STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2026

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 President Matt Abell, Council Vice-President Erica McCabe, Council Pro-Tem J. Zac Christman, Council Member Joseph Shay, Council Member Victoria DeVries, Council Member Cheryl Joubert, and Council Member Claire Crawford-Braun.

Also present were: Mayor Ellen Currie, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Borough Solicitor Christopher Brown, Esq., Junior Council Member Emilie Protsko, Downtown Manager Michael Moreno (via Zoom), Street Superintendent Brian Ace, and Executive Assistant Becky Smith. Zoning/Codes Officer Kenelle DeStefano was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing – Ordinance to Define Tobacco Retail Use and Provide for the Regulation Thereof

Public Hearing and consideration to adopt an Ordinance of the Borough of Stroudsburg, in the County of Monroe, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Amending the Borough Zoning Ordinance to Define Tobacco Retail Use and Provide for the Regulation Thereof. This proposed ordinance states no tobacco retail use shall be established within 500 feet of an existing tobacco retail use. Tobacco retail is defined as a commercial establishment that devotes more than 50% of its total floor area, shelf space, inventory, or gross sales to the sale of tobacco products, nicotine delivery products, electronic cigarettes, vape pens, cigars, cigarettes, rolling papers, or any related paraphernalia or accessories. This includes any store where the primary business involves the sale of such products, regardless of whether the establishment also sells other goods or services. For the purposes of this ordinance, "tobacco retail" shall also include establishments commonly known as "vape shops", "smoke shops", or similar retail outlets. Mr. Shay takes objection to the Monroe County Planning Commission's (MCPC) comments, and disagrees that proposed ordinances must be approved by them. Angel Rodriguez, owner of a tobacco shop on N. 6th Street, is opposed to this ordinance, stating the Borough has no right to dictate what establishments are allowed or not. These shops sell legal products to consumers and proposing such an ordinance will have serious impact on businesses, and the Borough should be more focused on bringing new businesses to town. He asked why other businesses do not have the same restrictions, such as those who sell burgers or beer. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned tobacco shops are the most over-regulated industry. Mr. Shay suggested a representative from the state come to a council meeting to explain the regulations. Ms. McCabe stated they are regulated similarly to alcohol shops and these establishments sell Kratom to underage smokers; she added that the Borough does not control state regulations but can dictate what the future of our town will become. A recess was taken from 7:15 p.m. to 7:26.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe seconded by Mr. Christman to close the public hearing. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

The aforementioned Ordinance was adopted on a motion made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 1-no, Mr. Shay; 0-abstain)

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on April 7, 2026

The minutes of the regular meeting on April 7, 2026 were approved on a motion made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Ms. DeVries. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Monthly Administrative Reports
The following monthly reports were approved on a motion made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Ms. DeVries: Right-To-Know Report, Parking Report, Fire Department Report, and the Police Department Report. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Accept Unaudited March 2026, Treasurer Report
A motion was made by Mr. Shay, seconded by Ms. McCabe to accept the Balance Sheets, FY 26 vs FY 25, and the Budget to Actual Report. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

New Business
A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve a Resolution authorizing Borough Manager Lawrence Kopp to electronically sign the grant request and any subsequent contracts from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the Stroudsburg Rotary Park Improvements Project. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Mr. Kopp discussed the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau 2026 Community Impact Grants. Mr. Kopp was looking for council's input on grant funding ideas. After discussion, Mr. Kopp was directed to apply for grant funds to cover trash receptacles, either Big Belly and/or traditional cans. No further action required at this time.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to advertise a Public Hearing on May 5, 2026, for the consideration of an application from Stroudsburg Area High School for conditional use approval of an electronic message sign at the property located at 1100 W. Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA, pursuant to §27-1206 and §27-1207 of the Borough Code of Ordinances. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A Flag and Banner Policy was presented for Council's approval from the Streets Committee. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to adopt the Flag and Banner Policy, striking paragraphs A and B from Number 3 "Installation and Removal" of Section II. Paragraph C should become Paragraph A, to be read "Borough staff may, at the discretion of the Public Works Director, remove any flag posing a safety hazard". The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve hanging ESU Flags (Institutional and Athletic) on Main Street from August 1 to November 20, 2026. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve the application of Valentin Zaimov, as recommended for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by HARB, for the removing of existing window and doors at the street level and replaced with matching doors to the neighboring pub. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the Special Event Application for the Pocono PRIDE Festival on Sunday. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 1-no, Mr. Shay; 0-abstain) Mr. Shay would like to see the festival end at N. 6th and Monroe Streets, not N. 6th and Sarah Streets.

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve the request from the Pocono PRIDE Coalition to hang the Progressive PRIDE Flags throughout the month of June in observance of PRIDE Month. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Committee Reports

Codes Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, April 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Budget Committee – No report.

Parking Committee – The next meeting is Monday, April 27 at 5:15 p.m.

Recycling Committee – The next meeting is Monday, April 27 at 5:00 p.m.

Sewer Committee – No report.

Street Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, May 20 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Personnel Committee – No report.

Public Relations/Media Committee – The next meeting is Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. McCabe reported the committee is looking into Porta Potties for Concerts in the Square; they are waiting for feedback from the Borough's website designer in order to move forward with an overhaul of the website.

Redevelopment Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m.

I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – Jessica Delfino reported the appeal is moving forward, until a decision is made.

Parks and Rec (SROSRC) Committee – The next meeting is Tuesday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Junior Council Committee – Ms. Currie reported that Junior Council Member Emilie Protsko job shadowed Michael Moreno and Becky Smith; Ms. Protsko successfully defended her thesis and is graduating with her Master's Degree in Political Science from ESU on May 8! Congratulations Emilie!

Mental Health Committee – The next meeting is Friday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Crawford-Braun reported the committee will distribute materials on April 24 to the community; a learning series will be held in Bryant Park on May 23 at 10:00 a.m.

America 250 Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, April 29 at 12:00 p.m. Ms. Crawford-Braun reported the $10,000 grant from Monroe County was received. The Keystone Unveiling brought approximately 100 people to the event! The event was under budget, utilizing all local vendors; thank you to the Sherman Theater for donating the use of cocktail tables. Posters of Jill Swersie's Keystone Art are being sold for $10 each, with all proceeds being donated to the Stroudsburg Fire Department. Over $400 has been raised so far! Ms. Crawford-Braun thanked all committee members for their help and hard work.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Currie: attended the Pocono Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Council on April 10; met with GoCollaborative who will be painting hopscotch grids in front of preschools and daycare centers in the Borough; officiated a wedding on April 21; will attend the Safe Monroe Gala on April 24; will meet with Chris Barret to learn more about PMVB on April 28; and will speak at the Grand Re-Opening of the Monroe County Historical Association. GoCollaborative is hosting a Bridge Painting on May 9, painting balusters on the Route 80 overpass Red, White, and Blue – contact Mayor Currie if interested.

Council Member Reports

No reports.

Solicitor's Report

No report.

Manager's Report

Borough Manager Report
April 21st, 2026

Meetings

Pelham Check-In	April 7th
PennDOT Liquid Fuels Review	April 8th
Enterprise Fleet Management	April 8th
Zoning Law Update/NEPA Alliance	April 10th
Downtown Stroudsburg Meeting	April 14th
Pelham Check-In	April 14th
Denny/Capital Projects	April 15th
Parking Compliance Trends	April 16th
Arbor Day/Glen Park	April 18th
Pension Board Meeting	April 20th
Enterprise/Fleet Management	April 21st
Liquid Fuels Audit	April 22nd
Pick Up the Poconos	April 25th
Pocono COG	April 27th
Text My Gov Refresh	April 27th
Recycling Committee Meeting	April 27th
Pelham Check-In	April 28th
US DOT/Stroudsburg Projects	April 29th
Webinar/DOT RTO Grant	April 29th
Monroe Historical Association Grand Re-Opening	May 1st
Delta Development Status Meeting	May 1st

Infrastructure/Streets/Capital Projects

Quick Build / Main Street Project. One-year extension approved by DCED. Submitted determination for Mural Artists' hourly wage requirements. Finalizing budget and costs.

Creek Walk Trail. Statewide LSA, DCNR and DCED GTRP Grants submitted. Going forward with the levee portion of the trail with awarded grant funds. All approvals/permitting complete; just need construction easements from UGI and PPL to go out to bid. Hoping to do work in 2026.

Parking Garage Repair/Rehabilitation. Work begins on April 20th. 120 days allowed for completion.

Levee Erosion Mitigation. Emplacing rip rap on the Brodhead Creek side of the levee to stop erosion. Working on alternate funding options. Work in 2026 if funding is available; if not grants for 2027 completion.

Paving 2026. CDBG Project (Kramer Avenue) this year. Extra funds from Kraemer, plus current year funds for 3rd Street going towards next year's project, McConnell Street, which will be expensive (3 long blocks plus handicapped crossings). 3rd and 8th Street Paving w/BCRA can using COSTARS pricing ($318,941). Remainder of funding ($281,059) will go towards next year's joint project, the 500 -700 blocks of Thomas Street.

Slip Lining Wastewater & Stormwater Lines. Received OK to use COSTARS vendors. Using grant funds ($346,845; $250,000 Grant plus Sewer Funds) for sewer lines. Holding off on Stormwater lines ($100,000) for potential cost overruns on Parking Garage Project.

Transforming Main Street Initiative/Engineering. Webinar on April 29th. Waiting on signed contract to go forward with formal bid process.

Traffic Signal Park Avenue & Broad Street. Received signed contract from PennDOT. Working on Bid Packet for PennDOT approval.

Grants Strategy 2026

Congressional Appropriations. Congressional Appropriation through Congressman Bresnahan going to Appropriations Committee for Five Points Roundabout. Meeting with DOT May 6th or 7th to discuss. Senator's McCormack and Fetterman submitted, waiting for results. For Five Points Roundabout and Borough Building Upgrades/Renovations.

2026 DCNR Grant C2P2 Grant. Met with DCNR on March 19th. Looking at Rotary Park improvements. Due April 30th, 2026. Updated plans complete.

2025 Statewide LSA Grant. Submitted. For engineering for Five Points Roundabout.

Monroe County LSA. Submitted. For new parking meters for the remainder of the Borough. Discussed with Representative Probst.

PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA). Draft application submitted. Presentation to NEPA Alliance on December 16th.

Office of the Budget (OMB) Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). Submitted. For Borough Building improvements.

Main Street Matters Program Grants. Not funded. For Business Improvement Grants.

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program. Approved for full amount ($441,810).

PennDOT Automated Red Light Enforcement Program (ARLE). Approved for $483,565 (full amount). Project in 2026/27. For Park & Broad Streets traffic signal. Contract signed by PennDOT; working on bid packet.

2025 DCED PA Small Water & Sewer Program. Submitted. Received $250,000. For slip lining sewer and water lines.

2025 DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund. Submitted w/BCRA. $600,000 received for street repaving and water line replacement.

Office of the Budget (OMB) Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP Grant). Received $500,000 for Parking Garage Repairs.

2024 Monroe County LSA Grant. Received $200,000 for Parking Garage Repairs.

PMVB Beautification Grant Program. Received $8,500 for Bollards & Sleeves, requested amount.

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.

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

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

Loans for Street Sweeper and Trailer for Twin Boroughs Recycling

Received proposals for both items: 4.76% fixed rate over 60 months. Working on a second proposal.

Big Belly Waste Receptacles

Trash receptacles no longer under warranty. Working on potential fixes.

My Work Program 2026

Will participate again in 2026. Initial discussions with PA Labor & Industry. This year, we will host 4 participants for 16 Hours/week.

KMIT/Workers Comp Insurance

Two visits scheduled from Keystone Risk Management in 2026 due to still being considered higher risk due to past claims.

Borough Funds Investment in CDs

ESSA Bank CD Rates lower than our current money market account rates. PLGIT rate slightly higher than ESSA rates, in my opinion not worth the effort to move them to another institution.

Downtown Visioning/Strategic Planning

Received SWOT Analysis. Working on Strategic Plan.

Solid Waste Ordinance

Began alleyway pick-ups on March 11th. No issues last week; looks like we have solved alley issues.

Sewer Units/Trash/EDU Reassessment

Reassessment complete. Coordinating with County to update Assessment and 911 databases.

Commercial/Residential Recycling

Residential inspections complete. Looking to do another round of enforcement in April/May. Problems of pick-up seem to have been resolved without expanding pick-up schedule to four days from three.

Monthly E-Newsletters

April E-Newsletter out on April 16th.

Safety Committee

Safety Training and Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for May.

Borough Newsletter

Winter/Spring Newsletter distributed. Next issue in June.

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. Installation in Spring 2026.

Upcoming Priorities

LSA/Main Street Project

Summer Infrastructure Projects Management

Engineer's Report

Denny Peters reported: the Kraemer Avenue paving project will begin soon; he has all approvals for the embankment scour project, waiting for grant money or it can go out for bid; two T-beams that have deteriorated from salt need to be replaced at the Parking Garage, an epoxy coating will be added to the new deck to prevent salt damage; the Levee Loop Trail is ready to go for bid,

with the exception of two outstanding easements; he is meeting with representatives from PennDOT and other entities to move forward with the Broad and Park Streets intersection improvement project; additional information has been provided to Delta regarding grant funding for improvements at the Municipal Building; and Dunkin requested the final release of bond, however, after inspection there is a laundry list of outstanding items according to the Land Development Plan.

Downtown Manager's Report
Mr. Moreno was in Harrisburg for conferences and trainings; he sent Council his report via email.

Zoning/Codes Officer Report
Absent.

Street Superintendent's Report
Mr. Ace reported Pick Up the Poconos is Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Participants can meet at the Municipal Building.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 260421
A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve Bills on Warrants 260421. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items
Angel Rodriguez, business owner on N. 6th Street, expressed his concerns with parking challenges during the construction and temporary closure of the parking garage. Parking garage permit holders are able to park at metered spaces on streets except Main Street. Mr. Rodriguez states there are cars parked at meters all week long without moving, which is negatively affecting downtown businesses. Ms. McCabe stated cars with permits have to abide by the governing signs regarding alternate side parking and 15-minute meters. The Borough is not selling new permits to the parking garage at this time, urging permit seekers to utilize other municipal-owned parking lots, such as the one next to Aarons on Lower Main Street and the lot on the corner of Sarah and N. 5th Streets. Mr. Abell directed Mr. Kopp to inquire with churches for potential agreements for shared parking spaces while the parking garage is under construction.

Jessica Delfino suggested that everyone educate themselves about data center projects and asked if a Borough committee has been formed. Mr. Abell advised data centers are on the Codes Committee's radar. Ms. Delfino suggested a sign directing people to Ann Street Business District be installed, as there is a similar sign for the Storm Street Business District. A Bryant Street Pick-Up will take place next Saturday to get the park ready for the season.

Mr. Abell stated about 25 shopping carts were in the Municipal Building's parking lot last Saturday, used by the church for their food pantry. Mr. Abell asked Mr. Kopp to contact the church to advise the shopping carts should belong to the church, as opposed to local shopping establishments, and the church should be responsible for the carts from start to finish.

Executive Session
None.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m., on a motion made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)