

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2020

The State College Borough Council met in a regular meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020, in the Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA 16801. Mayor Ronald Filippelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ronald L. Filippelli, Mayor
 Jesse L. Barlow, Council President
 Deanna M. Behring
 Janet P. Engeman
 Theresa D. Lafer
 Peter S. Marshall
 Dan Murphy
 Evan Myers

Also Present: Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager; Sharon K. Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary; John A. Gardner, Chief of Police; Greg Garthe, Senior Planner; Deborah A. Hoag, Director of Public Works; Thomas King, Assistant Borough Manager; Genevieve Miller, Student Representative; Craig Bowser, IT Manager; Maureen Safko, Senior Planner; Alan Sam, Environmental Coordinator; Isabel Storey, Planner; Terry J. Williams, Borough Solicitor and members of the media and other interested parties.

Proclamation/Special Reports

City of THON

Mayor Filippelli presented Alex Reed and Raymond, THON Local Engagement Co-Captains, with a proclamation renaming State College the City of THON beginning on Friday, February 21 at 6 p.m. and ending on Sunday, February 23 at 4 p.m.

Ms. Reed said she wanted to thank the Borough for the ongoing support of THON. She said the Borough had been an invaluable partner of THON's mission to end childhood cancer. She said they are very grateful for everyone involved.

Raymond said that he had been working with the Public Works Department putting up banners and working with Lion Bash. He added that it was a pleasure to work with the Borough especially with how collaborative and helpful everyone had been.

Mayor's Task Force to Save Minor League Baseball

Mr. Barlow stated the importance of having a team here in State College for both the residents and small businesses.

Mr. Myers moved to adopt a resolution to save Minor League Baseball. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion.

Ms. Lafer commented that even though the community is very football oriented the State College Spikes are one of the best family-oriented sports organizations in our entire community and region.

The motion passed unanimously.

Update on State College Borough's Sustainability Efforts

Mr. Sam reviewed State College's past sustainability efforts. He said that even before Resolution 944 passed which declared the Borough a climate protection community, State College had leaned towards sustainability. The resolution laid out 16 Municipal and 5 Community goals. He had also gone over the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Final Report which went over everything accomplished from Resolution 944.

Mr. Sam explained that the 2022 Sustainability Plan that was approved by the Council in 2018. He said that their committee's goal was to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 10% of the 2007 levels by 2022 and continue to be a Climate Protection Community.

Mr. Sam stated that there are 8 total areas of focus within the Sustainability Plan: Waste Reduction, Transportation, Urban Tree Canopy, Stormwater Management, Energy, Public Space, Economic Vitality and Environment.

Mr. Barlow asked Mr. Sam how close the Borough was to becoming a silver bike friendly community and what does the Borough need to do to improve.

Mr. Sam said that regionally it's a lot more difficult; however, when the Borough applies as a bicycle friendly business, it should receive the silver certification with the next application.

Mr. Barlow asked Mr. Sam how the Borough efforts coordinate with the COG Climate Committee.

Mr. Sam stated that the COG was working on a broader scale than the Borough itself. He said the Committee will continue to work with COG and support them in their effort by giving input and experience.

Ms. Behring wanted to thank Mr. Sam and others for the good report. She said the Borough always have to do more. She asked Mr. Sam if he could shed some light on why there had been progress within the Borough and less progress in the community.

Mr. Sam stated that things within the Borough such as changing lightbulbs or getting an electric fleet of vehicles, they had the authority to do so. However, when it comes to the community, they can encourage residents but without financial incentives it is a difficult thing to do.

Mr. Marshall asked Mr. Sam why the solid waste was twice as high as in 2006.

Mr. Sam said that they had switched to a national model. He said that the 2016 numbers were a little bit more precise and realistic, they were higher than that of 2006 and 2014 because there was a lot more things that they take a look at and consider.

Ms. Lafer commented that those who were in charge of giving out the Silver bike friendly community recently changed their rules and that the Borough did indeed fulfill all of the previous needs to achieve that rating. She then stated that she would like to help the community understand more about light pollution.

Mr. Sam agreed with Ms. Lafer about the lighting issue.

Mr. Murphy commented that the light pollution study piqued his interest and that he would like there to be measurements done on State High's South field.

Items of Information from Council Members

Mr. Murphy stated that he had two things that he would like to bring up, the first being that February is Black History Month. He said it was important to learn how this country came to be. He said he also

wanted to draw everyone attention to the African American Music Festival that was taking place on February 22 at State High.

Mr. Murphy also wanted to bring everyone back to the December meeting of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee that occurred during which the Borough received a perfect score on the Municipal Equity Index. He said he was thankful to work and live in such a community. He also wanted to express his disappointment with the Athletic Equity Index scores, where Penn State got a 53 out of 100. He said he was interested in working with Penn State's Athletic Departments to elevate that score.

Public Hour

Rich Fitzgerald, Hillcrest Avenue, wanted to applaud Mr. Sam and everyone for sustainability because that's a large initiative that he undertakes every day at Penn State. He said he was here really because a year ago he came to talk about the streetlight at the corner of Hillcrest and Allen. There was a crosswalk light that illuminates over half of the intersection at night and he wanted to advocate on behalf of the Borough to get the light fixed, because you cannot see pedestrians caught crossing the street and they do not want any accidents to happen because of the broken light.

Ms. Hoag stated that she is already drafting the email to send to PennDOT.

Pat Vernon, a College Township resident said Mr. Sam had done great things with sustainability. He asked whether or not anything was happening with the bike/skatepark. He also wanted to talk about what he called ombudsman to help local businesses. Mr. Vernon suggested that the Borough designate someone to help local businesses survive easier. He stated to Council that we needed to promote local businesses.

Consent Items

Mr. Barlow moved that the Consent Items be approved. Ms. Lafer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approve, with conditions, the closing of various streets from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2020, for the Pride Parade. The hours of the actual festival are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2020, at the Sidney Friedman Parklet and Welch Plaza. There is no rain date set for the event.
- Accept the resignation of William Roll, with regret, from the Transportation Commission, effective immediately.
- Approve a resolution for the destruction of records in the Finance and Tax Departments.
- Approve the sale of the surplus property located at North Atherton Street and Woodland Drive, Tax Parcel Number 36-04-,277-,0000-, to Gary & Karyl Green for the sum of \$6,522.00, subject to a 30-foot sign easement.

Planning and Zoning

Review of Draft Decision on the Conditional Use Application for the Core Spaces Signature Development at State College

Mr. Myers said that he had two items he wanted to talk about. The first one being Conclusion Section Item E – pertaining to public sidewalks having a minimum width of 5'. He said he was concerned about their width because the increasing number of pedestrians. He brought up a building on the 200 block of East Beaver that had already been built, the sidewalks were somewhat wider. He commented it seemed

that way because there was an elevated area planned for outdoor seating and just wanted clarification from someone at Core Spaces whether or not that was the case with this project.

Mr. Williams let Mr. Myers know that Council would not be able to do that now they would have to wait till later on in the process.

Mr. Myers then brought up the second item, affordable housing. He said he wanted to urge the developer to increase the amount of affordable housing from the mandatory 10% to 20%.

Mr. Murphy agreed with Mr. Myers and said he was pleased to see the condition about keeping the sidewalks accessible. He asked that there be a condition that allowed for PennDOT to coordinate with the Borough in regards to moving construction equipment so it did not conflict with any events going on in the Borough. He added that two more items did not make it into the condition which were providing bicycle parking and having a dedicated pickup and drop off point.

Ms. Lafer said that most of her concerns were covered by other Council members. However, she said that she would like the developer to look into the design of the windows so that the openings do not allow for beer cans to fit through for the sole purpose of reducing injuries and damage to property.

Ms. Lafer then added that there were a number of businesses that are bringing in young professionals which is causing people to expand. She said that in order to increase the literal value of the community they need to bring in more than just undergraduates. She said there needed to be more affordable options for those that work on campus or downtown.

Ms. Behring requested consideration of sidewalks to make it walkable, safe curb management, and bike parking as well.

Ordinance to Vacate Norma Street between East Marylyn Avenue and Property Owned by the State College Friends School

Mr. Myers moved to enact the ordinance as described. Janet Engeman seconded. In a roll-call vote, the motion passed 6-1. Mr. Marshall abstained.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Mayor's Report- Mayor Filippelli said he's been very busy, he attended a Menorah Lighting, an MLK Banquet held in the Borough Building, a reception for veteran's graduating with their bachelor's degree, swore in a new police officer. He also met with the Executive Director of the Downtown State College Improvement District, joined the National Task Force of Mayor's, met with the PSU Government Affairs staff, spoke at the ribbon cutting for KCF Technologies downtown. He said the most fun; however, was the first wedding he did. They were very in love.

President's Report- Mr. Barlow said Council met in an Executive Session prior to the regular meeting where they discussed personnel and real estate matters. He said he was sending a letter to the President of the School Board for reconsideration of a LERTA District previously approved by Council.

He announced the following appointments:

- Jesse Barlow to the Ad-Hoc Facilities Use Committee
- Dan Murphy to the Centre Area Cable Consortium

Regional Liaison Reports

Executive- Mr. Barlow said the Executive Committee met for the first time this year, they elected a Chair and Vice Chair, this year Patton Township will Chair COG. They had also set the Committee and General

Forum meeting dates, received Parks and Rec Comprehensive Plan which were passed on to the COG General Forum Meeting and approved including the approval of a project to evaluate the conditions of the Millbrook Marsh Boardwalk.

He said a Trick or Treat Policy for severe weather cancellations was put in the hands of the Police Chief in consultation with the Centre Region Emergency Management Coordinator. Also, he said there was talk about Penn State handing off HAZMAT services over to COG.

Lastly, Mr. Barlow said the Solar Power Purchase Agreement Committee met and they were considering a request for proposals/consultants to help them with the process and also chose a vendor.

Finance – Mr. Myers said that he was now the Chair for the Finance Committee. He said they went over the timetable for budgeting process, prioritized items that they were going to be taking over in 2020, took a look at the future of Parks and Recreation, start to hire full-time firefighters and also expand other services. He said this will result in more expenditures and he would rather let the members of the public know and understand this is about to occur.

Human Resources- There was no report.

Parks Capital – Ms. Engeman said the first order of business was to reappoint a Chair and Vice Chair which they deferred until the next meeting. She said a majority of the meeting they went over the boardwalk at the Millbrook Marsh, they had also come to the decision that they were going to be meeting quarterly rather than monthly.

Public Safety – Mr. Murphy said he was elected its Chair. He said that the main items on the docket for the Public Safety Committee were the oversight and administration of HAZMAT services for the Centre Region, new municipal software package for Zoning Code Billing and Inspections, future service model for regional fire protection and the impact on non-fire related calls.

Public Services – Ms. Behring said that the Public Services Committee reelected the Chair and Vice Chair, drafted an outline for a Climate Action and Adaption plan for climate change, went over Greenhouse gas inventory, and established reduction targets for all the municipalities.

Transportation/Land Use – Ms. Lafer said that she was the Chair of the Committee again this year. She said there was various municipality discussions on bridges, roads, interactions with PennDOT, as well as affordable housing and how we can match up our housing with transportation. She said they discussed housing, transportation and continuation of the road and bridge projects in the Centre Region. There was also a Census update, everyone should fill in their information for accurate funding for our community needs.

Metropolitan Planning Organization – Ms. Lafer said the MPO was in the process of taking care of planning documents including the TIFF and the important information they need for the 2021-2024 implementation program and long-range planning program.

Ad-Hoc Facilities Use Committee – Mr. Murphy said that the Ad-Hoc Committee continued its conversation about the job description for the COG Facilities Manager.

Centre Area Cable Consortium – Mr. Murphy said that they had set a meeting schedule for the year in which they will meet quarterly.

Manager/Staff Reports- Mr. Dunlap said there are two items of information, the first being attached to the agenda on page 129, a report from the Chair of the Zoning Hearing Board. He said it outlined their activities from 2019. The second item, he said was that the Borough had retained the International Association of the Chiefs of Police to assess the Police Department's policies and practices.

Student Representative Report – Ms. Miller reported that on February 12, 2020 UPUA held Emergency Management Day in the HUB, students would be provided a list of Emergency services available to them. She also reported that UPUA passed a resolution to establish a student vote campaign for the upcoming general election which would reduce lines and provide more of an incentive for students to vote. Lastly, the UPUA recently passed a bill to establish “We Care Day”, which will be held on February 14.

Adjournment

Mr. Barlow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Ms. Engeman seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary