

STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – MAY 6, 2025

A regular meeting of the Stroudsburg Borough Council convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building with the following members present: Council Pro-Tem Joseph Shay, Council Member Victoria DeVries, Council Member J. Zac Christman, Council Member Cheryl Joubert, and Council Member TJ Lopez.

Also present were: Mayor Michael Moreno, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Borough Solicitor Christopher Brown, Esq., Street Superintendent Brian Ace, Zoning/Codes Officer Kenelle DeStefano, and Executive Assistant Becky Smith. Council President Matt Abell, Council Vice-President Erica McCabe were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the Regular meeting on April 15, 2025

The minutes of the regular meeting on April 15, 2025 were approved, on a motion made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Lopez. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

New Business

Discussion about political signs in the Borough of Stroudsburg: It was confirmed that political signs are not allowed on private property without the property owner's permission, and would be considered trespassing if signs are placed on private property without owner's consent. Additionally, the current borough ordinance states "temporary signs shall not be located upon Borough, county, or state-owned property or within any public right-of-way". Ms. Joubert reported seeing signs be placed in yards sooner than they are allowed, and suggested information about the placement of political signs be added to the an upcoming newsletter. Mayor Moreno asked if the current ordinance could be posted on Facebook and the Borough's website. Ms. DeStefano said it would be helpful if the information was included in packets given by Monroe County Elections Office to anyone running for office. No action necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Lopez to approve Mayor Michael Moreno as the Voting Delegate and Borough Manager Larry Kopp as Alternate Voting Delegate for the Borough of Stroudsburg at the 2025 Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Conference on June 4, 2025. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

Discussion about a potential Conservation Easement in South Stroudsburg: Solicitor Brown advised the Borough can create a Conservation Easement with the approval of all affected property owners, however it will not necessarily stop PennDOT's project. A conservation easement expressly allows eminent domain, and as the easement holder, the borough would receive "just compensation" if property is taken. Mr. Shay pointed out that the borough would be spending money on something that would not guarantee the PennDOT project to stop. Mr. Christman agrees that it would be a waste of money for something not beneficial. No action necessary.

A motion was made by Ms. Joubert, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve advertising for bids for the Downtown Streetscaping Mural Project. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve advertising for bids for five (5) Victorian style 7' transit shelters, two (2) Victorian style 10' transit shelters, and five (5)

6', anti-vagrant, freestanding benches, for the Downtown Streetscaping project. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Joubert to approve the installation of 1,832 feet of Thermoform PVC Liner (slip lining) by Guyer Brothers, Inc., for \$149,974.00, COSTARS Contract 041-E22-016. This is slip lining for sanitary sewer lines on Bell Terrace, Scott Street between 8th and 9th Streets, North 6th Street, Lenox Street, and Barry Street. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Joubert to approve a Resolution authorizing the submission of a Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Grant for up to \$3 Million to the Commonwealth Finance Authority (CFA). Mr. Kopp explained the Borough is partnering with Brodhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA) who will be replacing water mains that are in disrepair prior to borough paving projects. BCRA grant writers will be submitting the grant application. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Lopez to approve the Special Event Application for the Trooper Joshua Miller Memorial 5K Run/Walk, on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the Special Event Application for the Pocono PRIDE Festival on Sunday, June 1, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Moreno stated there will be three stages set up, the Center Stage, Kids Stage, and Spotlight Stage, providing musical and drag entertainment from about 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Family Fun Zone expanded this year, and is a family-friendly PRIDE festival. Mr. Lopez asked how is "family-friendly" defined, to which Mr. Moreno explained the festival will not have vendors who sell alcohol, hemp, or "kink" items, and all programming is clean. Bollards are used at intersections surrounding the festival footprint. Mr. Lopez stated drag shows can be risqué, and asked if this year would be more appropriate for families. Mr. Moreno advised that previous years, with the exception of last year, all acts were on the Center Stage. This year, Rebel Stages is running the Kids Stage, creating an entertainment space appropriate for any age. Those who are looking for the true PRIDE experience can find entertainment, including drag shows, at the Center Stage. The Spotlight Stage is a more relaxed space. The motion was carried. (yes-4; no-0; abstain-1, Mr. Lopez)

A motion was made by Ms. Joubert, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve the request from the Pocono PRIDE Coalition to fly Progressive PRIDE flags throughout the month of June, in observance of PRIDE Month. Pocono PRIDE Coalition will provide flags and poles and a \$275 stipend towards Borough costs to hang the flags. The motion was carried. (yes-4; no-0; abstain-1, Mr. Lopez)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the Special Event Application for the 4th Annual Irish American Festival on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

The request from the Housing Authority of Monroe County for 30 discounted 2025 season passes to the Stroudsburg Pool was tabled. Mr. Kopp will contact the Housing Authority to clarify if the passes are given to tenants directly, or kept in the Housing Authority's possession to pass around to different families throughout the season.

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Lopez to approve advertising for bids for the Parking Garage Repair Project. The motion was carried. (yes-5; no-0; abstain-0)

Committee Reports

Codes Committee – Mr. Moreno suggested the Codes Committee hold off on creating an ordinance regarding skill games, until representatives in Harrisburg vote on skill game regulations.

Budget Committee – No report.

Parking Committee – With regards to the parking issues on Friday afternoons near the Mosque on N. 2nd Street, Ms. Probst suggested Mayor Moreno reach out to Biospectra to inquire if they are willing to allow parking in their lot.

Recycling Committee – No report.

Sewer Committee – No report.

Street Committee – Mr. Moreno reported the committee reviewed traffic calming devices; Mr. Ace stated that other local municipalities do not have traffic devices that collect data. The next committee meeting is May 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. The committee will continue to seek traffic calming devices that collect data but do not display the speed at which vehicles travel.

Personnel Committee – No report.

Public Relations/Media Committee – No report.

Redevelopment Committee – No report.

I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – No report.

Parks and Rec (Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation) Committee – Mr. Moreno reported the following fundraisers will take place to benefit SROSRC: Red Robin on May 15th; NEPA Gives, a 24-hour online fundraiser, on June 5th 7:00 p.m. through June 6th 7:00 p.m.; and Panera Bread on June 12th. The Levee Loop Trail Run will be held on June 7th. Mr. Moreno thanked Mr. Kopp for signing the Comprehensive Planning letter of support. Lastly, the ordinances relating to parks for East Stroudsburg Borough, Stroudsburg Borough, and Stroud Township were reviewed. The Working Committee will meet on June 9th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss further, and will provide a preliminary review of the draft ordinance for the June 24th SROSRC meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Moreno attended the PSAB Your Role as a Municipal Secretary/Administrator on April 23 and 24 in Harrisburg. Mr. Moreno recognized Becky Smith, Executive Assistant, for her hard work at the Borough.

The Mayor read aloud a Proclamation, declaring May 9, 2025 as Miracles Happen Thrift Shoppe Day in Stroudsburg Borough. All are encouraged to attend the Miracles Happen Thrift Shoppe's grand opening at their new location, 14 N. 8th Street, on May 9th at 2:30 p.m.

The Stroudsburg Little Bethel Historical Association will be hosting its Annual Juneteenth Fish Fry Fundraiser on Saturday, June 21st, at which time Mr. Moreno hopes to tie in the street renaming event if the signage machine is available.

Council Member Reports

No report.

Solicitor's Report

No report.

Manager's Report

Borough Manager Report May 6th, 2025

Meetings

LTAP/Asphalt Roads	April 16 th
Park Visits/SROSRC	April 16 th
Denny Peters/ARLE Grant	April 16 th
Pension Board Meeting	April 21 st
Muros/Downtown Streetscaping Murals	April 22 nd
SARP 25 th Anniversary Committee	April 22 nd
Touchpoint Demo	April 22 nd
BCRA/Borough Check-In	April 23 rd
Guyer Brothers/Trenchless Repair Estimate	April 24 th
Consolidated Food Pantry Meeting	April 24 th
Pick-Up the Poconos	April 26 th
Arbor Day	April 26 th
Pocono Mountains COG	April 28 th
Representative Probst/I-80	April 28 th
Nate Gerace/Senator McCormick's Office	April 29 th
BCRA/Grant Success/MTF Grant	April 29 th
FNB/Equipment Financing	April 30 th
Sewer Tapping/YMCA	May 2 nd
Muros/Downtown Streetscaping Murals	May 2 nd
BCRA/Multimodal Grant/Denny	May 6 th
Delta Development/Funding Status	May 7 th
Downtown Business Association	May 13 th

Infrastructure/Streets/Capital Projects

Quick Build / Main Street Project. Sent second request for Signage District to PennDOT on January 30th. Upgrades to the Borough's sign printer & laptop; should be delivered late April – early May. Called Labor & Industry in regard to Prevailing Wage requirements for project labor. Mural & Transit Shelter bids advertisement on agenda.

Creek Walk Trail. Statewide LSA Grant submitted November 26th. DCNR Grant submitted. DCED this year.

Parking Garage Repair/Rehabilitation. Design complete. Intent is to go out to bid for in May. LSA Grant award probably in May; CFA Meeting May 20th.

Levee Erosion Mitigation. Emplacing rip rap on the Brodhead Creek side of the levee to stop erosion. Working on plan from engineer; budget complete for DCED Flood Mitigation Grant. Work in 2026.

Grants Strategy 2024-25

2024 Statewide LSA Grant. For Creek Walk Trail & Footbridge. Submitted to DCED.

2024 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant. Submitted. For Five Points Roundabout.

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program. For engineering study for Main Street Project. Will resubmit when the grant program reopens.

DEP Levee Inspection Reimbursement. \$3,975. Inspection complete. Reimbursement received.

PMVB Beautification Grant Program. For remainder of bollards and sleeves for North 6th Street. Submitted. Bollards, and sleeves, have been delivered to allow for installation in 2025.

2025 DCED PA Small Water & Sewer Program. Submitted. For slip lining sewer and water lines.

2025 DCNR Grant C2P2 Grant. Submitted. Working on finalizing easements.

2024 Monroe County LSA Grant. Submitted September 30th. Remainder of cost of Parking Garage Repairs/ Restoration. DCED CFA Meeting on May 20th.

DCED's Flood Mitigation Program. For erosion control on levee along Brodhead Creek. Engineer estimate received. Due May 31st.

2025 DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund. Submitting with BCRA for complete street restoration, paving plus water line replacement. Due May 31st. Submitted through Grant

2023 Statewide LSA Grant. Received \$250,000 for the Creek Walk Project.

2023 Monroe County LSA Grant. For Parking Garage Repairs. Received \$250,000.

2022 Monroe County LSA Grant. Received \$500,000 for the Main Street Project.

EPA Community Change Grant. Lead Applicant for submission. Application submitted! Looks like program funding will be eliminated by the EPA, waiting for notification.

RACP Grant. DCED received letters of support from elected officials and detailed construction/implementation timeline. Given OK to change scope of grant to repairs.

Monroe County Hotel Tax Allocation. Received \$9,847 for equipment for Dog Park. Equipment received.

Dumpster Painting & Screening

Dumpsters being painted. Students developed themes based upon locations of dumpsters.

Potential Official Visits

Delta has a visit to our legislators in Washington scheduled on May 22nd. There also is the possibility of a visit to Stroudsburg by Congressman Rob Bresnahan and staff of Senator McCormick as well.

Storm and Wastewater Pipe Reconditioning

Guyer Brothers proposal on agenda this evening (COSTARS Vendor).

Downtown Manager

Joined PA Downtown and working on scheduling one-day visioning session. Working on putting together Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, 501c3 request to IRS.

My Work Program

Contacted by PA Labor and Industry about again participating in this program. Due to funding cuts, program will be four weeks in 2025, not six as in previous years.

2024 Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program

Updated Volunteer Service Credit Program Application. Produced an Instruction Sheet for the program for 2024 submissions, provided to Fire Department.

Sewer Rates/EDU Reassessment

Restarting, doing double duty as a confirmation of potential rental properties. Looking at numerous data sets: Water EDUs, Sewer EDUs, Act 511 Payroll Taxes, Rental Property Registrations, and Solid Waste registrations.

Food Bank Relocation

Meeting on April 24th. Working on assembling Board of Directors, 501c3 registration.

Senior Waste Collection Assistance Program

To date, 15 participants in the program in 2025.

Homeless Workgroup

Next meeting not yet scheduled.

Commercial/Residential Recycling

Reminder letter sent to all commercial properties. Another round of residential trash inspections in Spring.

Residential Rental Property Inspections

Finishing inspection for 2024-25. Working on notifying 2025-26 inspections.

Dog Park

Delivered. Spring installation.

Monthly E-Newsletters

March Newsletter sent.

Safety Committee

Training and Safety Committee Meeting on March 25th.

Borough Newsletter

Spring Newsletter going out in May.

MyGov Software for Codes/Zoning

Going fully “live” with MyGov in Spring 2025 on all permits and licenses. Requiring all Rental Registrations to be submitted through MyGov. Customers will be required, unless they have a compelling reason, to submit all permit and license online through the Customer Service Portal.

Bicycle Racks

Three racks remain to be installed: 745 Main, 401 Main & 33 North 7th Streets. North 7th Street was approved with a slightly changed location. Waiting to hear back from the remaining two property owners. One property owner (1172 Main Street) declined to have the rack on their property. Installation in Spring 2025.

January Priorities

Main Street Manager Implementation

LSA/Main Street Project

Inspection Residential/Commercial Recycling

EDU/Unit Scrub

Monthly E-Newsletter

Grants

Engineer's Report

Denny Peters reported the Parking Garage bids are ready to be advertised; he provided Delta

Development Group cost estimates for the levee repairs, slip lining, and Broad Street/Park Avenue intersection improvements; and he and Mr. Kopp will discuss the repair of the effluent pipe at the levee.

Zoning/Codes Officer Report

No report.

Street Superintendent's Report

No report.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 250506

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Lopez to approve the payment of bills on Warrants 250506. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Hammond, of 120 Lee Avenue, asked for an update on the proposed noise ordinance, which has been discussed at Codes Committee meetings. Solicitor Brown stated the ordinance is ready to be advertised for a public hearing at the May 19th Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Lopez to approve advertising a public hearing for Monday, May 19, 2025 to adopt an Ordinance of the Borough of Stroudsburg, in the County of Monroe, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish procedures and penalties to address disorderly gatherings and disruptive dwellings within the Borough of Stroudsburg. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. DeVries. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)