

**Meeting Minutes**  
**State College Borough Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Friday, February 24, 2006**

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Friday, February 24, 2006, in the State College Municipal Building's Council Chambers, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Ms. Dauler called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Present: Catherine G. Dauler, President of Council  
Thomas E. Daubert  
Ronald L. Filippelli  
Elizabeth A. Goreham  
Donald M. Hahn  
Craig R. Humphrey  
Jeffrey R. Kern

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Carl Hess, Planning Director; Sheila Lubold, Recording Secretary; Mark A. Whitfield, Director of Public Works; Amy J. Story, Borough Engineer; members of the media; and other interested observers.

**Public Hour.** There were no comments from the public.

**Urban Village Revitalization Plan Recommendations.** Carl Hess presented the staff recommendations on Urban Village Revitalization Plan and the Elm Street Grant Program. Mr. Hess would like for Council to authorize the Request for Proposal (RFP) with the intent of awarding the contract by May 1, 2006, having the plans completed by December 18, 2006, and begin implementation in January 2007.

Council expressed their concern about the need to work with the community to insure that all the people affected by the plan are able to influence the specific results they want to see from this plan.

Council also expressed concern about having to condemn properties through the use of eminent domain. Mr. Fountaine stated the hope is that property owners and residents will mutually agree on decisions and eminent domain would be used as a last resort if the community thinks that is the best method to use.

Mr. Hess also requested approval to start the Elm Street designation during this budget year. The Elm Street Grant Program is aimed at revitalizing neighborhoods as the Main Street Program does for downtowns. Funds are available for this program if applied for this year. The Foster Avenue bikeway may also be eligible to receive grant monies to install signals for bicycles and pedestrians.

Council questioned and discussed the amount of new taxes that would be collected and how the taxes would be used.

John Simbeck, 601 West College Avenue, asked Council about any proposals that have been submitted and if any names have been discussed for project managers or consultants. Mr. Simbeck warned that miscommunication has been a problem in the past and has caused problems with other redevelopment projects and feels Council should make sure the development is done correctly and Council needs to monitor actions that are taken.

**Centre County Transportation Plan.** Council met with Trish Meek and Thomas Zilla, Planners with the Centre Regional Planning Agency, and discussed the proposed Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Council talked about the intersection at Park Avenue and Atherton Street and the need to have changes made to the intersection to improve safety in the area. Some options discussed were adding lanes, redoing the traffic signal or changing the turning radius.

Council also discussed the installation of sidewalks along Blue Course Drive. Council questioned whether there was a need for sidewalks and the possible traffic hazards that would develop. Mr. Whitfield stated there is a need for sidewalks in this area and the need will continue to increase as the area becomes more developed.

Council also expressed concern about pedestrians crossing Locust Lane and the proper functioning of the traffic signal at Garner Street.

**State College Area Plan Progress Report.** Bob Crum, Director of the Centre Regional Planning Agency, attended the meeting to discuss with Council the number of Council members to serve on the Steering Committee for the State College Area Plan, and how the plan will affect the Borough. Council decided that two members would serve on the committee. Council also felt that there should be an increase in representation from the surrounding townships and their planning commissions. Mr. Crum stated he would draft a description of the composition of the steering committee.

Council would like to provide guidance for the steering committee and have it be a joint project with Borough staff and the committee.

Council discussed the role of neighborhood associations and whether there is proper and complete representation from the associations. Members of Council feel that neighborhood associations are vital to having a connection with the community and feel there is a need to reach out to the associations.

Council also expressed concern about receiving input from students since they make up a large portion of the Borough population.

**Issues for the Upcoming League of Cities Meeting.** Mr. Fontaine stated the Council members who are attending the National League of Cities Meeting will be meeting with Congressman Peterson, Senator Santorum and Senator Specter. Issues to be addressed are the CDBG funding, Fraser Street realignment funding, and Cable Communications Act. It was suggested that each Council member be assigned a topic to discuss.

**Review Items on the COG General Forum Agenda.** Mr. Daubert stated the COG committee on regional parks would meet on March 16 and they would be discussing calculation of real estate taxes. Council discussed and gave their opinions on how the tax should be calculated.

Ms. Dauler also reminded Council to submit any nominations they had for the awards to be given during the Borough's annual ABC Appreciation Dinner.

Mr. Fontaine told Council the IS Department is revamping the e-mail system so Council is able to receive e-mails directly through the Borough website.

Mr. Fontaine also reminded Council that Thomas Kurtz, the new Assistant Borough Manager, would be beginning his employment with the Borough on March 20.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cynthia S. Hanscom  
Assistant Borough Secretary