STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 1, 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 King, Council Pro-Tem J. Zac Christman, Council Member Cheryl Joubert, Council Member Victoria DeVries, Council Member Claire Crawford-Braun, and Council Member Robert Llopis.

Also present were: Mayor Ellen Currie, Borough Solicitor Christopher Brown, Esq., Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Downtown Manager Michael Moreno, Street Superintendent Brian Ace, Kathleen Brady of Peters Consultants, Executive Assistant Becky Smith, Junior Council Members Anthony Conongo, Brooke Henning, Fafa Abba, and John McBride.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on August 18, 2026
The minutes of the regular meeting on August 18, 2026 were tabled on a motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Christman. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Discussion regarding the recent Main Street incident:
Chief Lyon and Lieutenant Cohowicz were present and provided a brief overview of the August 29th Main Street: *On Saturday 8/29/26 the Stroud Area Regional Police received three (3) 911 calls for a blue sports car doing "donuts" at the intersection of Main and 7th streets in the Borough of Stroudsburg between 11:49 – 11:50 pm. Eight (8) additional 911 calls were also received regarding loud music and noise issues due to the large crowd in the area. The first responding Officer arrived in the area at 11:58 pm. The Officer then stopped at the Main/ 7th street intersection and began observing the crowd/vehicles in the area. The Officer then conducted a traffic stop on 2 vehicles at 12:08 am issuing citations. Additional Officers arrived on scene at 12:08 am, and continued to monitor people in the area until approximately 3:00 am. No other incidents requiring police intervention occurred.*

The SARPD is investigating the incident involving the "blue sport car doing donuts" and any other vehicles associated with this event. One vehicle appears to be a blue Chevrolet Corvette Stingray, bearing a fictitious NY license plate "MAFIA". Anyone with information on the vehicles or drivers involved or who has independent videos on this incident, is as asked to "submit a tip". All tipsters can remain anonymous or leave contact information for the investigating officer.

The SARPD is aware of all the social media posts circulating online, many of which contain inaccurate information. Officers were on scene within 9 minutes of the original dispatch for the vehicle doing donuts and continued to monitor the area until the crowd dispersed. We are taking this incident very seriously and the investigation is currently ongoing. While "street takeover" type events may be a growing concern nationwide, whether organized or spontaneous, we stand firm in the stance of having zero tolerance for such reckless behavior and stand committed to protect our communities from such irresponsible individuals.

Chief Lyon stated that SARPD is aware of citizens' concerns, and the officers did a good job with the given circumstances. A thorough investigation has been launched, and no details can be released until there is a final resolution to the case.

Mayor Currie stated it was horrific to see the videos that were circulating online, and we cannot let this happen again. A State of Emergency was issued, which was posted Sunday and expires 5:00 a.m. on Friday September 4. Stroudfest is scheduled for Saturday September 5th, with extra officers dedicated to the festival in addition to normal shifts. Mr. Abell stated Borough Officials met with SARPD; extra Quality of Life Patrols were discussed, which will be provided through the week and on weekends in hot spots.

Tarah Probst addressed the public, stating Borough Council had nothing to do with the event or response on Main Street. Stroudsburg Borough is one of three municipalities in SARPD jurisdiction. These unfortunate events happen all over the country, and is not the fault of Stroudsburg Borough, which has no control over SAPRD.

Gregory Apkarian asked if this congregation of people was fueled by liquor, and suggested the Borough create an ordinance for bars to stop selling alcohol by 11:00 p.m. in order to curb the misbehavior.

Keyur Patel of Penn stroud expressed his concerns as an investor in the Borough. Concerns include quality of life failures, recurring noise issues, and public safety. He stated elected officials should have been responsive and asked council to address this issue with urgency.

Jessica Delfino of 762 Bryant Street provided a few suggestions, including tourism alliance, crime watch program, use the Junior Council Members as a resource of happenings within the youth population, and partner with Pocono Raceway and local car dealerships to coordinate a public event in a safer environment.

Junior Council Member Anthony Conongo stated the younger demographics have no where to go and need something to do! Mr. Abell asked Anthony to coordinate with Mr. Moreno and provide ideas and insight for activities.

Michelle Riegel of 540 Main Street stated ESU provides a shuttle bus for students to Main Street. ESU should let SARPD know when and how many students are being transported to this area.

Barry Karasiewicz of 700 Bryant Street, Constable for the Fifth Ward, discussed Title 44 Law and Justice, Statute 7158, regarding powers and duties of a constable. This document was submitted to be added to the Minutes (attached). He believes council needs diversity, which will bring new ideas and conversations to the table.

Councilmember Joubert asked what Quality of Life Patrols means; Chief Lyon stated officers focus on hot spots throughout all three municipalities, above and beyond the patrol officers, to address noise, drinking, and burnouts, as examples. Ms. Joubert asked how long did it take to clear the intersection on August 29; Chief Lyon stated the intersections cleared on their own after the cars were done with their burnouts. The entire incident lasted only nine minutes.

Mr. Abell stated Quality of Life patrols could be a short term response, but would like to discuss an adopt a block or ambassador program. Residents are encouraged to register their doorbells and cameras with SARPD as part of a crime watch program and report incidents to 911 as they occur for officer response.

A recess from 7:54 p.m. to 8:07 p.m. occurred.

Public Hearing for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant Application

Jennifer Petersen, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Monroe, discussed the 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. CDBG is an annual grant program funded by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to localities and states to assist in the development of viable communities. These viable communities are achieved by providing principally for persons of low and moderate-income decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expended economic opportunities. The 2026 CDBG allocation for Stroudsburg Borough is $114,413. At least 70% of the available funding must be used for activities which benefit low- to moderate-income persons. The proposed activities must benefit at least 51% of low- to moderate-income persons in the service area to qualify as a low- to moderate-income project. The deadline to submit applications is October 30, 2026.

Mr. Abell asked if the allocation amount is set or based on the size of the project, to which Ms. Petersen responded the funding is based on a formula at the State level. Ms. Petersen added there are competitive CDBG applications available that she is willing to complete on the Borough's behalf. Applications for the roughly $1 Million funding are due in February and take approximately two to three months to prepare. Mr. Abell expressed interest in this option for future projects.

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

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Joubert to approve a Resolution of the Borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, authorizing the submission of an application for funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) through the Main Street Matters Program for up to $1 Million. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Christman to approve the request from Stroudsburg High School to set off fireworks to celebrate each time Stroudsburg football team scores a touchdown at their home football games on August 28, September 4, October 2, October 8, and October 30. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Danny Younger provided an updated presentation on the Fort Hamiton archeological site. Mr. Younger advised the exact location of Fort Hamilton was found and now relies on professional archologists to continue the digging. Mr. Younger requested Council's consideration to utilize the LSA grant funding for the Fort Hamilton project, which could be momentous for the Borough. No further action was taken at this time.

Committee Reports

Codes Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, September 2 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Budget Committee – No report.

Parking Committee – The next meeting is Monday, September 28 at 5:15 p.m.

Recycling Committee – The next meeting is Monday, September 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Sewer Committee – No report.

Street Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, September 16 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Personnel Committee – No report.

Public Relations/Media Committee – Ms. King reported the committee discussed the media policy, the Facebook page, and a viable Instagram account. The committee suggests the Zoom policy be set at the beginning of each Council meeting. The next meeting is Thursday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Redevelopment Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, September 9 at 4:30 p.m.

I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – Jessica Delfino stated the Fort Hamilton project has the ability to help slow or change the scope of the I-80 project. Ms. Delfino mentioned that PennDOT did not take the Perkins property on West Main Street as initially discussed, and the property owner should be receiving blight fines or at least violations for high grass and weeds.

Parks and Rec (SROSRC) Committee – Ms. King announced upcoming events including Field Day and a Cider Stroll. The committee is working on a universal ordinance to address E-bikes in the parks and trails. Solicitation began to rename rooms in the Community Center, which received $50,000 of grant funds for renovations.

Junior Council Committee – John McBride reported the group painted hopscotch stencils in front of numerous daycare facilities throughout the Borough; Brooke Henning reported the committee will start an Instagram account in order to promote places for the youth of Stroudsburg to visit! The next meeting is Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. in person at Bean & Barrel, or via Zoom.

Mental Health Committee – No report.
America250 Committee – Ms. Crawford-Braun announced the committee will begin planning the November 4th Community Cleanup. The Heroes Dinner will become an annual event, for which sponsors are needed!

Mayors Report
Ms. Currie reported she will attend the soft opening of the Women Veterans Museum on Friday, August 4.

Council Member Reports
No report.

Solicitor's Report
No report.

Manager's Report

Borough Manager Report
September 1st, 2026

Meetings

DEP MS4 Inspection	August 18th
GPR/Dansbury Cemetery	August 18th

Diversified Technology/Updated System	August 19th
Matt/Bike Lanes	August 20th
BCRA/DCED MTF Check-In	August 21st
SARP Pension Board Meeting	August 25th
Pocono COG	August 31st
Fleet Analysis/Enterprise	August 31st
Stroud Fest Coordination Meeting	September 1st
SARP/Main Street Incident	September 1st
Verkada/New Camera Introduction	September 1st
SARPD Formula Meeting	September 1st
Rural and Tribal Assistance Program In-Brief	September 2nd
Initial CBA Negotiation Session	September 2nd
Creative District Meeting	September 3rd
SARP Executive Committee Meeting	September 4th
Women's Veteran's Museum Soft Opening	September 4th
Downtown Business Association	September 8th
DEP/Army Corps of Engineers Levee Inspection	September 10th
Groundbreaking YMCA	September 14th

Infrastructure/Streets/Capital Projects

Quick Build / Main Street Project. One-year extension approved by DCED. Submitted determination for Mural Artists' hourly wage requirements. Going to request an additional extension through Fall 2027.

Creek Walk Trail. Statewide LSA, DCNR and DCED GTRP Grants submitted. Going forward with the levee portion of the trail with awarded grant funds. Working "work around" to avoid having to get easements from UGI and PPL by going through Dansbury cemetery. Approved Ground Penetrating Radar and Wetland Delineation Quotes. Working quote on cemetery repairs.

Parking Garage Repair/Rehabilitation. Work began on April 29th. Change Order approved. Completion date now early November.

Levee Erosion Mitigation. Emplacing rip rap on the Brodhead Creek side of the levee to stop erosion. Working on grants for 2027 completion.

Paving 2026. CDBG Project, Kramer Avenue, complete. 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. Borough projects late Summer-Fall.

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. Stormwater lines funds ($100,000) to be used for cost overrun on Parking Garage Project. Received estimate; going forward in September.

Transforming Main Street Initiative/Engineering. Received signed contract. Effective date of start is 8/24/2026. Kick-off Meeting is scheduled for September 2nd. May be able to use Borough Engineer for design.

Traffic Signal Park Avenue & Broad Street. Received signed contract from PennDOT. Agreement and resolution signed and sent to PennDOT. Working on Bid Packet for PennDOT approval.

Grants Strategy 2026

2026 Monroe LSA Grant. For Dansbury Cemetery repairs/updates. Received estimate, working on application.

Congressional Appropriations. Congressional Appropriation through Congressman Bresnahan approved by Appropriations Committee for inclusion in 2027 Budget. Must be approved by House, Senate and

President. Met with DOT May 6th to discuss. Senator McCormack advanced Congressionally Directed Spending request for Borough Building Upgrades/Renovations to Committee.

2026 DCED Main Street Matters Program. Submitted. For District Development Grant of the Main Street Corridor.

2026 DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund. Submitted for 2027 Project, Thomas Street. With BCRA.

2026 DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund. Submitted. Borough grant. For sidewalk replacement on Main Street Corridor.

USDOT Safe Streets and Roads. Submitted. For safety studies. Resubmission of 2025 request.

DCED Flood Mitigation Program. Submitted. For needed levee repairs.

DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program. Submitted. For Rotary Park improvements.

2026 DCNR Grant C2P2 Grant. Submitted. For Rotary Park improvements.

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

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

Pennsylvania Creative Districts. Letter of Intent accepted. Met with PCA on July 16th to discuss next steps.

2026 PMVB Community Impact Grant. Approved $10,000 request. For Big Belly Trash Receptacle Maintenance and Repair. Work completed; will be working on grant reimbursement.

Monroe County LSA. Approved for $180,000. Parking Meter Replacement. Parking Meters ordered.

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.

Creative District Designation

Visit by Sarah Merritt from PCA August 5th. Meeting of the Advisory Board on September 3rd.

MS4 Inspection/Training

DEP inspection of our MS4 Program August 17th. Public Input Meeting on August 11th. Staff Training rescheduled to date TBD; Council Training scheduled for September 15th.

Big Belly Waste Receptacles

PMVB grant approved for maintenance on cans. Maintenance complete! Cleaning and removing graffiti scheduled to be completed this summer.

Rental Property Registration

Reminder mailing sent out last week. Applications are due by September 1st. Registration this year will include a detailed "scrub" to gain compliance on overdue water, sewer and trash fees as well as property taxes. Ordinance requires that rental license be withheld if property is not current on fees and taxes.

Rooming/Boarding Houses

There are multiple properties in the Borough that have unauthorized rooming/boarding houses. Working on plan for compliance. The Zoning Ordinance only allows Boarding Houses in the R-3 Zone as a Special Exception.

Downtown Streetscaping

Watering by Borough staff; flowers look great! Potential replacement existing trash cans; working plantings in tree wells and directional signage.

Verkada

Gridless maintenance technicians visited Stroudsburg on August 12th. Diagnosed all issues, and will return in the next several weeks with parts to make fixes. Met with Gridless Representative (Verkada Regional Vendor) on May 28th to look at options for Glen Park and maintenance on remaining cameras. Glen Park will be around $20,000; solar may be less expensive than getting electricity to park.

Solid Waste Ordinance/Liens

Developing procedures for liens on overdue trash accounts with PAMS. Identified accounts, letters to delinquent accounts from PAMS notifying them that a lien will be placed on their property if accounts not paid.

Loans for Street Sweeper

Received second proposal for streetsweeper, 5-Year, 5.68% interest. Getting a proposal from Northern Bank. Have been holding off to see results of proposal by Enterprise to lease all vehicles in our fleet.

Borough Newsletter

Fall issue in September.

Sewer Units/Trash/EDU Reassessment

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

Commercial/Residential Recycling

Looking to do another round of enforcement in August/September. Problems of pick-up seem to have been resolved without expanding pick-up schedule to four days from three.

Monthly E-Newsletters

September Newsletter going out next week.

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

Rental Property Registration
Creative District Designation
Solid Waste Liens
Unauthorized Rooming Houses
Infrastructure Projects Management
Verkada Cameras
Streetscaping/Main Street Project

Engineer's and Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Ms. Brady stated their firm is taking the Parking Garage project very seriously; personnel met with the contractor who was told to clean up daily and barricade the site. The deadline for the project is November 2.

Downtown Manager's Report

Mr. Moreno provided his report to Council via email. Mr. Moreno stated since it rained on the last concert date, the Sherman Theater hosted the event! The 2027 Concert Series is scheduled for Thursdays, from June 17 through August 5, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Street Superintendent's Report

No report.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 260901

A motion was made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. King to approve the payment of bills on Warrants 260901. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Delfino reported the YMCA is being demolished on September 14 at 7:00 a.m. and the old Jimmy's Ice Cream in Stroud Township is being demolished over Labor Day Weekend. The event honoring Ellen Phaner at Bryant Park went well. Ms. Delfino is organizing a Witches Walk in the Ann Street Parking Lot for Friday, October 23rd; more details are forthcoming. Mr. Abell suggested that Ms. Defino work with Mr. Moreno to coordinate the event as the Borough's potential signature event. Junior Council Member Fafa Abba stated that a Halloween event would be great for youths to attend!

Michael Schroder thanked Brian Ace for trimming trees throughout the Borough. Mr. Schroder mentioned West Main Street, near the Borough line, needs enforcement for high weeds, including properties owned by PennDOT. Mr. Schroder suggested that the Sherman Theater share their upcoming events and concerts with SARPD so their department is aware of increased traffic and people in the area. Mr. Schroder advised there were illegally parked cars and people who refused to move during the recent block party on Scott Street, and requested Council to keep these issues in mind when approving future block parties.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m., on a motion made by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. King. The motion was carried. (7-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)