

**Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2019**

The State College Borough Council met in a regular meeting on Monday, December 2, 2019, in the Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA 16801. Mayor Hahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Donald M. Hahn, Mayor
Evan Myers, Council President
Jesse L. Barlow
David J. Brown
Catherine G. Dauler
Janet Engeman
Theresa D. Lafer
Dan Murphy

Also Present: Terry J. Williams, Borough Solicitor; Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Edward LeClear, Director of Planning and Community Development; John A. Gardner, Chief of Police; Deborah A.S. Hoag, Director of Public Works; Thomas R. King, Assistant Borough Manager for Public Safety; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager and Chief Financial Officer; Dwight Miller, Director of Finance; P. Rick Ward, Director of Parking; Douglas Shontz, Communications Specialist, Genevieve Miller, UPUA Student Representative; Sharon K. Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary and Kimberlee S. McClelland, Administrative Assistant; interested residents and members of the media.

Proclamation

Pennsylvania State Representative, Scott Conklin, presented Mayor Hahn with a Proclamation on his retirement as Mayor from the Borough of State College. He said Mayor Hahn had been a lifelong resident of the State College Area and a Penn State University graduate.

Elaine Prestia, Chair of the State College Borough Democratic Committee, presented Mayor Hahn with a thank you gift.

Elizabeth Goreham, former Mayor, thanked Mayor Hahn for his service the last two years and said he was the first person of color to be Mayor of the State College Borough. She said Mayor Hahn had been a source of pride and expanding role as first practicing Attorney and commended the Mayor for being able to conduct meetings, all the while dealing with thorny issues, and not once getting caught up in it.

Council President Myers said he had served with Mayor Hahn over several different capacities and said Mayor Hahn will serve in a different capacity being addressed as Your Honor. Mr. Myers wished the Mayor well.

Public Hearings

2020 Operating Budget

Mr. Fountaine said as required by Article IX, Section 905 of the Borough's Home Rule Charter, he presented the proposed budget to Council on October 25, 2019. The Budget was made available for public inspection at that time. The final budget adoption was scheduled for the regular meeting of Council on December 16, 2019.

The proposed budget included total expenditures for the 2020 Budget after adjustments for inter-fund transfers of \$67,464,903.

The proposed 2020 Budget had been posted on the Borough's website. A copy of the proposed budget was available for public inspection in the Borough Secretary's Office and at Schlow Centre Region Library.

The hearing was for receiving public comment on the budget only. Questions regarding the proposed budget, they were to be addressed to elected officials or staff outside of the hearing.

Mayor Hahn opened the public hearing.

Katherine Watt, 156 West Hamilton Avenue, said she would like to see the Borough remove itself from the Centre Region Council of Governments, it was an unaccountable extra government layer that was not needed. She requested the cancellation of orders for the Whitehall Road Regional Park and expansion of the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, because those luxuries cannot be afforded. She asked the Borough to treat tax-payer dollars as if those dollars were their own and not spend the way they had been.

Proposed HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funds from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development PA DCED

Mr. Fountaine said the Public Hearing was proposed for HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funds from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED). On November 1, 2019 a public notice of this hearing was published in the Centre Daily Times and posted for public inspection as required by law. Council received public comments on the need for affordable first-time home buyer (FTHB) and rental properties for low and moderate-income households as well as funds to support the operations of Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) to include the State College Community Land Trust and Temporary Housing Foundation (THF). Strategies for affirmatively marketing the FTHB and Rental Acquisition/Rehabilitation Programs, as well as strategies for furthering fair housing. Council received public comments on the proposed applications for the DCED Home grant program for a total of \$1,160,000 for four projects:

Mayor Hahn opened the public hearing.

Colleen Ritter, State College Borough resident and Executive Director of the State College Community Land Trust, said she supported the Borough's application through the DCED. Ms. Ritter said this would allow for another First-Time Homebuyer Program and operating support for THF. She said this would also support the acquisition and rehabilitation of an 8-unit multi-family affordable rental property.

Public Hearing for Proposed Zoning Text Amendment: Cat Cafes in the Urban Village Zoning District

Mr. Fountaine said Sharon Myers petitioned for a change to the Zoning Ordinance regulations to allow the operation of a cat café in the Urban Village (UV) zoning district. He said Ms. Myers requested an amendment to allow fully vetted adoptable cats to be present in the café to socialize and interact with customers, in addition to a typical café where food and beverages were served. He said Ms. Myers indicated the nature of the business may require overnight boarding of cats, which was not currently permitted in the UV zoning district, therefore a zoning text amendment was requested.

Council received the request at their September 9, 2019 meeting and referred it to the Planning Commission. He said the Planning Commission provided a recommendation to Borough Council at their October 2, 2019 meeting and Borough Council authorized a public hearing at its October 14, 2019 meeting.

The ordinance was provided to the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPDGO) and Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC) for advisory comments. He said included with the agenda were letters of explanation, a draft ordinance, a memo from the Borough's Health Inspector, email correspondence from a local veterinarian, and a comment letter from the CCPDGO.

Mayor Hahn opened the public hearing.

Mary Sellers, a Patton Township resident, employed at Penn State University, said she supported the cat café. She said students could adopt properly vetted cats and based on research modules, animals do calm individuals when stressed. She said the café could lead to a regular visiting place for those students in need of stress relief during finals week or stressful times in their lives.

Mr. Fontaine said several support letters were received from the following individuals, Vicki Fong, Jenny Poorman, Brett Buterbaugh, Sarah Rito, Karen Burgos, Stacy Eagan, Lucha Pierson, Carla Myers, Wesley Glebe and Taren Lesley-Urlacher.

Summers on Allen

Mr. Fontaine said on October 14 Centre Foundation representatives provided a presentation on the "Summers on Allen" proposal and application. He said the application proposed to turn the 100 block of South Allen Street into a pedestrian plaza with seating, landscaping, a play area for children, a small stage for performances and painted crosswalks.

The closure was proposed to take place beginning on May 11, 2020 following Penn State's graduation weekend and Mother's Day. The closure would end approximately 8 weeks later.

With a grant from The Knight Foundation, the Centre Foundation had funding to create a space for the community to engage and interact with a goal of bringing more people downtown during a time that was traditionally slow.

Borough staff had reviewed the application. Autumn Busbee, Community Engagement Specialist, provided a brief presentation regarding the review. Following the presentation, Council received public comments on the proposal and application. Council was asked to act on the application at the December 16 meeting.

Mayor Hahn opened the public hearing.

Matt Kizenweather, a Rapid Transit Sports employee, said he was against the Allen Street closure and was concerned with parking and deliveries. He said Rapid Transit was one of the few stores that got busier when students left and the closure of Allen would make it harder to get customers to the store, especially those individuals with physical disabilities. He was not against what was proposed but was against the closing of Allen Street and suggested moving the project to Friedman Park. Mr. Kizenweather heard the bars on Allen Street want alcohol permitted in the outdoor dining space and asked if it would be next to the children's play area? He said it would be a waste of \$150,000, if approved, and suggested there be exit strategies, so businesses do not suffer during the 8-week period.

John Vicas-Jones, said he was unable to hear all comments and questions, but added he had created a website to get Allen Street closed permanently 15 years ago, to prevent collisions of pedestrians and vehicles at the junction of Allen and College. Mr. Jones took a survey of the shops in that area and there was a lot of negativity and decided the closure would not work. He said in 2004 he researched Europe Plazas, all similar in size of State College, and in Cambridge all the streets were closed, with one road in the center of the city for buses to drive up and down allowing people to jump on and off. He said deliveries took place at night. He felt traffic problems faced could be obliterated in many ways and hoped this would bring a positive outlook and permanent closure.

Carmine Prestia, 1265 Smithfield Street, encouraged Council to vote against the closure. He said it would eliminate parking spaces and pressurize garages. He said he spoke with delivery drivers and it would lengthen delivery times, force divided loads, create more congestion and bring bigger delivery trucks. As a member of the Alpha Fire Company, deploying apparatus to this area would be difficult and the closure could interfere with deployment. He said this would turn into a taxpayer funded food and drink court and at night things could get out of hand. He said it was a bad idea 50 years ago and still has too many negative effects.

Rosalee Bloom-Brooks, 812 West Beaver Avenue, a permanent, long-time local resident, employed at Woodring's Floral Garden, said when the street was closed it had a chilling effect on business owners and for all the same reasons everyone had talked about. She said there was reluctance to visit downtown and hoped the town would remain vibrant as it is critical for local businesses and their financial well-being.

Frank Savino, Executive Director for Central PA 4th Festival, suggested keeping Allen Street open for the Independence Day Parade maximizing the street for parade traffic and observers. He said the 2020 crowds were expected to be larger since it would be held on a Saturday. Mr. Savino read the reviews, proposals and reviewed the drawings and it looked promising but asked Council to keep Allen Street in the viewing area and completely clear for parades, safety of participants and observers.

Liz Bennett, a South Allen Street resident, working in the Borough, said she supported the temporary closure of Allen Street and it could be a great experiment. She said there have been events that closed Allen Street often and as a pedestrian the plaza could bring more people to downtown if there was less traffic. She asked if Arts Fest and 4th Fest pays the Public Works and parking revenue fees? Mr. Fountaine said the Borough was responsible for both 4th Fest and Arts Fest and no compensation was received.

Ian Boswell, 706 North Allen Street, said it was an appealing idea for State College and other towns have implemented plaza's and businesses did well. He said other areas have more pedestrian activity and hoped someday Allen Street would have the same, ideally becoming a permanent plaza.

Jason Hubert, 324 Piersol Lane, said he supported the Summers on Allen and said it was for a limited time and the plaza would encourage people to come off campus. He said Allen Street restaurants could expand their outdoor seating and losing parking spots would not make an impact. He asked Council to view it as a positive thing because there would be negative impacts and residents could live their lives in fear, everyone must look at the possibilities that could exist.

James Tierney, 320 East Waring Avenue, said he was in favor of the Summers on Allen. He and his wife have considered this area their home for 6 years and all the negative comments were from the past. As a Professor at Penn State, he did research on plazas in other locations and when visiting Boulder and Charlottesville, his family would commonly go to the plazas. He said it would take time to develop and recommended an economic review be performed to see the minimal impact it would have.

Rob Schmidt, 403 South Allen Street, Director of Downtown State College Improvement District (DSCID), had considerable conversations with businesses and applicants about the plaza project. He said there was plenty of parking in garages from the time students left until Arts Fest. Students would leave around May 11th then summer session students return and there would not be enough students to create drinking concerns in the outdoor dining area and businesses would continue to open their doors. He said people need a reason to visit downtown, it would only be for 8 weeks, not a permanent closure.

Mayor Hahn said Council would take action on Summers on Allen at their December 16, 2019.

Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens

Elizabeth Spate, Woodcrest Street, employed at Penn State University, said she had lived locally for 20 years and had a plan to help the Community to heal from the death of Mr. Osagie. Ms. Spate said after a wellness check, it was determined she had a mental condition. She spoke with the Osagie Family on several occasions and they were lovely people and Mr. Osagie asked Police to perform a wellness check on his son, making Police aware his son had a mental condition and possibly suicidal. She believed the Police killed Mr. Osagie because of fear, and Police Officers should not be working in the field that lived in fear. She said those involved in Mr. Osagie's death needed to be held accountable. Ms. Spate said she was an advocate for Mr. Osagie and the Mental Health Community.

Elaine Schuckers, 600 East Waring Avenue, said Mayor Hahn was elected for his intelligence, and the issues the Mayor encountered, he addressed them wisely. She said both Mayor Hahn and Mayor Goreham, set very high standards in the way they held meetings and they both were board and committee members for the PA Municipal League. She said Mayor Hahn spent a lot of time on diversity and inclusion, worked on sustainable neighborhoods and protection of our environment. She asked Council to appoint an interim mayor who had the same intelligence and integrity as Mayor Hahn.

Pat Vernon, a College Township resident, asked several questions. What happened to questions asked by citizens that stood before Council? Mayor Hahn said questions were typically addressed during the Public Hour. Mr. Vernon asked if the State College Borough had a Sign Ordinance fee for signs posted on buildings and objects, in-particular on cranes? Mr. Fountaine said he did not have an answer and would share with Council at the next meeting. When a new high rise was built, what efforts were made to widen sidewalks from the existing width? Mr. Fountaine said those ordinance requirements would be provided to Council at future meetings. Mr. Vernon said a housing report was to be produced by the Centre Region Code Administration, indicating how much housing was needed, how many housing vacancies there were, if the Centre Region could not produce the report, would the Borough? Mr. Fountaine said he did not have an answer and would share with Council at the next meeting. What was the process for selecting a replacement for the Executive Director of COG? Mr. Fountaine said a recruitment firm had been hired and a recruitment plan would be in place in the next several months.

Mr. Myers said COG held open public meetings and the process was discussed and brought forth to the public on how an Executive Director would be hired.

James Tierney, 320 East Waring Avenue, said four fraternity houses offered free parking to those in the Highlands that had family visiting from out of town over Thanksgiving because of the home football game. He said the Interfraternity Council (IFC) did a lot of nice things given all the negativity around fraternities.

Consent Items

Ms. Lafer made a motion to approve the following Consent Item. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion, which passed unanimously in favor.

- Amend the Road Closure Agreement with Penn State University for New Alley to provide reimbursement by the Borough to provide for the reimbursement of the sanitary sewer replacement not to exceed \$85,156, including a 10% contingency for unknown underground conditions. Funds for this work would be available in the Sanitary Sewer Fund.

General Policy and Administration

Ordinance for the Conduct of 2020 First Night

Mr. Fountaine said there was a series of requests, from the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, to use public property to conduct this year's First Night® celebration. First Night activities included:

- Ice sculptures, resolution sculptures and food vendors on the 100 block of South Allen Street and Mayor Welch Plaza starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 30, and Sidney Friedman Park as of Sunday, December 29 at 2:00 p.m.
- Horse drawn carriage rides to and from the Mayor Welch Plaza, around Memorial Field and Sidney Friedman Park, on Tuesday, December 31
- A grand procession on Foster Avenue, Fraser Street and Allen Street on Tuesday, December 31
- Use of the Municipal Building lobby to display resolution sculptures and use of the second-floor lobby and the Community Room for arts and crafts workshops and performances
- Approve the closing of various downtown streets on Tuesday, December 31, 2019, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the First Night 5K Resolution Run and procession.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve the series of requests. Ms. Dauler seconded motion, which passed unanimously in favor.

Special Activity Request, Our Lady of Victory Preschool Colorful 5K and Fun Walk

Mr. Fountaine said on Monday, November 18, 2019, Council was asked to approve, with conditions, the use of various Borough sidewalks and the Orchard Park bike path, on Saturday, April 18, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., for the Our Lady of Victory Preschool Colorful 5K and Fun Walk.

Due to several concerns raised about the use of colored powder, Council tabled the vote, due to health and environmental impacts. Colored powder was a sediment that could enter the storm sewer system; the Borough was responsible for preventing and reducing the amount of sediment entering the storm sewer system due to its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Mr. Fountaine said Council could either approve the 5K, with the use of color being restricted to private property or approve the 5K only and completely restrict the use of color.

Ms. Lafer moved to approve option two, to approve the 5k and restrict use of color, she said it caused problems to sewers, what would it do to human lungs and she suggested using multi-colored flags. Ms. Dauler seconded the motion.

Mr. Murphy, moved to amend the motion to strike to restrict use of color to read, approve the 5K and use of color being restricted to only private property. He said he did not agree with the risks of the event and utilizing amendment process, making his concerns known. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion to amend.

Kate Masters, a Ferguson Township resident, represented the Board of Our Lady of Victory (OLV) Pre School, said they hoped to hold the 5k as a community event, it served as a fundraiser for the OLV School, to buy supplies and help with fieldtrip expenses. She asked Council to approve as the powder would be used on school property and this had been done throughout several school districts and thanked Mr. Murphy for his recommendation.

Ms. Masters, said the powder was made of corn starch and edible dye, solubility should not be an issue.

The amended motion passed 4-3 with Ms. Lafer, Ms. Engeman and Ms. Dauler voting against the motion.

Resolution Approving the Cable Television Franchise for Comcast

Mr. Fountaine said the Centre Area Cable Consortium (CACC) had been negotiating the Cable Television Franchise renewal with Comcast for over a year. As previously reported by Council Member Dauler, the Borough's representative to the CACC Board, the CACC Board approved the Cable Franchise Renewal subject to the ratification by the eight CACC members. Council was asked to adopt the Resolution, authorizing the execution of a Cable Franchise Agreement between the Borough and Comcast of Colorado/Pennsylvania/West Virginia, LLC.

As established by federal law, the cable television franchise only pertained to cable television services. Other services provided by Comcast, including internet, telephone and home security, are not subject to local franchise control. Local government is pre-empted from regulating these other services.

The new franchise with Comcast was for a period of 10 years. It provided significant provisions for C-NET, including the addition of an HD channel when certain broadcast standards are met, a \$500,000 capital grant over the life of the franchise (with the option for each individual municipality to increase its pass through share at year 5) and the addition of 3 additional remote origination points. Courtesy cable service would also continue to be provided to designated public buildings in the Borough.

Ms. Dauler made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Myers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2020 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Fontaine said attached was the proposed 2020 Meeting Schedule, as prepared by the Manager and the President of Council. The meeting schedule reflected the recognized holiday schedule, including major religious holidays. Council was asked to review the schedule and provide comments to the Secretary. Final action to approve the meeting schedule for 2020 was scheduled for the December 16, 2019 meeting. He said no action was required this was a discussion only item.

Mr. Murphy said there was discussion of holding quarterly meetings at different locations, in which he was not against taking Council meetings on the road.

Mr. Myers said he was a big component of taking the meetings on the road which were successful. He said the response was underwhelming, and Council ended on the road meetings. He said it would be good to get out and was not opposed to taking the meetings on the road again.

Mr. Barlow said he would entertain meetings on the road and said maybe if they were regular meetings, the turn out would be greater.

Ms. Lafer said meetings were held at the Corl Street Elementary, and it was not a good space and was impossible for staff to hear with no attendance. She suggested asking the State College School Board if they would allow Council to use equivalent space at Corl Street because it had a better space now and would be easier for C-NET.

Mr. Fontaine said voting on the 2020 Meeting Schedule would take place at December 16 Council meeting.

Planning and Zoning

Consider Enactment of Zoning Ordinance: Cat Cafés in the Urban Village District

Mr. Fontaine said Sharon Myers requested a change to the zoning ordinance regulations to allow the operation of a cat café in the Urban Village (UV) zoning district. If approved, the ordinance would define a "cat café" and permit use throughout the UV zoning district. Council received the request at its September 9, 2019 meeting and referred it to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission provided a recommendation to Borough Council at its October 2, 2019 meeting. Council held a public hearing on the proposed amendment earlier that evening.

Ms. Lafer supports the Cat Café but said there needed to be health and safety requirements and should not be approved without those conditions.

Ms. Lafer moved to follow staff's recommendation, including various health and safety requirements.

Mr. LeClear said laws were in place with the Commonwealth that would be adhered too and items in PA Food Code sections were applicable and trying to enforce other regulations would be redundant. He said if a change was made it would be required to go back through the 60–90-day process of changing the zoning text amendment and there were changes discussed with the applicant, cats needed vetted and a hand washing area was required. He said items that need added were signage requirements and air handling codes.

Ms. Lafer moved to approve and Ms. Dauler seconded the motion.

Mr. Fontaine noted the action Council needed to take was to approve the ordinance amendment and any additional comments should be a stand-alone motion.

Mayor Hahn proceeded with the approval of motion to approve ordinance as it was presented. Mr. Brown asked if it restricted to cats only and what about dogs? Mr. Williams said this was for cats only and there would need to be an amendment to the ordinance if wanting a dog's café.

The motion passed 6-1 with Ms. Engeman voting against the motion.

Tom Schrack, an attorney with McQuaide Blasko, said he was representing Ms. Myers, and they recognized all obligations under the law and any other regulations that existed were separate from the Zoning Ordinance. Appropriate vetting would be adhered and covered, and all animals would be spayed and neutered as required.

Ms. Lafer said there would probably be more cat cafés in that district and would like to have the requirements as part of the record for any café's coming in the future.

Proposed Applications to PA DCED for HOME Program Funding

Mr. Fountaine said the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) made HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds available to HUD HOME Participating Jurisdictions, such as State College Borough, that receive less than \$500,000 per year in HUD HOME Entitlement funds. The State College Community Land Trust and the Temporary Housing Foundation requested that State College Borough apply to the PA DCED for this funding for Acquisition/Rehabilitation for first-time home buyer and rental activities and for CHDO (Community Housing Development Organizations) operations support funding for up to a max. of \$100,000 for each organization.

A public notice was published on November 1, 2019, followed by a 30-day public comment period, and a public hearing, which was held earlier during this meeting. No public comment was received prior to the public hearing. The CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee discussed the proposed HOME applications at a public meeting on November 5, 2019 and recommended application for this state funding.

Mr. Brown moved to recommend the following and Mr. Myers seconded.

1. authorize submittal of the proposed grant applications
2. authorize the use of Inclusionary Housing funds toward the proposed projects within limits of Ordinance #1972, as amended
3. adopt policies as required by state and federal regulations and
4. authorize the Borough Manager to execute application documents as needed.

Ian Boswell, 706 North Allen Street, urged Council to vote in favor of the DCED Grant Application because of the affordable housing problem in State College and because the Land Trust did great work.

Council voted unanimously in favor to adopt Resolution #1239.

Vacation of North Gill Street between Railroad Avenue and Penn State's West Campus

In the State College Neighborhood Plan (2014), Gill Street was a designated bicycle route and contained bicycle lanes that connect the West End Borough neighborhood to downtown, campus, the SCASD schools and the Orchard Park bike path. However, those routes ended at West Campus Drive, and therefore lacked direct connectivity into West Campus. Goal 4 of the Neighborhood Plan sought to address neighborhood-scale transportation safety and multi-modal transit opportunities, in part by providing a bicycle and pedestrian connection to West Campus. To proceed with the implementation of this plan recommendation, the Borough would need to vacate a short segment of North Gill Street to the northwest of Railroad Avenue. This 50-foot wide ROW was ordained by Council in 1909 (Ord 35A) and the northwesternmost segment dead-ends near Penn State's West Campus. However, this section was never opened by the Borough, nor was this section maintained by the Borough. In 2014, the Borough was awarded a PennDOT Multimodal Fund grant. However, the funds have not yet been expended and the DOT allowed a time extension to expend the funds and close the grant by November 16, 2020. Council,

at its discretion, may vacate streets and alleys within the Borough. The proposal would be to vacate the entire 50-foot wide ROW. The Borough would obtain an easement over a portion of it to allow an area for a shared use path to be constructed and utilize the Multimodal funds. An engineering drawing of the proposed area of vacation was included with the agenda.

Mr. Barlow motioned to schedule the Vacation of North Gill Street between Railroad Avenue and Penn State's West Campus at its December 16, 2019 meeting. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion which passed unanimously in favor.

John Simbeck, 141 North Gill Street, said he stood to lose the most because he cared for the property nobody else wanted. He asked to be a part of this process when the project was submitted years ago to the Planning Commission and was never asked to be involved. He said it appeared as a done deal and now all the sudden this project was coming to life.

Mr. Fountaine said the motion was to schedule the vacation of the ROW (right of way), currently it was an ordained street, the Borough did not have ROW to the street. Mr. Fountaine said he was willing to meet with Mr. Simbeck to further discuss this matter.

Ms. Lafer said the bike path has been talked about for a long time and we do not know the best answers for the landowners. She said she understood the frustration and hoped they can make something happen.

The motion to schedule a vote at December 16, 2019 meeting; passed unanimously.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Mayors Report: Mayor Hahn said this was his last Council meeting, and 2019 was the most difficult year for State College and his 22 years of public service. He emerged with reaffirm respect for the professionalism of the Borough Staff and community, noting Council and Staff needed to address mental health practices. He said everyone was a work in progress and State College was a great Community, but it could be better.

President's Report: Mr. Myers said Council held an Executive Session prior to its meeting to discuss Personnel, Real Estate and Legal Matters.

Staff Committee Report: No Report

Student Representative Report: No Report

2020 Operating Budget

Mr. Fountaine said Council would continue its review and discussion. An updated comment matrix addressing all review comments prior to this meeting would be distributed prior to the December 9, 2019 work session.

Continue Discussion on the Procedure for Selecting a Mayor to Fill the Unexpired Term.

Mr. Fountaine said Council would conclude its review of questions submitted by the public and send them to the candidates. Council would hold a special meeting on December 3, 2019, beginning at 7:30 PM to provide candidates with an opportunity to address Council and to respond to questions suggested by both Council and the public. The deadline for the public to submit questions was by 5 PM on Friday, November 29, 2019. The questions from Borough residents would be submitted to Council on Saturday, November 30 for consideration at that meeting

Mr. Myers discussed the process for the 12 applicants that applied for the Interim Mayor position. Questions were shared with Council and the applicants. He said each applicant would have 5 minutes to

speak and present their background why they want to be Mayor, then answer questions that have been posed. Mr. Myers said Council would randomly draw 12 names and the order names were drawn would be the order they would speak, and the candidates would not know their order. The Borough has 45 days to choose a Mayor and if a Mayor was not chosen after 45 days, the President/Judge of Centre County would appoint a Mayor. Mr. Myers asked Council how they would like to proceed with the set of questions submitted, those within the Borough and those questions from outside the State College Area? Mr. Barlow suggested forwarding all questions to candidates and allow candidates to choose what they would like to answer.

Ms. Engeman asked why individuals not living in State College were allowed to submit questions? Mr. Myers said those living outside the Borough would not be impacted by the decision and felt Council would pass the questions along without any endorsement. He said if anyone from the community wanted to comment about what they did or did not hear they would have up to 2 weeks to submit their comments in writing to Council.

Mr. Barlow moved to forward all questions to the candidates and to allow the candidates to choose the questions they would like to answer. Mr. Brown seconded, and Council voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Murphy noted C-NET would be streaming the interviews live.

Adjournment

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary

Prepared by: Kimberlee S. McClelland, Administrative Assistant