MINUTES
Stroudsburg Borough Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call.
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 Cheryl Joubert and Council Member Claire Crawford-Braun. Council Member Victoria DeVries was absent.

Also, present were: Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Junior Council Member Emilie Protsko, Borough Solicitor Christopher Brown, Esq., Street Superintendent Brian Ace, Zoning/Codes Officer Kenelle DeStefano, Downtown Manager Michael Moreno, and Parking Secretary Robin Wall.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on February 3, 2026.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting on February 3, 2026 were approved on a motion made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman. The motion carried (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Monthly Administrative Reports.
a. Right-to-Know Report b. Parking Report
c. Fire Department Report d. Police Department Report (provided via email)
The following monthly reports were approved on a motion made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman. Right-To-Know Report, Parking Report, Fire Department Report, and the Police Department Report. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Accept Unaudited January 2026 Treasurer Report.
a. Balance Sheets, FY 26 vs. FY 25 b. Budget to Actual Report
c. Profit & Loss Statement, Previous Year Comparison
A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to accept the Balance Sheets, FY 25 vs FY 24, and the Budget to Actual Report. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Old Business

New Business
Consideration to adopt the Monroe County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan.
A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Ms. Joubert to adopt the Monroe County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Kopp advises this is County wide and all municipalities are covered; but to qualify for Federal funding we need to have a hazard mitigation plan. Mr. Shay wants nothing to do with the County as they do not do anything for the Borough. The motion was carried. (5-yes, 1-no, Mr. Shay, 0-abstain).

Consideration to appoint the following three-year terms as Board Members of the Stroudsburg Main Street Program: Brianna Strunk, with a term to end on 12/31/2028; Lisa Diemer, with a term to end on 12/31/2027; and Peter Andrews, with a term to end on 12/31/2026.

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to appoint the following three-year terms as Board Members of the Stroudsburg Main Street Program: Brianna Strunk, with a term to end on 12/31/2028; Lisa Diemer, with a term to end on 12/31/2027; and Peter Andrews, with a term to end on 12/31/2026. Discussion on the number of people on the committee and current members. Currently Mr. Kopp, Ms. McCabe, Mr. Christman and Mr. Abell were appointed to the Committee the beginning of the year with staggered terms. Mr. Shay would like to vote on the members individually and is not enthused with Lisa Diemer. Ms. McCabe commented the Diemer's are very active within the community, they have spearheaded many events in addition to attending all events. Ms. Diemer took over for Ms. Evanisko. Ms. Delfino would like individuals selected with more diversity. Mr. Quinones a business owner in town has seen the Diemer's a lot in town. The motion was carried. (5-yes, 1-no, Mr. Shay, 0-abstain).

Consideration to approve a pay increase for Assistant Public Works Director Nick Halker from $74,263.00 to $76,336.00, effective immediately.
A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve a pay increase for Assistant Public Works Director Nick Halker from $74,263.00 to $76,336.00, effective immediately. Mr. Ace advises Nick has been in this position 4 years and asked for the increase 8 months ago. Mr. Ace has given him additional tasks to complete and he has done a great job. Mr. Abell states this is an increase of $1.00/hour. Mr. Shay feels cost of living increases should coincide with the budget with employees having to wait until the next calendar year unless a promotion for a new position is created. Ms. McCabe advises Nick is not in the Union and is always on call. The motion was carried. (5-yes, 1-no, Mr. Shay, 0-abstain).

Consideration to discuss required National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training for elected officials.
Mr. Kopp advises this is up to each municipality and training is online and free. There are 2 courses recommended, Intro to Command Center and Intro to NIMS. Mr. Kopp advises we have our own Emergency management Plan which lists elected officials' responsibility. The mayor is in charge.

Consideration to discuss a monthly television program on Blue Ridge Cable/Channel 13.
Ms. Crawford would like to reintroduce the monthly television program for Council's consideration, and proposed to create an Ad Hoc Committee due to the frequency of the necessary meetings. Jessica Delfino contacted individuals with experience who are willing to help. Ms. Delfino advised that the show would basically follow the council meeting agendas as topics on the show and incorporate any messages the Borough would like to share. Ms. McCabe suggested this stays with the Public Relations Committee so a more seasoned committee member can direct it better, with Mr. Moreno having a bigger hand in the show. Ms. McCabe stressed that the Borough needs to have more say in the content of the show. An Ad Hoc committee can be created, however, it all needs to go through the Public Relations Committee first to be sure everyone is on the same page. Mr. Shay believes all of Council should have the ability to approve or disapprove and censor, if necessary. Ms. Delfino stated there should be a certain amount of flexibility and there should not be nine or more people saying what can or cannot be done. Mr. Abell suggested that Mr. Moreno and the Public Relations Committee meet with Ms. Delfino to figure out responsiveness and decision-making in a timely manner, whether that is through an Ad Hoc Committee or the Public Relations Committee. Recommendations from the Public Relations Committee would be presented for Council's consideration. Mr. Moreno stated that the contract between Ms. Delfino and the Borough has to be finalized. Additionally, he believes Council should first set their guidelines and vision for the show before Ms. Delfino puts any further work into it. Ms. McCabe stated the committee meets Thursday, February 19th at 6:00 p.m. and during the summer the committee typically meets weekly as opposed to monthly. They will discuss the structure of the show and aim

for a March 17th air date. Ms. McCabe asked Council to send her two positive items they would like to see incorporated in the show.

Consideration to approve the quote for the laboratory sampling and testing services for the Joint Municipal Landfills from Analytical Laboratory Services, Inc. (ALS) in the total amount of $16,558.00 for 2026 and 2027 ($8,279.00 per year), contingent upon the approval of East Stroudsburg Borough and Stroud Township to share in one-third of these expenses each.
A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve the quote for the laboratory sampling and testing services for the Joint Municipal Landfills from Analytical Laboratory Services, Inc. (ALS) in the total amount of $16,558.00 for 2026 and 2027 ($8,279.00 per year), contingent upon the approval of East Stroudsburg Borough and Stroud Township to share in one-third of these expenses each. Mr. Shay is concerned if East Stroudsburg Borough or Stroud Twp opt out, we would need to pay the difference. The motion was carried. (5-yes, 1-no, Mr. Shay, 0-abstain).

Consideration to advertise a Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 for the consideration of an Ordinance of the Borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, amending the Borough Zoning Ordinance to permit first floor residential use in the C-2 Zoning District outside of the C-2 Overlay.
A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to advertise a Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 for the consideration of an Ordinance of the Borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, amending the Borough Zoning Ordinance to permit first floor residential use in the C-2 Zoning District outside of the C-2 Overlay. Solicitor Brown advises this is for The North side of Monroe between 7th and 9th, the South side of Sarah between 5th and 6th and the South side of Ann between 6th and 8th; these streets are primarily residential with many Non-Conforming Uses. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Consideration to advertise a Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 for the consideration of an Ordinance of the Borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, amending the Borough Zoning Ordinance to permit electronic message board signs as a conditional use in the MU-B Zoning District. Mr. Abell advises this is anything west of Wawa.
A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to advertise a Public Hearing on March 17, 2026 for the consideration of an Ordinance of the Borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, amending the Borough Zoning Ordinance to permit electronic message board signs as a conditional use in the MU-B Zoning District. Solicitor Brown added general/broad language to the Ordinance which was missing in order for Council to be able to set conditions. Discussion on which properties could request the conditional use and that Council could set conditions for each applicant. Ms. Kochanski asked if the sign needed to be on the property opposed to off premise. Solicitor Brown advised it must be on the property. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Consideration to approve a request from Shanti House, LLC, to waive the requirement of the Municipalities Planning Code and the requirements of the Ordinances of the Borough of Stroudsburg and grant an extension until February 28, 2027, to render its decision on the Shanti House project. Discussion about the extension request.
A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Shay to extend the deadline until March 31, 2026 with the direction the applicants or their representatives of the Shanti House, LLC, appear at a Council meeting by March 31, 2026 or the request will be denied to waive the requirement of the Municipalities Planning Code and the requirements of the Ordinances of the Borough of Stroudsburg and grant an extension until February 28, 2027. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Consideration to approve a request from the Housing Authority of Monroe County for 25 family/senior pool passes for the summer of 2026 at half price. A family pass for 2026 is $250.00 and a senior pass for 2026 is $105.00.
A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Shay to approve a request from the Housing Authority of Monroe County for 25 family/senior pool passes for the summer of 2026 at half price. A family pass for 2026 is $250.00 and a senior pass for 2026 is $105.00; in addition, for the Borough of Stroudsburg to approve 5 family free passes for Borough families not residing at the Housing Authority. The County and Stroud Rec have set parameters on financial qualifications. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Committee Reports
Codes Committee – Mr. Abell reports we are still working on the Real Estate Transfer Inspection Ordinance, should follow the same guidelines as Rental Inspection Ordinance and am hoping it will pass by the end of the year. Mr. Abell states Waste Management is not servicing the alleys. Mr. Kopp has emailed Waste Management and has not gotten an email back. Ms. McCabe has received a message reporting there are issues with the automatic arm on streets where cars are parked and residents are placing the cans all over the street to ensure pickup. Solicitor Brown and Mr. Kopp will review the contract in the next few days. Residents Mr. Llopis, Mr. English, Mr. Smith and Ms. Kochanski mentioned issues with garbage pickup and can placement. Mr. Abell states there are fines we can issue to Waste Management but would like a resolution by the next Council meeting.

Budget Committee – No Report

Parking Committee- Ms. McCabe advises the next meeting is the 4th Monday at 5:15pm

Recycling Committee – No Report

Sewer Committee – No Report

Street Committee – Mr. Abell advises we meet tomorrow

Personnel Committee – Mr. Kopp has one item for Executive Session

Public Relations/Media Committee – Ms. McCabe advises we will meet this Thursday and next Thursday, both at 6:00pm

Redevelopment Committee – Mr. Abell reports the Committee members met with the County Commissioners, this was a 2nd meeting. We have been speaking to people around town about snow removal and troubleshooting problem areas. The Street Department does a fantastic job at snow removal. A suggestion was to have cars move from the street into Parking Lots but there are permit holders in the lots that would be affected. We asked the Commissioners to use their parking garage, they responded it would not work during the week but would be ok for the weekends. We also asked about the gravel lot at Quaker Alley/6th. The Committee has been looking at all unimproved lots like the empty lot at 8th/Main and the empty space by the bike shop. We offered a long-term lease for the Borough to turn it into a surface parking lot at our expense and to find grant funding. The Commissioners were not interested as they didn't want to lock future Commissioners into a decision made by the current Commissioners. Mr. Abell advised the County purchases $20k in permits for jury selection days which allows jurors to parking at any meter. We are recommending to the Parking Committee that the parking passes do not allow to park at metered spaces on the streets but be confined to outer lying lots that are less convenient to walk from but wouldn't affect our businesses. Meter bag pricing has not been increased since 2012-2014 and are underpriced. We

have heard some rumors that some parking passes are moving from vehicle to vehicle. The Committee would like to see those passes tied to specific registration. The Commissioners feel they give the Borough a lot of money for parking in a year, with our budget losing the income would not be a huge loss, we would rather give up the income in order to gain an extra parking lot. The Commissioners will improve the lot and use for the County. Mr. Shay asked if we can condemn it; Mr. Abell advises under Eminent domain we cannot, it doesn't work between municipalities and a government property. Solicitor Brown advises it is subject to taxes if not used as a government use. Ms. McCabe advised she and Ms. Wall have both spoken to the County (Mr. Eric Kerchner/Chief Detective) about the allegation of copying parking permits and it is being investigated. Last item is the jail. There is an estimated 11 million files; the County is at the end of a 5-year outsourced contract to digitalize the files. Approximately three quarters of the files have been digitalized. County employees estimate another 2 years to complete but it could be longer. The state requires you hold onto files for perpetuity, felonies, wills and deeds can be disposed but no one wants to take the responsibility to dispose of them. Mr. Abell toured the building several years ago and there is a lot of debris in the building and cells. It would make a great vendor space, non-profit space and public bathrooms. Hoping the Commissioners will find funding. There was a $300k state grant but they are estimating the cost almost 2 million dollars to complete. They did an RPF to repair the leaking roof, project cost of $400k. Mr. Shroeder came across old information that the building prior to these Commissioners in office was condemned and he is still researching. Starting discussing the property at 8th and Main, Solicitor Brown will reach out to the owner.

I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – Ms. Delfino advises the Committee is still looking for a pro bono attorney. We just received the discovery request for the 102 appeal. We are appealing PAPSFG6 permit, it's an administrative appeal based on not getting a hearing. Have a meeting with Alpha tomorrow and are looking to them as an ally. There is a bald eagle Facebook page. We have not received the Native American artifacts report from Penn Dot.

Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission – Ms. McCabe advised there is a dinner for Stroud Recreation for fundraising in March. Mentioned pool passes to Borough residents and are currently hiring for summer jobs.

Junior Council Committee – Ms. Crawford-Braun spoke to someone about splitting a table at the High School Career Fair for new members. Spoke to The Mayor about switching with me to become the Chair of this Committee and I will be a member. The next meeting is the first Monday in march at 5:00pm.

Mental Health Committee – Ms. Crawford-Braun advises the next meeting is this Friday at 1:00pm

America 250 Committee – Ms. Crawford-Braun advised we met February 10th and will meet again tomorrow at noon. Kick off with the artist unveiling April 19th. we put in a request for the PA Mobile unit. We will host Mocktails and Munchies with a crawl to engage the businesses June 6th. We will work on a calendar for community events. There will be a parade float July 4th and September 26 or 27th a hero's dinner to honor community members and volunteers. We will call for nominations for the hero's dinner.

Mayor's Report - Ms. Currie will be attending boot camp this weekend.

Council Member Reports – No Report

Solicitor's Report – No Report

Manager's Report – Mr. Kopp will be mailing downtown survey with QR code this week,

we have received 225 responses. We have it posted on our website, social media and post card mailer. I will be in Washington March 4-5th meeting with Representative Rob Bresnahan, Senator Dave McCormick and Senator John Fetterman about appropriations. Met with the business owners on 6th Street about their concerns, main concern was the street light and I will talk to Penn Dot. KMIT, the Borough's Workers Comp company called me to serve on the board. The Arly grant we received for $483k was the full cost of the project and not half as previously reported, I will touch base with Denny. Ms. Delfino saw a post from Rosemary Brown taking credit for the light, we have not received any grant funding from her. Mr. Abell will have Mr. Kopp do a summary of grants applied to, we have applied for about 30 grants and we also have a grant writer. We have received about 3 million dollars in grants since Mr. Kopp started in the Borough, half million for Main Street project, Full cost of the parking garage/parking deck repairs, traffic light, slip lining and the levee loop.

Borough Manager Report
February 17th, 2026

Meetings

Pelham/Check-In	February 3rd
PennDOT/Kevin O'Donnell	February 5th
Ice Jam Seminar/PEMA	February 5th
Delta Development Funding Status Meeting	February 6th
Sarah/Pocono Chamber	February 6th
SARP Executive Committee	February 9th
County Commissioners	February 9th
Downtown Stroudsburg Meeting	February 10th
Denny/Paving & Slip Lining Projects	February 10th
America250 Ad-Hoc Committee	February 10th
CDBG Grant/Redevelopment & Peters	February 11th
Kia Dealership/Paperwork	February 11th
Blue Communities/Tarah/SROSRC/Downtown	February 11th
Mike/Initial Job Performance Review	February 12th
Congressman Bresnanhan/Appropriations	February 12th
6th Street Business Owners	February 17th
Pelham Advisors/Check-In	February 17th
Alpha Recycling/I-80 Project	February 18th
America250 Ad-Hoc Committee	February 18th
KMIT Trustees Call	February 18th
Pocono COG	February 23rd
Senator McCormack Office/Delta	February 26th
BCRA Utilities Coordination Meeting	February 27th
Pelham Advisors/Check-In	March 3rd
Potential Washington, DC Visit	March 4th – 5th

Infrastructure/Streets/Capital Projects

Quick Build / Main Street Project. Labor & Industry letter for approved Borough Labor; working determination for Mural Artists' hourly wage requirements. Four mural locations approved by property owners. Met with PPG for Thermoplastic Crosswalks; finalizing locations and cost.

Creek Walk Trail. Statewide LSA, DCNR and DCED GTRP Grants submitted. Going forward with the levee portion of the trail with awarded grant funds. Awaiting approval from DEP and Corps of Engineers; then we can go out to bid. Hoping to do work in 2026.

Parking Garage Repair/Rehabilitation. Contract and Bonds received. Work in Spring 2026.

Levee Erosion Mitigation. Emplacing rip rap on the Brodhead Creek side of the levee to stop erosion. DCED Flood Mitigation Grant submitted. Work in 2026.

Paving 2026. CDBG Project (Kramer Avenue) now in Spring 2026.

Grants Strategy 2024-25

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.

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. Submitted. For Business Improvement Grants.

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

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

PennDOT Automated Red Light Enforcement Program (ARLE). Received $483,565. Project in 2027. For Park & Broad Streets traffic signal.

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.

RACP Grant. Scope approved by DCED. Preparing PMP Report. Going out to bid.

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

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

KMIT/Workers Comp Insurance

Two visits scheduled from Keystone Risk Management in 2026 due to still being considered higher risk due to past claims. On a separate issue, I was potentially offered a seat on KMIT's Board of Directors.

Borough Funds Investment in CDs

Waiting for responses from PGLIT and ESSA Bank.

Downtown Visioning/Strategic Planning

Met with Pelham Associates on February 17th. Focus Groups Saturday, March 21st. Survey was distributed through E-Newsletter; postcard to residents going out this week; survey flyers at local businesses; and links on Facebook and Website.

Solid Waste Ordinance

Working on "paper alley" pick-ups.

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 March. Problems of pick-up seem to have been resolved without expanding pick-up schedule to four days from three.

Residential Rental Property Inspections

2025-26 inspections underway.

Monthly E-Newsletters

Winter Newsletter sent out Tuesday, February 10th.

Safety Committee

Safety Training and Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for February.

Borough Newsletter

Winter Newsletter in February.

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.

August Priorities

Main Street Manager Implementation	Downtown Visioning/Strategic Plan
LSA/Main Street Project	Summer Infrastructure Projects Planning

Engineer's Report – No Report

Downtown Manager's Report.
Mr. Moreno stated he is settling into his office; he has upcoming trainings scheduled and will be out of the office. Mr. Moreno has a scheduled call with Pelham Advisors regarding the March 21st Focus Group meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report – No Report

Street Superintendent's Report – No Report

Approval of Bills on Warrants 260217.
A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Shay to approve payment of Bills on Warrants 260217. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items.
Dulce Ridder received a Docusign email from Mr. Abell on February 6th and was unable to open it; she asked what the document was and if Mr. Abell sent it. Mr. Abell advised his email was hacked.

Carron Bartholomew, Executive Director of Community Options, Inc. introduced herself. She explained this organization provides community-based residential and employment support services to individuals with disabilities living in the areas including Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg, and Scotrun. The office is located at 117 Rose Street, Scotrun, PA; 570-290-8514.

Jessica Delfino suggested having a public restroom map available. Any business can log themselves on the map indicating they have a public restroom. Ms. Delfino and Jody Singer have discussed having monthly meetings for artists and entertainers, similar to the Downtown Business meetings. Ms. Delfino reported that Ellen Phraner, who takes care of the Bryant Street Park, is ill. Ms. Delfino has been recruited to find volunteers for the park. Ms. McCabe suggested the Monroe County Library; a lot of the librarians are gardeners and can direct Ms. Delfino.

Michael Shroeder reported cardboard was not collected again. Mr. Shroeder recommended for transparency reasons, the Borough Manager should list the grants that have been applied for so community members are aware. Ms. McCabe said the Borough should add grants that have been received to the website and social media.

Executive Session.
A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to move into Executive Session at 9:15am. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to move from Executive Session to the regular meeting at 9:20pm. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Adjournment.
A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Joubert to adjourn at 9:20pm. The motion was carried. (6-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).