STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 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: 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 Executive Assistant Becky Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on January 20, 2026
The minutes of the regular meeting on January 20, 2026 were approved on a motion made by Mr. Shay, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Old Business
A discussion to appoint a Mayor with a term ending December 31, 2027 was held. The following five individuals provided a letter of interest and were present at the January 20, 2026 meeting for consideration: Brianna Farnbaugh, Michael Schroder, Felix Betran, Kerri Manning, and Ellen Currie. These five candidates were present at this meeting and spoke a few words about themselves.

A motion was made by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Abell to appoint Michael Schroder as Mayor with a term ending December 31, 2027. The motion failed. (2-yes, Mr. Shay, Mr. Abell; 4-no, Ms. DeVries, Ms. McCabe, Ms. Joubert, Ms. Crawford-Braun; 1-abstain, Mr. Christman)

A motion was made by Ms. Crawford-Bruan, seconded by Ms. DeVries to appoint Ellen Currie as Mayor with a term ending December 31, 2027. The motion was carried. (5-yes, Ms. Joubert, Ms. Crawford-Braun, Ms. DeVries, Ms. McCabe, Mr. Abell; 1-no, Mr. Shay; 1-abstain, Mr. Christman)

Ms. McCabe administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Currie, who then joined the meeting as the Mayor. Ms. Currie submitted her residency affidavit.

There was a short recess.

New Business
A motion was made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve hiring David Miller as a full-time Parking Enforcement Officer, effective January 28, 2026 at an hourly rate of $22.17, as outlined in the Borough's Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

There was a discussion about the Borough of Stroudsburg's Keystone Artwork for America250. Ms. Crawford-Braun passed out three options for consideration. Two pieces were created by Jill Swersie, and one piece was created by a local high school student. After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve the two-pane piece of art

created by Jill Swersie, and have Ms. Swersie add at least one Stroudsburg Snowman to the piece. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

An application was received from the Stroudsburg School District for an electronic message sign to be installed in front of Stroudsburg High School at 1100 West Main Street. Superintendent Dr. Curry, Principal Mr. Sodl, and Fast Signs owner Mike Woodland were present to discuss their application. The existing static sign requires manual letter changes, limiting the school's ability to share timely information. An electronic message board would improve the communication capabilities with students and parents and would allow the school to support downtown events and activities. An additional advantage of the change is providing members of the community who do not have social media the ability to stay connected with the school and community events. Mr. Stohl advised they would like the sign to be installed by graduation in June, in the same spot as the existing sign. Mr. Woodland advised the double-sided sign will be designed to be illuminated but not overly bright. It can be programmed to have lights dimmed at a certain time or an option to shut the sign off for a period of time. Currently, the Borough Ordinance allows these types of signs in the Industrial Zoning District; the school is located within the MU-B Zoning District. Solicitor Brown advised the current ordinance can be revised to permit electronic message board signs as a conditional use in the MU-B Zoning District. This process involves a public hearing for council's approval. A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Shay to amend the Zoning Ordinance to permit electronic message board signs as a Conditional Use in the MU-B Zoning District. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

There was a discussion about the conservatorship proceedings against the 558 North 5th Street property. The Borough can begin conservatorship against the property with the Borough making necessary repairs and adding a lien to the property. If the Borough is appointed as conservator, it will be required to put out a bid for the work and to use existing Borough funds or a bank loan. As an alternative, Solicitor Brown contacted the Redevelopment Authority who could be appointed as the conservator. The Borough would need to acquire an estimate of the repair costs without having a contractor on site since the property is still in the current owner's possession. The work can be performed by a reputable, local contractor without the job going out for bid. Mr. Brown added that the citation process has moved forward with the Magistrate, which prompted a call from the property owner's lawyer. The owner would like to enter an agreement to do the work themselves. A court date has been set; Solicitor Brown recommends the Borough negotiates with the attorneys to prevent using conservatorship and to move ahead with repairs quickly. The Borough should still obtain the estimate for repairs in order to proceed in a timely manner depending on what happens in court. A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to seek an estimate of repairs for 558 North 5th Street in order to bring the property up to code. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 1-no, Mr. Shay; 0-abstain)

A Special Event Application was received from The Happy Hour Bar and Grill to host their Fifth Annual Street Festival on Saturday May 16, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ms. McCabe requested two Parking Enforcement Officers be on duty that day to police the area of the festival and to enforce parking violations. Concerns about the ending time of the festival and the Borough's noise ordinance were discussed. Mr. Kopp will be in touch with Eric Scelza of The Happy Hour to advise him of the noise ordinance and request that music and any other noise end by 10:00 p.m. A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve a Special Event Application from The Happy Hour Bar and Grill for their Fifth Annual Street Festival on Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. All fees and the certificate of insurance have been submitted. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve the Annual Levee Loop Trail Run Fundraiser hosted by the Stroud Region Open Space & Recreation Commission on Saturday, June 6, 2026 along the Stroudsburg Borough's portion of the levee. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Ms. McCabe to authorize the purchase of a 2025 Kia K4 LXS Sedan from Abeloff Auto Group, COSTARS Contract 026-E23-236, for $24,979.53. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to authorize the promotion of Jamie Frailey to a Municipal Worker as of Wednesday, February 3, 2026, at a rate of $27.80 per hour as outlined in the Borough's Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Committee Reports

Codes Committee – Mr. Abell reported the committee discussed the potential Real Estate Transfer Ordinance, the potential Vape Shop Ordinance, the 558 N. 5th Street property and the best practices regarding snow removal, which Mr. Abell will discuss with the Streets Committee. Ms. McCabe requested a Snow Emergency Map that can be shared with Mehmet Barzev and on social media. The next meeting is February 25th at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Budget Committee – No report.

Parking Committee – Ms. McCabe advised 30 Safety Sticks are on order which will be installed on the 700 Block of Main, 500 Block of Main, 600 Block of Monroe, and other places near the Mosque on Third Street. The fire lane on Quaker Alley will be getting Safety Sticks, but first a letter needs to be sent to the County to remind them that there is no parking, no stopping, or no standing in the fire lane. All residents who have had handicapped parking spaces at their residences have been contacted to confirm if the spaces are still necessary. Four handicapped spaces have been removed. Going forward, it is required for residents to annually certify their handicapped spaces. Ms. McCabe reminded the public to shovel out nearby fire hydrants when it snows; this allows the Fire Department to easily identify their locations and will provide quick and easy access during an emergency. Ms. McCabe thanked Brian Ace for his department's hard work during this past snow storm. The next meeting is Monday, February 23rd at 5:15 p.m.

Recycling Committee – The next meeting is March 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

Sewer Committee – No report.

Street Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, February 18th at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Personnel Committee – No report.

Public Relations/Media Committee – Ms. McCabe reported the committee discussed accessibility on the website; creating a website mapping sub-committee for which Ms. Crawford-Braun volunteered; and potentially utilizing an app. Mr. Moreno is now the co-chair of the PR Committee. The 2026 Summer Concert Series budget and band schedule is being worked on. Mr. Schroder recommended a letter be sent to residents to remind them of the correct trash collection day (Wednesday), as he notices trash cans out on Monday nights. The next meeting is Thursday, January 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Redevelopment Committee – Mr. Abell advised the committee is scheduled to meet with the Monroe County Commissioners.

I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – Jessica Delfino advised two appeals have been made to the Environmental Hearing Board and legal representation is being sought by the committee for these hearings. Ms. Delfino discussed properties being acquired by PennDOT by emanate domain. Mr. Kopp has an old list of properties affected and will contact PennDOT for an updated list. An Army Corp of Engineers permit was issued, which the committee is planning to appeal.

Parks and Rec (SROSRC) Committee – The reorganization meeting was held.

Junior Council Committee – The committee discussed opportunities for Emilie Protsko to job shadow Borough employees in April.

Mental Health Committee – Ms. Crawford-Braun is coordinating mental health and first aid training for Borough employees with Mr. Kopp and also wishes to update the website with resource information.

Council Member Reports

Mr. Shay asked why the Borough does not have plow drivers on standby similar to how PennDOT does. Brian Ace advised the Borough employees are members of the union and would not be approved. The staff worked split 12-hour shifts to allow for rest. However, E.F. Possinger is the Borough's emergency contact if a crisis should arise.

Ms. McCabe discussed microphones and cameras that show council and the audience. Mr. Abell would like to look into a coordinated microphone system and microphones in the back of the room, microphones that react with a camera to show the audience when speaking, and a lectern. Mr. Shay suggested having two lecterns. Brandon Crawford-Braun of 505 Bryant Street advised he works for a design firm that does pro bono work for non-profit organizations; he will provide Mr. Kopp with his email. Council agrees to direct Mr. Kopp to research microphone and camera systems.

Mr. Abell received an email from a company who provides free newsletters, which would potentially save Mr. Kopp time. Mr. Kopp will contact the company for further information. Council members are encouraged to send Mr. Kopp ideas for articles to be added to the newsletters. It was suggested to add a summary of recent ordinance changes.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Brown provided an update on the one-acre subdivision/conveyance for the AWSOM animal shelter expansion that was approved by Council in April 2025. Since the land was acquired by a state grant, state approval was required for the transaction. The state has approved this and Mr. Brown will provide the Borough with the deed for signature.

The Main Street Matters non-profit board is registered and authorized by the state; selecting board members is the next step.

Manager's Report

Pelham Advisors will hold a focus group for Council and business owners on Saturday, March 21; Mr. Kopp asked if morning or afternoon worked best for Council Members. The consensus is for a morning meeting; any residents interested in attending please contact Mr. Kopp.

Borough Manager Report
February 3rd, 2026

Meetings

Parking Officer Interview	January 20th
Parking Officer Interview	January 20th
Pelham/Check-In	January 20th
Chris Barrett/Downtown Manager	January 20th
Comprehensive Plan Review	January 21st
Stroudsburg Non-Uniformed Pension Board Mtg	January 21st
Parking Officer Interview	January 22nd
Inclement Weather Webinar/Wiles Weather	January 22nd
Delta Development Funding Status Meeting	January 23rd
Recycling Coordinators Meeting	January 28th
Fybr Parking Meeting	January 28th
Kia Dealership/New Parking Vehicle	January 30th
Nissan Dealership/New Parking Vehicle	January 30th
Pelham/Check-In	February 3rd
PennDOT/Kevin O'Donnell	February 5th
Ice Jam Seminar/PEMA	February 5th
Delta Development Funding Status Meeting	February 6th
County Commissioners	February 9th
Downtown Stroudsburg Meeting	February 10th
America250 Ad-Hoc Committee	February 10th

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, Conservation District approved Erosion & Sediment Control Plan.

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

Not Funded USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Grant. Submitted.

Not Funded 2024 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant. Submitted. For Five Points Roundabout.

Not Funded DCED's Flood Mitigation Program. Submitted. Grant amount of $84,991.

Not Funded DCED Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program. Submitted. For Stroudsburg Creek Walk Project.

Not Funded USDOT Safe Streets for All. Submitted. Stroudsburg Vision Zero Plan for Main Street

Not Funded Monroe County Hotel Tax Allocation. Submitted. For Placer AI subscription.

Not Funded 2024 Statewide LSA Grant. For Creek Walk Trail & Footbridge. Submitted to DCED.

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.

PennDOT Automated Red Light Enforcement Program (ARLE). Received pre-application approval from PennDOT. Submitted. For Park & Broad Streets traffic signal.

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.

2025 DCED PA Small Water & Sewer Program. Submitted. Received $200,000. 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.

Borough Funds Investment in CDs

Received rates from Wayne Bank; less than current ESSA rates. Waiting for responses from PGLIT and ESSA Bank.

Parking Enforcement Officer Opening

Hiring of David Miller as FT Parking Enforcement Officer is on the Agenda this evening.

Downtown Visioning/Strategic Planning

Met with Pelham Associates on February 3rd. Interviews complete. Focus Groups Saturday, March 21st. Draft survey to go out through various media in February: hard copy to residents and links on Facebook and Website.

Solid Waste Ordinance

Working on locating and securing and remaining Casella carts; snowstorm slowed down process. 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. Recycling Meeting with the Waste Authority of Monroe County on January 28th.

Residential Rental Property Inspections

2025-26 inspections underway.

Monthly E-Newsletters

Winter Newsletter in February.

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

Engineer's Report

No report.

Zoning/Codes Officer Report

No report.

Street Superintendent's Report

Mr. Ace thanked his crew for doing a great job during the last snowstorm. There are only nine employees in that department which makes it tough; they worked 12-hour shifts and had a lot of breakdowns but no one complained and they got it done. 822 loads of snow were removed from streets the week following the storm.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 260203

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve the payment of bills on Warrants 260203. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain) Mr. Shay requested Mr. Kopp send him an email with the rationale of splitting invoices between funds.

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items

Michelle Riegel expressed concern about Lower Main Street which she says gets neglected; Mr. Kopp advised the Borough is receiving grants that will help for visual improvements along that

stretch of road. Cherise Decker reported ice on a Seventh Street sidewalk which is coming from a drain on the building and asked if any enforcement is being done. Mr. Kopp stated the Borough cited a lot of properties. Robert Llopis stated 712 Thomas Street is not shoveled at all; Mr. Kopp advised that property is currently for sale and the Borough is in touch with the property manager. Mr. Llopis asked the status of Waste Management collecting trash in the alley behind Thomas Street, Mr. Kopp stated he is working with them to hopefully find a solution. Jessica Delfino announced Comedy Fest will be held October 8 through 10, 2026, with approximately 500 submissions. Joanne Kochanski suggested looking into a borough-wide notification system to provide residents with announcements; Brianna Farnbaugh mentioned residents can opt in for text, emails, or phone calls through the Code Red program.
Ms. Farnbaugh reported employees from the 701 Main Street building are copying parking passes and using them in the municipal lots illegally. Ms. McCabe will have Parking Secretary Robin Wall look into this complaint.

Executive Session
None.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)