

**Meeting Minutes  
State College Borough Council  
Special Meeting  
October 9, 2006**

The State College Borough Council met in a special meeting on Monday, October 9, 2006, at 6:00 p.m., in the State College Municipal Building, Room 220, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA. Ms. Dauler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Thomas M. Kurtz, Assistant Manager; Carl R. Hess, Director of Planning; Michael S. Groff, Finance Director; John Marchek, Risk Manager; Cynthia S. Hanscom, Assistant Borough Secretary; members of the media; and other interested members of the public.

Mr. Fountaine said the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss programs and issues that should be addressed in the 2007 operating budget.

Mr. Fountaine began by reviewing the 2-year goals that were set by Council in 2004, which were

- o Deliver balanced budget with no planned use of reserves to Council beginning with the 2006 budget. Mr. Fountaine indicated this was accomplished in 2005.
- o Maintain Welch Pool in the Borough, which Mr. Fountaine said is a continuing goal.
- o Increase the frequency of rental housing inspections, which has been addressed through Council action.
- o Complete Urban Village changes in early 2005, including more liberalized development while maintaining scale. Mr. Fountaine said this project is underway but not completed.
- o Expedite South Fraser Street development. Again, this project is continuing.
- o Create redevelopment authority, which has been completed.
- o Develop program to encourage owner-occupied housing in Borough. Mr. Fountaine said the Borough continues to operate their housing programs but more could be done.
- o Establish regular (quarterly) priority setting and review meetings for Council. Mr. Fountaine said this is has been difficult to coordinate but staff continues to work towards this goal.
- o Reorganize and expand enforcement of Borough ordinances with multi-purpose personnel (health, zoning, parking, etc.). Mr. Fountaine noted that an ordinance was recently passed and an addendum to that ordinance was on Council's agenda for October 16 that would allow ordinance staff to enforce many of the property maintenance nuisance problems.
- o Identify tax sources geographically and demographically.

Mr. Daubert commented that there needed to be more work done on reorganizing and expanding enforcement of Borough ordinances. There are some instances where people do not know who has the authority.

Mr. Daubert noted that nothing had been done on identifying tax sources geographically and demographically. Mr. Groff said that some things were done as part of the ad hoc tax study committee. Some of the information collected may not have been presented to the full Council. Mr. Kern suggested something could be done that would link with the Geographic Information System (GIS) so that Council can determine where the revenues are based on a block by block basis. Mr. Filippelli asked how that kind of information would be used. Ms. Goreham noted that it would provide a better sense of where the tax base is located. Since the Business Privilege Tax was eliminated, there has been some shifting of tax revenue. She noted that it was important for Council members to get a picture of the Borough's economic health and where the are strengths and weaknesses.

Council members come up with the following list of goals for the next year and what they would like to see in the 2007 budget. Council also voted on the top five items that they perceived to be the most important. Following is a list of those items with the number of votes received for each.

Do more to promote intermunicipal cooperation beyond COG	●
Determine how we get in lieu money from Penn State and how much	●●●
Impact of possible changes to EMST and other state tax legislation	

Clear understanding of what CATA faces, especially in State College (trends in ridership and funds [note: this can be done in March as part of CATA's budget review])	
Change presentation/location of "hidden" funds; one page summary in the front of the budget. [For example: parking and sewer fund, working reserves, fund balances]	
Include long-range costs of 2007 projects showing the expected budget impact over the long-term, especially in regards to long-term license fees for software	●●
Maintain an affordable housing stock with links to owner occupants	●●●●●●
Provide data on annual maintenance and operating costs for roads and sewers	●
Quality of life issues: cooperation between Penn State and the District Justice office on enforcing nuisance complaints; policing of neighborhoods; create a neighborhood task force; health and code issues in regards to enforcement.	●●●●●●●
The total number of people paying the earned income tax; show historical and prospective trends	
Delineation of asset replacement	●
Self insurance: How are we doing? Is there enough in reserve?	
Measures of effectiveness: e.g., police, public works. Benchmarks from similar communities.	●●
Provide a report on challenging assessment appeals	
More detail/summary for debt service for future years	●
Estimate of what reassessment would do for Borough tax base	●

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cynthia S. Hanscom  
Assistant Borough Secretary