STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 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 February 17, 2026
The minutes of the regular meeting on February 17, 2026 were approved on a motion made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 1-abstain, Ms. DeVries)

Old Business
At the February 17, 2026 Council Meeting, there was a discussion to consider approving 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. At that time, a motion was made to extend the deadline until March 31, 2026, requiring the applicants or representatives of the Shanti House, LLC, appear at a Council meeting by March 31, 2026, or the request will be denied.

There were no representatives of the Shanti House, LLC present at this meeting, therefore, a motion was made by Mr. Shay, seconded by Ms. McCabe to deny the 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 deny granting an extension until February 28, 2027 to render its decision on the Shanti House project. 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 releasing the paving bond for Little Bethel AME Church, 113 North 3rd Street. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A Resolution of the Borough of Stroudsburg Council to adopt a fee for the return of shopping carts was discussed. The Department of Public Works collects shopping carts left on Borough property and stores them at their yard, which has the capacity to hold about 100 carts. The carts are then loaded and delivered to the respective store (typically WalMart in East Stroudsburg). Brian Ace estimates 20 to 25 carts per week are collected. The current shopping cart return fee is $10 per cart. This resolution would increase the fee to $30 per cart, the same fee as East Stroudsburg Borough. Having the same fees would make enforcement from both boroughs more uniform. Mr. Shay stated the carts are approximately $500 a piece to purchase and does not think a $30 return fee is enough. Ms. McCabe is in favor of the $30 fee, as the objective is to remove the carts from Borough property. The Borough would receive less than $30 if the carts

were taken to a scrap yard. A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Christman to adopt a Resolution of the Borough of Stroudsburg Council to adopt a fee of $30 for the return of shopping carts. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 1-no, Mr. Shay; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Ms. Joubert to approve the request from Nicole Elwood to hold a free Meditation for Peaceful Progress to the public in Bryant Park on Saturday, March 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

There was a discussion to approve auto body repairs on a vehicle owned by Peyton Falkenstein in the amount of $3,419.20 due to water damage on the lower level of the Borough Parking Garage. Ms. Falkenstein is a permit holder in the lower lot and leaks from the deteriorating parking deck damaged her car's paint on its hood, bumper, and quarter panel. She received one estimate from Tim's Auto Body in Stroudsburg in the amount of $3,419.20. Small claims such as this are not worth submitting to the Borough's insurance carrier, as it is probable that the premiums will increase. Ms. Joubert would like more information, including the year of the vehicle and its condition prior to the alleged water damage; also she does not think the damage occurred overnight and asked if the car was parked in that spot for a length of time. She is worried that this will set a precedent for others in the Borough who seek reimbursement for issues. Ms. Crawford-Braun suggested creating an ordinance to clarify and outline the Borough's reimbursement policy. Mr. Shay asked why this would not be covered by the individual's auto insurance. Mr. Christman advised that the Borough charges permit holders for the lot, therefore believes the Borough is responsible for damages. Solicitor Brown stated the individual's insurance would most likely turn to the Borough for payment. Mr. Kopp stated the parking garage has been closed off to vehicles due to recent issues, however this request for reimbursement was received prior to the closure. The Borough received grant money for the parking garage repairs, which will occur this spring. Mr. Abell directed Mr. Kopp to email Ms. Falkenstein to confirm the space number or spot occupied when damage occurred, confirm if the vehicle was stored in the garage or moved daily, and advise her to obtain an estimate from a second local garage. The Borough should obtain a third estimate and coordinate with Ms. Falkenstein to have her vehicle at the garage once the location is determined (Pocono Motion and Ninth Street Garage were suggested). Mr. Peters should confirm damage is consistent with existing conditions once the parking space that was occupied is known. A motion was made by Ms. Mccabe, seconded by Ms. Joubert to table this request pending further review. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to advertise a Public Hearing on April 21, 2026 for the consideration of an Ordinance of the Borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, amending the Borough Zoning Ordinance to define tobacco retail use and provide for the regulation thereof. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 1-no, Mr. Shay; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve the Special Event Application for the 2026 Monroe County Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 1, 2026 with a rain date of Sunday, November 8, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., contingent upon receiving an updated Certificate of Insurance. 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, problem properties including 558 N. 5th Street, and he submitted draft revisions to the sidewalk ordinance. The next meeting is March 25th at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Budget Committee – No report.

Parking Committee – Ms. McCabe reported the committee discussed:
* Jury passes are good for any lot or meter with the exception of the 500 block, 600 block and 700 blocks on Main Street; tickets are issued if they do not follow the jury selection map; cost of jury passes will increase to be in line with current parking fees. Council should decide if license plates will be assigned to juror passes to eliminate misuse of such passes.
* Fees for parking meter bags will increase to be in line with current parking fees; currently the daily fee for a single-meter bag is $10 and $20 for a double-meter bag.
* The reserved parking space for Domestic Relations on Monroe Street will be increased from $992 to $2808 annually, to be in line with current parking fees.
Mr. Shay asked if there has been any discussion for the county to utilize the empty lot on N. 6th Street for juror parking. Mr. Abell stated that the Redevelopment Committee has met twice with the county and offered a long-term lease for the lot and paving improvements at the Borough's expense, however the county is not interested. The lot should be taxable since it is not being used for a specific purpose. The next Parking Committee meeting is Monday, March 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 – Mr. Abell reported the committee discussed crosswalks in the Borough, and speed tables around the Ramsey School. Mr. Shay asked if the school district will be adding flashing school-zone lights around Ramsey School. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 18th at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

Public Relations/Media Committee – Ms. McCabe reported the Ad Hoc Concert Committee met February 24 and March 3. Ms. McCabe thanked Adam Courtney for donating his tent, stage, and time for the past five years to the concert series. The committee discussed band rates, reminding everyone the information is public, and amounts paid should be in line with one another. The parameters of local bands were defined. The 2026 concert series will be eight weeks, with two rain dates. Tom Graham will continue as the graphic designer, and Minute Man will be the printing company. Also discussed was hiring a sound manager and stagehand, possibility of porta potties, and the possibility of having a food truck. Ms. McCabe announced this is the tenth year of the concerts, with her having only missed two shows! She thanked Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau for their advertising and thanked Michael Moreno for being her right hand.

Pick Up the Poconos is April 25; Ms. McCabe encouraged all of Council to participate.

The 250 Keystone Artwork unveiling event will be Sunday, April 19 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the firehouse, 700 Sarah Street. Mocktails will be available through Serve 570.

There was a lengthy discussion about the television show. Two additional proposals were received from production companies. Mr. Abell read aloud an outline of questions he created to consider when deciding on what the TV show should look like. Pelham Advisors should be part of the discussion to give their direction for the show and the overhaul of the Borough's website. Mr. Moreno encourages council members to compile a list of questions as Mr. Abell did, using the proposals as a guide. There is a Concert AdHoc meeting on March 10 at 5:15 p.m. and there will not be a TV Show meeting until additional feedback from Council is provided.

The next meeting is Thursday, March 26th at 6:00 p.m.

Redevelopment Committee – Mr. Abell reported the committee discussed the county-owned vacant lot and old jail; and the two vacant lots on Main Street.

I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – Jessica Delfino advised the committee let appeal go (Alpha Recycling), and are currently working on the second one themselves as no legal representation has volunteered their services.

Parks and Rec (SROSRC) Committee – Ms. McCabe announced the Stroud Greenway Soiree is on March 19th, 6:00 p.m. at the Willowtree Inn Restaurant and encourages council members to attend as this event supports the park systems. Donations are being accepted for the silent auction and balloon pop during the event. The community center building is not in good condition and they are looking to move.

Junior Council Committee – The committee discussed opportunities for Emilie Protsko to job shadow Borough employees in April. Mayor Currie will be at the Stroudsburg High School on Friday to provide information to eligible students who are interested in becoming a Junior Council Member. High school students and full-time college students who are Stroudsburg Borough residents are encouraged to contact Ms. Currie or Ms. Crawford-Braun for Junior Council Member application. The next meeting is May 4th at 5:00 p.m.

Mental Health Committee – Ms. Crawford-Braun reported the Dominique Leap of Carbon Monroe Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services is compiling a list of resources to be available on the Borough's website. The committee will have a table with such resources at the America 250 Mocktails on Main event.

America 250 Committee – Ms. Crawford-Braun reported the following events are planned for America 250 celebrations: Mocktails on Main, June 6; America 250 Parade, July 4; Heroes Dinner, date TBD.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Currie provided her letter of intent to perform marriages; she attended the 2-day PSAB Boot Camp training; she will read to Ramsey students as part of National Read Across America week; she will attend a project overview meeting at the YMCA; and will attend the Legislative Luncheon on March 10.

Council Member Reports

Ms. Crawford-Braun and Ms. Currie will volunteer at the Meals on Wheels on March 25. Ms. McCabe suggested the Borough get ahead of Data Center ordinances, Mr. Abell will discuss in the Codes Committee meeting. Mr. Shay wrote a letter to Rosemary Brown with his opinion that data centers should provide their own electricity and adhere to DEP standards for water discharge; he has yet to hear back.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Brown advised he is waiting for the construction easements for the Creek Walk.

Manager's Report

Borough Manager Report
March 3rd, 2026

Meetings

Alpha Recycling/I-80 Project	February 18th
America250 Ad-Hoc Committee	February 18th
KMIT Trustees Call	February 18th
Waste Management/Alley Pick-Ups	February 20th
Pocono COG	February 23rd
Senator McCormack Office/Delta	February 25th
Senator Fetterman Office/Delta	February 26th
Congressman Bresnahan Office/Delta	February 26th
BCRA Utilities Coordination Meeting	February 27th
America 250 Committee	February 27th
SARP Pension Meeting	March 3rd
Text MyGov/Refresh	March 3rd
Pelham Advisors/Check-In	March 3rd
Fybr Follow-Up	March 4th
Delta/Public Funding Status	March 6th
SARP Executive Cmte Meeting	March 9th
Parking Garage/Denny/Contractor	March 9th
Downtown Business Association	March 10th
Borough/BCRA 2026 Projects	March 11th
SARP Commission Meeting	March 11th
Bigbelly (Waste Bins) Stroudsburg Visit	March 12th
Pelham Check-In	March 17th

Infrastructure/Streets/Capital Projects

Quick Build / Main Street Project. Submitted request for one-year extension to 6/30/27. 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. Awaiting approval from DEP and Corps of Engineers; then we can go out to bid. Constructions easements out. Hoping to do work in 2026.

Parking Garage Repair/Rehabilitation. Contract and Bonds received. Meeting w/Contractor 3/9/26.

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. Awaiting approval of bid documents.

Grants Strategy 2026

Congressional Appropriations. Zoom meetings with local and D.C. staff members from Senator's McCormack and Fetterman and Congressman Bresnahan. Proposals due in the next several weeks. For Five Points Roundabout and Borough Building Upgrades/Renovations.

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. 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.

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

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

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. Will discuss with PLGIT and see if they can better these rates.

Downtown Visioning/Strategic Planning

Met with Pelham Associates on March 12th. Focus Groups Saturday, March 21st. Survey was distributed through E-Newsletter and two e-blasts; postcard to residents mailed week of February 23rd; survey flyers at local businesses; and links on Facebook and Website.

Solid Waste Ordinance

Management checked alleyways on 2/26 for feasibility.

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

E-blasts on February 24th and 25th. March E-Newsletter sent out Friday, February 27th.

Safety Committee

Safety Training and Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for March.

Borough Newsletter

Winter/Spring Newsletter in March, to include information on grants.

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

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

Engineer's Report

Mr. Peters reported: the Levee Loop Trail contract documents and plans have been sent to PA DEP for review and approval and the construction easements are still needed; the parking garage rehabilitation is slated to start in the spring, a meeting is set to select colors for the materials; an inspection was performed at 100 N. 9th Street to review the Land Development and Zoning violations; the levee scour project is ready for when grants are received or if it is going to bid; documents are still pending with the Redevelopment Authority for the Kramer Avenue paving project; an Environmental Review needs to be completed by the Redevelopment Authority before the N. 3rd Street paving project can be bid; an inspection of the Stroud Mansion has been performed; the completed CDBG application packet was submitted to the Redevelopment Authority for the McConnell Street paving project slated for 2027.

Downtown Manager's Report

Mr. Moreno reported he attended Downtown Trainings and Forums in Harrisburg last week; the Stroudsburg Downtown Board Meeting is scheduled for March 9; the Focus Group Session hosted by Pelham Advisors is March 21. Mr. Moreno will attend the Pocono Chamber of Commerce 2026 Legislative Luncheon on March 10.

Zoning/Codes Officer Report

Ms. Destefano reported the Planning Commission will meet on Monday, March 9 to review three proposed ordinance changes.

Street Superintendent's Report

No report.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 260303

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Shay to approve the payment of bills on Warrants 260303. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items

Michael Schroder stated he just received a postcard today from the Borough about a survey with a due date of March 1. Mr. Abell would like to include an app like Savvy Citizen or Text My Gov in the 2027 budget for communications.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to move into Executive Session at 9:03 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The motion was carried. (7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe to move from Executive Session to the regular meeting at 9:14 p.m. The motion was carried. (7-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)