proceed with Step 2 of the Traffic Calming Process and develop plans for speed mitigation traffic calming in the East Highlands, according to the professional services agreement for this project, as recommended by the Transportation Commission and Public Works staff. Trans Associates fee for this phase is \$7,750.

Ms. Knauer asked if the Step 2 study would encompass the entire Highlands neighborhood. Ms. Whitfield confirmed that it would. Ms. Knauer noted that any proposals to mitigate speed could affect other streets. Mr. Humphrey noted his approval for this resolution but asked that the study not be based solely on speed and that volume also be considered.

Ms. Goreham moved to approve Resolution 876, authorizing Trans Associates to proceed. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion, which passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

Planning Commission's 2005 Work Program. Mr. Fontaine reminded Council they received the Planning Commission's Work Plan for 2005 at its regular meeting on December 20 and reviewed the Plan at their meeting of January 10. During Council's review on January 10, several modifications were discussed. These modifications have been incorporated in the Planning Commission 2005 Work Plan.

Mr. Daubert moved to approve the plan with the changes. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 7-0-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Ad hoc Tax Study Committee. Mr. Fontaine said, based on Council's discussion regarding the ad hoc Tax Study Committee, a charge for the committee was drafted and approved by Council.

Mr. Daubert noted that the Council members appointed would be Jeff Kern, Chair, Janet Knauer, and himself. He was not able to contact the four members of the

community before the meeting so he asked that he be authorized to appoint the community members to serve.

Ms. Dauler moved to adopt the charge, appoint the Council representatives, and authorize the President of Council to appoint four representatives from the community for the ad hoc Tax Study Committee. Ms. Goreham seconded the motion, which passed with at 7-0-0 vote.

West End Storm Water Report. Mr. Fontaine noted that staff has studied the drainage area west of Atherton Street to determine what solutions may be possible to alleviate the flooding of Highland Alley at H Alley, which is directly behind the Alpha Fire Station.

Ms. Story made a presentation to Council which provided an overview of the study area as well as a varied range of potential solutions.

One solution would be to provide pipe storage within the public right-of-way. Pipe storage would have to be installed in each of the two sub-basins. Although this would provide detention time to allow peak discharge to move through the Beaver Avenue/Calder Way culvert system, the estimated costs involved for the 60 inch pipe would be \$2,140,000 for Beaver and \$1,170,000 for Highland.

A second solution would be to secure land for a detention basin; however, the most beneficial site would be closest to the point of interest (alley behind Alpha's). Approximately 3.68 acres would be needed to build a 4 foot basin (14.7 acre foot) that would only handle an event less than a 2-year storm. Ms. Knauer asked how large the detention basin was a Westerly Parkway. Ms. Story though it was four acres with 8 foot sides, which is 30-acre-feet.

Ms. Story noted a third solution would be to build an underground concrete vault, which would provide one location for detention. The main problem is the discharge elevation into the existing system. The Beaver Avenue pipe must clear out before the Highland Alley pipe can empty because of the grade. Mr. Kern asked how large the basin would need to be. Ms. Story indicated it would need to be 3 acres in size.

Ms. Story said a fourth solution would be to upgrade the Calder Way storm sewer system to the Duck Pond. This project would involve lowering approximately 7,000 linear feet of pipe from Beaver Avenue/Atherton Street to the Duck Pond. Although this would provide relief to flooding in the study area, it would increase the flow of storm water to the Duck Pond and downstream to another municipality.

A fifth solution would be to install a dry well for the storm water discharge to the substrata. Ms. Story explained it would provide recharge to the aquifer but could contaminate the aquifer. This would require permitting from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Lastly, Ms. Story suggested that pumping facility could be installed that would move the peak discharge through to the Beaver Avenue system. This would require storing the water then pumping it to a designated point. A concern for this project would be maintenance costs. Ms. Knauer asked if the water could be pumped to the draining area at the service building facility at 330 Osmond Street. Ms. Story replied the service building was outside of the drainage area.

Ms. Goreham asked if incentives established for property owners to remove impervious surfaces would help the situation. Ms. Story replied that it is possible that flows could be reduced to reasonable levels. She believed the Planning Commission was working on an incentive program for this purpose.

Mr. Kern asked how much of the Beaver basin is coming across this area from the golf course. Ms. Story said there is a drainage break near Railroad Avenue. West Campus Drive is curbed and flow would be directed into its own basin. Mr. Kern asked if the pipe could be redesigned to take some of the Highland sub-basin to the

Beaver sub-basin at Sparks Street or Gill Street. Ms. Story said it was a relatively flat area and it would be difficult to create grade for the pipe. Mr. Kern asked if the Highland line could be raised. Ms. Story indicated it could not.

Mr. Welch said the alley and parking lots were part of the problem. The cost to correct the problem would cost millions of dollars. The projected flood damage could be much less, possibly only a few cars that would be damaged by high water.

Ms. Story asked if Council would be opposed to any of the suggestions. Ms. Knauer indicated the vault proposal seemed ridiculous. Mr. Kern believed cross connections could be raised or lowered to create a better flow. He asked staff to review this as an option.

Facility Use Policy Regulations. Mr. Fontaine noted that Council reviewed the revised Facility Use Policy and Regulations at their meeting of January 10. Changes to the policy were incorporated and Council is being asked to approve the revised policy.

Mr. Welch asked what the major changes would be. Mr. Fontaine explained there were minor changes to the definitions, and charging a fee for use of the rooms reserved for training purposes.

Mr. Kern moved to approve the revised policy. Ms. Knauer seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

Food Establishment License Fees. Mr. Fontaine said that food establishment fees had not been increased since 1997 and staff was proposing to raise the fees in the budget proposal for 2005. Council, after reviewing the proposed increase in the flat fee, requested staff to explore the feasibility of establishing a graduated fee. After checking with other communities, a fee based on seating is being proposed. The proposed eating and drinking place license fees are:

- Take-out establishments - \$125
- Establishments with up to 100 seats - \$150
- Establishments with seating greater than 100 but less than 250 seats - \$175
- Establishments with 250 or more seats - \$200

Ms. Knauer moved to approve Ordinance 1809 adopting new license fees for eating and drinking establishments. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion, which was approved with a 7-0-0 vote.

VOUCHERS. Upon motion of Ms. Knauer, second by Ms. Dauler, Council voted unanimously to receive vouchers for the month of December, 2004, for the Borough of State College, in amount \$2,584,284.17, and, acting as agent for the Centre Region Council of Governments, vouchers totaling \$1,337,819.41.

MINUTES. Upon motion of Ms. Knauer, second by Ms. Dauler, Council voted 7-0-0 to approve minutes of previous meetings, as submitted, as follows:

- A. Regular Meeting, December 6, 2004;
- B. Work Session, December 10, 2004;
- C. Work Session, December 13, 2004;
- D. Work Session, December 17, 2004;
- E. Regular Meeting, December 20, 2004.

OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor's Report. Mayor Welch reported that he had been named honorary member of a town/gown international partnership to conduct long-term efforts to aid victims in South Africa, particularly in relation to Tsunami Relief.

President's Report. President Daubert announced an executive session was held on January 10 to discuss personnel matters.

Liaison Reports. Ms. Knauer announced the Campus Community Partnership, which was formed to talk about alcohol abuse, is proposing to establish a web site that would have a list of all the non-alcoholic events held in State College on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. An intern would be needed to help in the development of the site.

Staff & Committee Reports. Mr. Fontaine informed Council that various Finance department staff continue to work out the details for the collection of the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax (EMST). The State College Area School District is proposing to have employers withhold \$5 after earned income exceeds \$1,000 and then \$47 will be withheld when the taxpayer reaches \$5,200 in yearly income.

Mr. Whitfield informed Council that two projects had come before the Transportation Commission from the University. First, there is a proposal to construct a four-level commuter parking garage on West Campus at Corl Road and White Course Drive. A second project proposes to open Thorn Alley at White Course Drive to allow for access for service trucks. Both of these projects should come before Council in March or April.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Fontaine, II
Borough Secretary