STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – MAY 5, 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 Pro-Tem J. Zac Christman, Council Member Cheryl Joubert, Council Member Victoria DeVries, and Council Member Claire Crawford-Braun.

Also present were: Mayor Ellen Currie, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Junior Council Member Emilie Protsko, Borough Solicitor Christopher Brown, Esq., Downtown Manager Michael Moreno, and Executive Assistant Becky Smith. Council Vice-President Erica McCabe, Council Member Joseph Shay, Street Superintendent Brian Ace, and Zoning/Codes Officer Kenelle DeStefano were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing – Conditional Use Approval of an Electronic Message Sign, Stroudsburg Area High School, 1100 W. Main Street, Stroudsburg PA

A public hearing was held to consider the application of 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.

As per the Chapter 27 of the Zoning Ordinance to permit electronic message board signs as a conditional use in the MU-B Zoning District, the Borough Council shall hear and decide requests for conditional uses in accordance with standards established in this chapter. At its April 13, 2026 meeting, the Stroudsburg Borough Planning Commission recommended Borough Council grant approval of this conditional use, with no additional conditions beyond those in the zoning ordinance. Solicitor Brown had three exhibits to enter into evidence: B1 – Application for Conditional Use Hearing from Stroudsburg School District; B2 – Proof of Publication; and B3 – Recommendation Letter from the Stroudsburg Borough's Zoning Office.

Michael Woodland, owner of Fast Signs in Easton, was sworn in. Mr. Woodland advised the current sign at Stroudsburg High School is a changeable letter box. The school district would like to change the sign to a pre-programable digital sign in order to easily make the community aware of the many events hosted at the school. All conditions set forth in the Borough's zoning ordinance have been addressed and the sign will be in compliance. Mr. Woodland will be able to remotely make any changes immediately, if necessary. The settings of the sign can be locked in and not able to be over-ridden. The sign will not play video or any motion, and each message will appear for two minutes. The current box sign is brighter than the new digital sign will be.

The aforementioned Conditional Use Application was approved on a motion made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. DeVries, with the condition that the sign remains in compliance with sections 809, 811, and 812 of the Zoning Ordinance. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Crawford-Braun to close the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on April 21, 2026

The minutes of the regular meeting on April 21, 2026 were approved on a motion made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Ms. Joubert. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Old Business
None.

New Business
Consideration to discuss hiring a second PT Employee at Twin Boroughs Recycling Center was on the agenda; this will be discussed in Executive Session at the end of this meeting as a personnel item.

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Joubert to approve a free, Borough-wide yard sale on Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 23 through Monday, May 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve the Special Event Application for the 2026 Pocono Irish American Festival on Saturday, September 12, 2026. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A request from the Pocono Irish American Club was received for free metered parking through all of Stroudsburg Borough during the Irish American Festival on September 12, 2026. As per the Special Event Policy, free parking will not be approved for any events aside from those parking spaces contained within the enclosed event area itself; Council may approve limited prohibited metered parking as warranted for safe functioning of event only, not for the convenience of attendees. A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Joubert to deny the request from the Pocono Irish American Club for free parking throughout the Borough during the Pocono Irish American Festival on Saturday, September 12, 2026. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Joubert to approve hanging the Greater Pocono Relay for Life Purple Flags along Main Street for the month of June 2026, and waiving the $275 flag installation fee, as requested by the organization. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Committee Reports
Codes Committee – Mr. Abell reported the committee will discuss Data Center Ordinances, parking requirements on Lower Main Street, and renovations done without required permits or HARB approval. The next meeting is May 27 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Budget Committee – No report.

Parking Committee – Mr. Christman reported that Monroe County did not renew the Domestic Relations reserved parking space on Monroe Street for this year.

Recycling Committee – Mr. Kopp reported the committee discussed the 902 Grant and he is working on obtaining more quotes from banks to finance the office trailer. The next meeting is June 22 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 – There is an item for Executive Session.

Public Relations/Media Committee – Mr. Christman reported that Ms. McCabe and Adam Courtney will announce the Concert Series performers on Poco 103 Radio Wednesday morning. The next meeting is Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Redevelopment Committee – Mr. Abell reported the committee will discuss parking requirements on Lower Main Street, and the two vacant lots on Main Street. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m.
I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – No report.

Parks and Rec (SROSRC) Committee – Mr. Moreno reported the Levee Loop is June 6, and volunteers are needed.

Junior Council Committee – Junior Council Member Emilie Protsko reported that she job shadowed Downtown Manager Michael Moreno, Executive Assistant Becky Smith, Jessica Delfino of Representative Probst's office, and attended a Safety Meeting at the Control Center. Ms. Protsko is graduating with her Master's Degree from ESU on May 8, and was just hired at Newman Williams Law Firm – congratulations, Emilie! The next meeting is Monday, June 1 at 5:00 p.m.

Mental Health Committee – The next meeting is Friday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m.

America250 Committee – Ms. Crawford-Braun reported a $5,000 grant has been secured, thanks to Jessica Delfino's efforts. The grant funds will be used to host the Heroes Dinner on Monday, July 20 at Stroudsburg High School. An RFP for catering the dinner will be sent; volunteers to be on the judge panel are being contacted; and the committee will be calling for nominations soon. A volunteer element involving clean up and/or beautification in the Borough must occur on July 20, as per the grant requirements. The committee will clean up litter along Main Street on the morning of July 20. Mocktails on Main will be held on June 6, with 10 participating establishments.

Mayors Report
Mayor Currie will attend Congressman Bresnahan's visit to the Borough on Friday, May 8; Go Collaborative is hosting a Bridge Painting on May 9 (rain date May 16), painting balusters on the Route 80 overpass Red, White, and Blue. Participants will meet at the Pocono Ambulatory Center at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Currie will be on "My Little Town" with Gary Cee on May 11; she and Mr. Kopp have a meeting with Rosemary Brown on May 13.

Council Member Reports
No reports.

Solicitor's Report
Solicitor Brown reported the final plans for the AWSOM animal shelter project are currently being drawn up. The plans and the deed will then be executed.

Manager's Report

Borough Manager Report
May 5th, 2026

Meetings

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
America 250 Committee Meeting	April 29th
Webinar/DOT RTO Grant	April 29th
PEMA Flood Disaster Recovery Workshop	April 30th
Monroe Historical Association Grand Re-Opening	May 1st
Delta Development Status Meeting	May 1st
US DOT/Stroudsburg Projects	May 6th
Congressman Bresnahan Visit to Stroudsburg	May 8th
Downtown Stroudsburg Business Association	May 12th
Pelham Check-In	May 12th
Enterprise Leasing Fleet Analysis	May 13th
Senator Brown/Mayor Meeting	May 13th
Yard Sale Bryant Park	May 13th
Happy Hour Street Fest	May 13th
DEP Flood Protection Workshop	May 18th – 19th
Denny/Traffic Calming Thomas Street	May 19th

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 began on April 29th. 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. Submitted streets and linear feet to vendor.

Transforming Main Street Initiative/Engineering. Webinar on April 29th. Waiting on signed contract to go forward. May be able to use Borough Engineer for design.

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 to discuss. Senator's McCormack and Fetterman submitted, waiting for results. For Five Points Roundabout and Borough Building Upgrades/Renovations.

USDOT Safe Streets and Roads. Planning grant for safety studies. Due May 26th. Resubmission of 2025 request.

DCED Flood Mitigation Program. For needed levee repairs. Due May 31st.

DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program. For Rotary Park improvements. Due May 31st.

2026 DCNR Grant C2P2 Grant. Submitted April 30th, 2026. For Rotary Park improvements.

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. Should know by May/June if we are funded.

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.

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

Stroudsburg Visit Congressman Bresnahan

Visit scheduled for Friday, May 8th, 12:00 pm – 1:30/2:00 pm. Visit Borough Building, several businesses, Five Points and walk Main Street.

Loans for Street Sweeper and Trailer for Twin Boroughs Recycling

Received second proposal for streetsweeper, 5-Year, 5.68% interest. ESSA for both items: 4.76% fixed rate over 60 months. Working on a third proposal for street sweeper, second for trailer.

Big Belly Waste Receptacles

Grant request to PMVB for maintenance on cans. Working on cleaning and removing graffiti this week.

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.

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 it is not worth the effort to move them to another institution.

Downtown Visioning/Strategic Planning

Received our proposed strategies and implementation as well as transformational strategies. Working on Strategic Plan.

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

May E-Newsletter out next week.

Safety Committee

Safety Training and Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for May.

Borough Newsletter

Summer 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

No report.

Downtown Manager's Report

Mr. Moreno reported the downtown brochure is coming along; 19 more businesses are needed to make it work financially. 30,000 copies of the brochure will be distributed to four counties, and will be at the Welcome Center, all of Forest & Sons brochure racks, Main Street businesses, and PMVB Centers. The 16-page brochure highlights Stroudsburg's major events, markets the business district, and includes a pullout map; interested businesses should contact Michael Moreno.

Zoning/Codes Officer Report

Absent.

Street Superintendent's Report

Absent.

Informational Item: Spring Clean Up is Saturday, June 6th, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 260505

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the payment of bills on Warrants 260505. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items

Pete Begley would like to plan a Columbus Day Celebration on October 11 in Courthouse Square; Mr. Abell referred Mr. Begley to the Borough's Special Event Policy and Application and encouraged him to utilize a smaller space for a first-time event.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. DeVries to move into Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. The motion was carried. (5-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Crawford-Braun to move from Executive Session to the regular meeting at 8:37. The motion was carried. (5-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. DeVries. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)