

**Meeting Agenda
State College Borough Council
Special Meeting
September 10, 2020
12 p.m.**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Virtual Meeting Guidelines**
- V. Process for Selection of Interim Council Member**
- VI. Adjournment**

Documents:

[September 10, 2020 Special Meeting Agenda Packet.pdf](#)

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State College Borough Council
Special Meeting
September 10, 2020
12 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

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

IV. Virtual Meeting Guidelines

V. Process for Selection of Interim Council Member

Council will receive the list of individuals who have expressed interest in becoming the interim Council Member. There are fourteen persons who have submitted a statement of interest in being appointed to fill the vacant Council seat. In addition, Members of Council and the public have submitted questions and topics for candidates to address in their presentations next week. The deadline for public questions was 5:00 PM on September 9. The complete list of questions and issues will be distributed prior to the meeting. Council should finalize the process for selecting the interim Council Member. [*Page 3*]

VI. Adjournment

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Interim Council Member Candidates

Applicant No.	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Borough Resident	Registered Voter	Withdrawn
1	Elle (Louise) Morgan	757 Westerly Parkway	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	
2	Katherine Watt	156 West Hamilton Avenue	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	
3	Tierra D. Williams	105 South Corl Street	State College	PA	16801	N	Y	
4	Eric Boeldt	400 South Gill Street	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	
5	Jacob Werner	276 East McCormick Avenue	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	
6	Oscar Jacob Baumert IV	445 Waupelani Drive, Apt. M17	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	
7	Ron Madrid	701 West Beaver Avenue	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	
8	Uche H. Ikwut-Ukwa	332 Bradley Avenue	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	
9	Ezra Nanes	705 Sunset Road	State College	PA	16803	Y	Y	
10	Daniel Risser	536 West College Avenue, Apt. 19	State College	PA	16801	Y	N	
11	Katherine Oh Yeaple	133 Hartswick Avenue	State College	PA	16803	Y	Y	
12	Mel White	150 West Mitchell Avenue	State College	PA	16803	Y	N	
13	Jeffrey R. Kern	749 East McCormick Avenue	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	
14	Thomas Dougherty III	232 East Nittany Avenue	State College	PA	16801	Y	Y	

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Questions Submitted by Council Members

Question Submitted by Council Members	Questions
Evan Myers	<p>How will you address racial equity and healing in State College?</p> <p>What do you think of the Black Lives Matter and 3/20 Coalition protests in State College? If there is a significant shortfall in the budget locally because of COVID-19, how would you address that?</p> <p>What do you think of all the high rises recently built in the Borough? Would you restrict any more from being built?</p> <p>What do you think the state of the relationship is between Borough residents and Penn State and Borough residents and students?</p>
Peter Marshall	<p>Do you think that citizens should be fined if they can't social distance and do not wear masks?</p> <p>Do you think that a State College Police Oversight Committee should have the power to require the Chief of Police to fire a police officer who the Committee believes has violated Police Department policy?</p> <p>Do you have an opinion about the high rise (12 stories) student apartment buildings that are being constructed in and around the downtown?</p> <p>Municipal taxes in State College Borough are higher than the municipal taxes in the surrounding jurisdictions. Is this a concern to you? If so, why?</p> <p>Do you think the Police Department should have fewer officers?</p> <p>In the face of increasing demands and limited revenues, would you increase taxes or would you reduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditures for public safety (police, fire, public health and nuisance enforcement), or • Expenditures for public infrastructure (streets, curbs, storm sewers, municipal building maintenance, or • Expenditures that reduce the Borough's carbon footprint, or • Expenditures for planning, administration, finance, IT, or • Expenditures for regional parks, CATA, Library.
Deanna Behring Theresa Lafer	<p>What do you see as the most important role of a Borough Councilperson?</p> <p>Do you have 40+ hours a week to put into this position? If not, why? Can you keep up with 100-200-page agendas for each meeting, plus any reports submitted that week?</p> <p>What is your strongest skill set?</p> <p>How do you generally approach budget cuts?</p> <p>Do you have pets? If so, what?</p> <p>How have you been quarantining since March? July? Now?</p> <p>Do you care/know anything about Waste Water? Air Quality? Infrastructure? Zoning?</p>

Jesse Barlow	<p>Give your perspective on race, equity, policing, and other Borough policies. State College Borough is going through comprehensive re-zoning. What are your biggest priorities in this process? State College Borough has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2050. Please comment on this process, the 2050 deadline, and local environmental concerns such as the PWU Power Plant near Atherton and College. Please comment on the responses to COVID-19 by the Borough, the Commonwealth, and by Penn State.</p>
Janet Engeman	<p>Why do you want to be on Borough Council? What contribution do you feel you can make? What past experience do you feel qualifies you to function as a Council member? How much time do you have to devote to Council activities?</p>

Questions Submitted by the Public

Question Submitted By	Address	Resident	Question
Michael Curley	135 West Park Avenue	Y	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would you be supportive of lowering the speed limit on West Park Avenue to 15 MPH? 2. What is your stance on a by-pass around Park Avenue? 3. Is it time to remove some of the diverters from College Heights to reduce Park Avenue pressure?
Ian Boswell	706 North Allen Street	Y	What are your views on the issue of affordable housing in the Borough?
Pamela Cole	140 Hartswick Avenue	Y	These days we are preoccupied with two types of upheaval: a pandemic health crisis and racial injustice. What does each candidate suggest as ways to continue to improve our community so that those who represent minorities feel unafraid (e.g., of law enforcement) and do not suffer health disparities?
Diana Malcom	229 Ellen Avenue	Y	In what ways will you encourage practices and policies in the Borough that make sure we are protecting the environment and acting with sustainability in mind as a community?
R.T.	Ferguson, Pa Furnace	N	With the relative low 7-day average of new positive coronavirus cases prior to the arrival of Penn State students, what actions would you take to prevent or remedy the influx of new cases since the arrival of the students? Keeping in mind that our own school district, local businesses and medical system will all be affected by the University's failure.
Cindy Simmons	280 South Osmond Street	Y	1.How would you contribute to the diversity of the Council or give a voice to people not already represented by sitting Council Members and the Mayor? Please think not just about race but also income, the kind of work you do, the type of housing you live in, languages you speak, any experience with

			<p>poverty, you or your family's interactions with police and the justice system.</p> <p>2. Are you someone who ordinarily would not be able to achieve the office running for the first time, but should be given this seat because you bring something different that our community needs on the Council?</p> <p>3. What would you add that we need?</p> <p>What is one thing that you would like to improve about State College?</p>
	852 Webster Drive	Y	
Chris Rand	1369 Penfield Road	Y	<p>If Penn State sends all students home before Thanksgiving and stays remote with students living at home through May 2021, would you support Council getting involved in a conversation between landlords and their PSU undergrad tenants with respect to enforcing leases? If so, what would be your biggest priorities?</p>
Paul Hallacher	762 Storch Road	Y	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are you current a member of the Democratic Party, and have you ever run for any public office as a member of any political party other than the Democratic Party? 2. Have you ever been accused of, or been interviewed as part of any investigation of, workplace sexual harassment or creating a hostile work environment?
Ben Jones	494 Westgate Drive	N	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would you support passing an ordinance that limits the justification of police deadly force to defense of life against an imminent threat, as called for by the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus (one of a series of reforms the Borough Council said it supported in its June resolution on policing)? 2. Would you support passing an ordinance that bans no-knock raids by police, like the one that killed Breonna Taylor (Louisville, KY, took this step and Sen. Tim Kearney recently introduced such a measure in PA)?

			<p>3. Would you support passing an ordinance that bans the State College Police Department from acquiring military equipment?</p> <p>4. Would you support allocating funds for the Police Executive Research Forum to train the State College Police Department on strategies and tactics for avoiding lethal force against suspects who are unarmed or have a weapon less lethal than a firearm?</p> <p>5. Would you support reallocating funds from the State College Police Department to mental health professionals specifically trained to respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis (see, e.g., the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, OR)?</p> <p>6. Would you support an audit of what percentage of the State College Police Department's budget is dedicated to drug enforcement and taking steps to redirect those funds to more pressing concerns?</p>
<p>Vicky Fong</p>	<p>793 West Hamilton Ave.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>1. In recent years, candidates have run for Council on single issues. When elected, they appear to be ill-prepared to handle the breadth and depth of responsibilities: budget, zoning, personnel, regional programs like fire, economic development, etc. How would you prepare for each meeting to be ready to discuss and act on critical issues?</p> <p>2. The Borough's revenues depend on taxes from businesses, homeowners, students, and state and federal government. Yet, discussions seem to ignore some constituents and favor others. How would you seek to address and make decisions on issues in a fair and balanced manner, rather than targeting one group over another?</p>

<p>Centre County Board of Realtors</p>	<p>2040 Sandy Drive, Suite D</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>3. What do you see as the top 5 issues facing Borough Council at this time? Why? 4. How can the Borough improve daily communications to residents and visitors? 5. How can Council and Staff show that people's voices are welcome in daily operations and policy discussions? 6. What do you feel are key issues in the update of Borough Zoning Ordinances?</p>
			<p>Those interested in purchasing a home, business or private property in the Borough of State College often ask Realtors® questions about the local economy, housing market and applicable ordinances. It is the goal of the Centre County Association of Realtors® to work with each member of Borough Council. If appointed, would you be willing to virtually meet with our association to discuss issues of commonality in order to strengthen pride in the State College community?</p>