

**Meeting Minutes  
State College Borough Council  
Work Session  
December 11, 2006**

The State College Borough Council met in a work session on Monday, December 11, 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 7:34 p.m.

Present Catherine G. Dauler, Council 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; Michele Nicolas, Director of Human Resources; Carl R. Hess, Planning Director; Mark A. Whitfield, Public Works Director; Michael Groff, Finance Director; Thomas R. King, Chief of Police; Norma J. Crater, Accounting Supervisor; John P. Marchek, Jr., Risk Manager/Budget Officer; Mark S. Henry, Health Director; Sheila Lubold, Recording Secretary; members of the media; and other interested observers.

**Public hour.** No comments from the public.

**Open Agenda.** Council was provided with a list of upcoming agenda items. Mr. Fountaine stated there have been several items that were picked up during the budget discussion that have not yet been added to the list for upcoming agenda items.

Mr. Daubert stated he felt the ABC appointments should not be a consent item and should be a separate item and be voted on separately.

Ms. Goreham questioned when the use of mixed overly would be scheduled for discussion. Mr. Fountaine stated it would be discussed in February.

Ms. Goreham also wanted to make a complaint about parking in the lot behind the building. She stated all the reserved parking spaces were taken and some members of Council had a difficult time finding a place to park. Mr. Fountaine stated he would see if maybe another meeting was being held in the building causing there to be a limited amount of parking.

Mr. Daubert commented on the Borough newsletter that was mailed a few days ago. He said Council should have more input about articles for the newsletter and review a draft before having it printed. He did not feel that Council was properly represented in the newsletter. Ms. Dauler stated she felt Council had an ample amount of opportunities to comment on articles and suggestions for the newsletter. Mr. Hahn said the newsletter was fair and Borough staff should dominate the newsletter but also felt Council does more than the newsletter leads one to believe. Mr. Fountaine stated Council could be given the opportunity to see the newsletter before it is distributed.

Ms. Goreham would also like Council to discuss options about what to do about the rash of serious and DUI deadly auto accidents as well as excessive fighting that has been occurring downtown.

Mr. Daubert stated he would like Council to meet with the editor and other members of the Centre Daily Times staff to discuss recent articles the paper has published. Mr. Kern added it is irresponsible for a newspaper to publish articles stating one of the top ten things to do in State College is to chug alcohol and steal street signs. Ms. Dauler briefly discussed the letter she wrote to the editor and added the CDT should focus more on the good that is trying to be done and the education students are receiving.

**Report from University Area Joint Authority.** Council appointees, Robert Schmalz, Vice Chairman of the University Area Joint Authority (UAJA), along with Mary Barnes, a member of the UAJA, attended the meeting to report to Council the year's activities of the UAJA.

Mr. Schmalz stated the Authority voted to increase the tapping fee by 4.2% and the increase will be effective January 1, 2007.

Mr. Schmalz reported the plant expansion is complete and the facility is operating satisfactorily. As it currently exists the plant is able to meet the current demands of the region with room for expansion

Mr. Schmalz commented on the Beneficial Reuse Project and stated the first phase was delayed because of problems with the reverse osmosis equipment. Upon correction of the problems, the Advanced Water Treatment system should be fully operational by early 2007. The second phase, which will extend the distribution lines from Dale Summit to South Atherton Street, was initiated in

response to a request from the Centre Hills Country Club (CHCC). It is planned to have the UAJA supply CHCC with water for golf course irrigation by mid summer 2007. The Beneficial Reuse Project continues to get national attention and there is a two hour course available to the public that is helpful in providing useful information about the benefits of the project.

Mr. Schmalz stated in January of 2006 UAJA made an offer to Centre County PAWS to lease ten acres of land near Trout Road. PAWS broke ground in late October for a million dollar building and planned to have the project completed by May 2007.

Mr. Schmalz explained the Authority has initiated a study to evaluate the current flat-rate EDU based billing system and volume based billing for the sewer service. The results of the study will be reviewed and possible changes could be made to the Authority's billing system.

Mr. Schmalz reported the revised Centre Region Act 537 Plan has been approved by COG and has been forwarded to DEP for review. Mr. Schmalz stated the Centre Region Growth Boundary/Sewer Service Implementation Agreement must be implemented by the six participating municipalities and once implemented the Agreement will provide great regional cooperation.

Mr. Humphrey questioned how tapping fees are determined for new construction of large buildings intended for student housing such as the building under construction near Beaver Avenue and Atherton Street. Mr. Schmalz responded that the Borough determines tapping fees but must include a sufficient amount to cover a pass-through of the UAJA fee. Mr. Whitfield added that commercial tapping fees are determined based on anticipated water volumes.

Mr. Daubert questioned whether the Borough's bulk payment to UAJA is billed by EDU or volume used. Mr. Schmalz answered the Borough is billed based on volume used.

Mr. Daubert also asked how bills are calculated for individual customers. Mr. Schmalz said Borough customers are billed based on water volume used and outside the Borough, bills are based on EDU. Mr. Schmalz stated there are benefits for both billing systems and the cost of treatment is almost unrelated to volume. The one thing related to volume is the amount of chemicals that are used during treatment.

**2007 Operating Budget.** Council continued their discussion of the 2007 Operating Budget.

Ms. Goreham questioned the change in the amount of rental permits and single family home permits issued. Mr. Fontaine stated some of the fluctuation is related to people returning their rental permits. Mr. Marchek added some of the properties were converted back to single family homes.

Ms. Goreham questioned the status of the neighborhood program to be headed up by the Health Department. Mr. Fontaine stated the program has not yet been defined and as the program is developed and becomes reality a presentation will be made to Council. Ms. Goreham felt interaction with the neighborhoods is important and would like to be kept up to date on the status of the program.

Mr. Daubert questioned who monitors the portions each municipality pays for the police mobile computer records system and why do the number of employees hired for police records continue to increase if the system is suppose to be improved. Mr. Fontaine explained the cost sharing for the system is based on the agreement previously agreed upon with Ferguson and Patton Townships and Penn State University. He continued to say the number of records for the Police Department continues to increase and it is imperative to make sure sufficient personnel are available to handle the processing of the case load.

Mr. Daubert questioned when the new financial trend monitoring system would be implemented. Mr. Fontaine stated he expected to have the system implemented in 2007. Mr. Groff explained before the system can be implemented some additional trend data must be captured.

Mr. Daubert also questioned the plan to have parking tickets appealed by computer. He expressed concern because the person appealing the ticket would not be required to sign any documentation and there would be no signed documentation to use in court. In addition, there is no way to prove who is filing the appeal. Mr. Groff stated the number of tickets appealed is overwhelming and computer safeguards could be used. Staff has spoken with other communities who have used such a system in an effective and timely manner. Mr. Hahn suggested the cost efficiency of a parking appeal system compared to the vulnerability of the system should be considered when making a decision on how to proceed.

Mr. Daubert expressed his concerns about the possibility of increasing the parking rates and stated a change in services may be needed. Mr. Fontaine stated the parking staff is working to develop a business plan and hopes to present a plan to Council in early 2007. Mr. Fontaine further explained the idea is not to just increase rates but to also increase capacity. Mr. Hahn felt raising parking rates may not be the best approach to help manage the parking system. Since there is no longer a parking shortage in the Borough, Council and staff should be looking to encourage people to park downtown and help the customer base for downtown businesses.

Ms. Goreham questioned the increase in funding for garage attendants since the pay-on-foot systems have been put into practice. Mr. Marchek explained there is now a parking attendant on duty 24/7 where before there was more downtime. He also added the benefits of the pay-on-foot pay stations are hard to recognize since the Beaver Avenue garage has opened. Mr. Fontaine also added the system is still new enough that parking facilities are staffed at higher levels until the public feels comfortable with the new system. Mr. Hahn stated he thought the pay-on-foot stations would be a labor saving system. Mr. Groff stated personnel are needed to correct any problems that may occur.

Mr. Filippelli questioned how much marketing is being focused towards the business community in the downtown. Mr. Fontaine stated there is a limited amount of advertising done but a new marketing plan is being reviewed and will try to work with the DID to develop a better marketing plan.

Mr. Filippelli revisited the discussion on rental permits and asked if there are homes that have rental permits but are owner occupied. Mr. Groff stated there are a handful of properties that are owner occupied but the owners are still holding onto the rental permits. If the owners want to be considered for the homestead exclusion, the owner must decide if they want to retain the rental permit. Mr. Hahn stated the number of properties that were rental properties but are now being replaced as single family dwellings is encouraging.

Mr. Daubert asked what the procedure will be regarding the approval of the budget and when Council could expect to receive the corrected pages. Ms. Dauler stated Council would vote on the budget at the meeting on December 18. Mr. Marchek said the corrected budget pages are normally circulated after the budget is approved but staff would try to have the corrected pages to Council prior to the December 18 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. to an executive session to address personnel and litigation matters.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Cynthia S. Hanscom  
Assistant Borough Secretary