

**Minutes for the Stroudsburg Borough Council
Biennial Organizational Meeting and Regular Council Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7 p.m.**

Note that the minutes are presented in the order in which items were discussed at the meeting. Each agenda item, however, has retained the original number it was assigned on the original agenda.

Organizational Meeting

2. Meeting called to Order and Roll Call: Mayor Tarah Probst called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Borough Manager Cathryn Thomas called roll. Present were Mayor Probst, Council Members Joanne Kochanski, James Smith, Ken Lang, Boyd Weiss, Matt Abell, Mark Connors and Patrick Maurath. Also present was Solicitor Matergia.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Swearing in of newly-elected Mayor and newly-elected and re-elected Councilmembers

a. Ms. Erica McCabe to swear in Mayor Tarah Probst: Erica McCabe swore in Mayor Probst.

b. Judge Kristina Anzini to swear in Councilmember Joanne Kochanski: Judge Kristina Anzini swore in Council Member Joanne Kochanski.

c. Mayor Tarah Probst to swear in Councilmembers Mark Connors, Patrick Maurath and James Smith: Mayor Probst swore in Council Members Mark Connors, Patrick Maurath and James Smith.

4. Nomination and Election of Council President: Motion by Mr. Abell to nominate Ken Lang. Motion fails 3-4-0 with Mr. Weiss, Mr. Connors, Mr. Maurath and Mr. Smith voting no. Motion by Mr. Smith to nominate Boyd Weiss. Motion passed 4-3-0 with Mr. Abell, Mr. Lang and Mrs. Kochanski voting no.

5. Nomination and Election of Council Vice President: Motion by Mr. Lang to nominate Mrs. Kochanski. Motion fails 3-4-0 with Mr. Weiss, Mr. Connors, Mr. Maurath and Mr. Smith voting no. Motion by Mr. Connors to nominate James Smith. Motion passed 4-3-0 with Mr. Abell, Mr. Lang and Mrs. Kochanski voting no.

Mayor Probst passed the gavel to President Weiss.

6. Nomination and Election of Council President Pro Tem: Motion by Mr. Lang to nominate Mr. Abell. Motion passed 4-3-0 with Mr. Maurath, Mr. Weiss and Mr. Smith voting no.

7. Position Appointments

a. Borough Solicitor: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mrs. Kochanski, to appoint Ralph Matergia, Esq., Matergia & Dunn. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Borough Engineer: Motion by Mrs. Kochanski, second by Mr. Smith, to appoint Nate Oiler, P.E., RKR Hess, a division of UTRS. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer: Motion by Ken Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Cathryn C. Thomas. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Zoning Hearing/Codes Hearing Board Solicitor: Motion by Mr. Abell, second by Mr. Lang, not to appoint Elizabeth Bensinger Weekes, Esq. and to leave the position open until a suitable replacement can be found. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Planning Commission Solicitor: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Todd Weitzmann, Esq. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Alternate Borough Secretary and Right-To-Know Officer: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Bonnie L. Christman. Motion passed unanimously.

g. Health Officer: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Jeffrey Wilkins. Motion passed unanimously.

h. Alternate Borough Engineer: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Fred Courtright, P.E. of Gilmore & Associates, Inc. Motion passed 6-1-0 with Mr. Smith voting no.

Note: Names in parentheses are members/alternates with terms that had ended 12/31/15

8. Appointment of Vacancy Board Chair: Motion by Mrs. Kochanski, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Kathleen Lockwood. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Annual Board Appointments

a. Council of Governments representative and alternate: Motion by Mr. Lang to appoint Brian Bond as the representative and leave the alternate position vacant. Motion fails for a lack of a second. Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Smith, to appoint Mayor Probst as the representative and Brian Bond as the alternate. Motion passed 6-1-0 with Mr. Lang voting no as he feels the Mayor will be busy enough.

b. MECAB representative and alternate: Motion by Mrs. Kochanski, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Mr. Weiss as the representative and Mrs. Kochanski as the alternate. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Tax Collection Committee: Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Lang, to appoint Cathryn Thomas as the representative with the alternate to be determined when we assess interest. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Board and Commission Appointments

a. Planning Commission: There are currently no vacant positions.

b. Zoning Hearing Board: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Rich Osswald. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Park and Recreation Board: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mrs. Kochanski, to appoint Ceal Yost and Barb Scanlan. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Shade Tree Commission: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mrs. Kochanski, to appoint Boyd Weiss. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Stroud Region Open Space & Recreation Commission: Motion by Mr. Abell, second by Mr. Smith, to appoint Mr. Connors as the alternate. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Stroud Area Regional Police Commission: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to appoint Mayor Probst. Motion passed unanimously.

g. Monroe County Control Center : Motion by Mr. Abell, second by Mr. Lang, to appoint Joanne Kochanski and Robert Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

h. Historic Architectural Review Board: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to leave the position vacant. Motion passed 5-2-0 with Mr. Maurath and Mr. Smith voting no.

i. Brodhead Creek Regional Authority: Motion by Mr. Abell, second by Mr. Lang, to appoint Eric Scelza. Motion fails 3-4-0 with Mr. Weiss, Mr. Connors, Mr. Maurath and Mr. Smith voting no. Council Member Connors asked if Mr. Shay has done a good job serving in the past. Both Mr. Lang and Mr. Abell stated no. There are issues he dropped the ball on. Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Smith, to appoint Joe Shay. Motion fails 0-7-0 with all of Council voting no. Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Abell, to leave the position vacant and actively solicit interest from community members. Motion passed 6-1-0 with Mr. Lang voting no.

11. Consider Approval of Depositories:

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|---------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Wayne Bank | c. PA Treasury Invest Program |
| b. ESSA Bank | d. PNC Bank |

Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to approve the depositories as listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Consideration of a Resolution naming four signatories for bank accounts: Motion by Mr. Abell, second by Mr. Connors, to add Mr. Smith and delete Ms. Diddio. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Committee Assignments as designated by the Council President
 - a. Finance Committee (Kim Diddio, Eric Scelza, Chuck Hoffman, Cathryn Thomas, Ken Lang, Kathleen Lockwood)
 - b. Street Committee (Joanne Kochanski, Matt Abell and Eric Scelza)
 - c. Sewer Committee (Matt Abell and Eric Scelza)
 - d. Codes Committee (Joanne Kochanski, Boyd Weiss and Neil Allen)
 - e. Recycling Committee (Matt Abell, Boyd Weiss and Cathryn Thomas)
 - f. Parking Committee (Boyd Weiss, Jack Muehlhan, Martha Loomis and Kathleen Lockwood)

Solicitor Matergia stated that committee assignments are done at the pleasure of the Council President and need not be filled by only Council members. Ms. Thomas added that Council is not obligated to fill these positions tonight. President Weiss stated he will address this at the next meeting. Council Member Connors requested a study be done for the purpose of establishing additional committees, specifically a Route 80 Task Force Committee, a Public Relations/Social Media Committee and a Personnel Committee.

14. Establish dates and times for official Borough meetings occurring in 2016: Motion by Mrs. Kochanski, second by Mr. Smith, to approve the following public meetings of the Stroudsburg Borough:

Council – first and third Tuesdays of the month

Planning Commission – second Monday of the month

Zoning Hearing Board – third Wednesday of the month

Shade Tree – second Thursday of the month

HARB – first Monday of the month

Park & Rec – March 13th, June 13, September 12th and December 12th

Motion passed unanimously.

15. Consider Approval of the 2016 Wage and Salary Plan: Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Smith, to approve the 2016 Wage and Salary Plan as proposed and distributed to us with non-union employees being granted a 1.6% annual increase in compensation with any variance of that to be discussed in Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

16. Consider Approval of the Borough Mileage Reimbursement Rate, to be set the same as the Government/Internal Revenue Service Rate of \$.54 per mile (a decrease of 3.5 cents from 2015): Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Abell, to approve the Borough Mileage Reimbursement Rate, to be set the same as the Government/Internal Revenue Service Rate of \$.54 per mile. Motion passed unanimously.

17. Consider Authorizing early payment of invoices for discounts and/or to avoid late charges: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to authorize early payment of invoices for discounts and/or to avoid late charges noting that Elizabeth Weekes be deleted. Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Council Meeting Business

18. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items: None

New Business

23. Consideration of a request to hold a Winter Festival on Saturday, February 13th: Business Owner Barry Lynch was present to answer questions regarding the request for ice sculptures to be placed in Court House Square and on the sidewalks near businesses allowing sufficient room for foot traffic. The County has approved the use of the grass in Court House Square. Mrs. Kochanski suggested heavy sawdust be placed around the base

of the sculptures to absorb water from melting ice. Mr. Lynch thought that was a good idea. Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to approve the request to hold a Winter Festival on Saturday, February 13th. Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Council Meeting Business

19. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2015: Mr. Maurath stated that under Solicitor's Report Ms. Spands first name starts with a C not an S. Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2015 amending the spelling of Sherese to Cherese. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

20. Consideration to set a Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Parking Ordinance, specifically placing new restrictions on Sunset Lane with NO PARKING on both sides the entire length and on Woodcliff Avenue parking only on one side the entire length except a limited time when parking is required on the opposite side to accommodate street sweeping operations: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to advertise for public hearing on February 2, 2016 the proposed changes to the Parking Ordinance, specifically placing new restrictions on Sunset Lane with NO PARKING on both sides the entire length and on Woodcliff Avenue parking only on one side the entire length except a limited time when parking is required on the opposite side to accommodate street sweeping operations. Motion passed unanimously.

21. Consideration to confirm approval of the purchase of a Pierce Pumper Fire Truck from Glick Fire Equipment Co. for a cost not to exceed \$578,559.50, which is under the PA COSTARS cooperative purchasing program (no bidding required), which new truck shall replace a 30-year old truck which no longer complies with current-day standards: Mr. Connors was concerned about spending such a large amount without answering a whole host of questions and was not prepared to go forward with this purchase right now. Mr. Lang was on the committee which met with Fire Chief Mike Seip and Assistant Fire Chief John Stevens and had voiced the same concerns. He now feels the Chief has done enough research on this and is in favor of the purchase. Mrs. Kochanski stated that we put people in positions who do their due diligence so Council can look at it but not do all the work and if we don't stay compliant, it will cost more to the taxpayers. Chief Seip stated he has done his due diligence and now is a good time to purchase with the low interest rates available. Assistant Chief Stevens stated the truck to be replaced is no longer NFPA compliant which may result in higher homeowner insurance rates for the borough residents. Mehmet Barzev, resident and 17-year member of the Fire Department, stated that while he respects the questions, they have spent more than two years on this and it would be irresponsible not to move forward. Motion by Mrs. Kochanski, second by Mr. Lang, to approve the purchase of a Pierce Pumper Fire Truck from Glick Fire Equipment Co. for a cost not to exceed \$578,559.50, which is under the PA COSTARS cooperative purchasing program (no bidding required), which new truck shall replace a 30-year old truck which no longer complies with current-day standards putting down 15% of the purchase price. Motion passed unanimously.

22. Consideration to confirm approval of the purchase of a Johnston VT-651DS Chassis Mounted Vacuum Street Sweeper from U.S. Municipal for a cost not to exceed \$305,683.91, which is under the PA COSTARS cooperative purchasing program (no bidding required): Mayor Probst feels the current sweeper is a lemon which should have been sent back for a new one and suggested we sell it for scrap metal. Public Works Director Brian Bond would like to hang on to the current one to use in the spring for cleaning the winter cinders off the roads and in the fall during leaf pick up. After much discussion a motion was made by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Abell, to approve the purchase of a Johnston VT-651DS Chassis Mounted Vacuum Street Sweeper from U.S. Municipal for a cost not to exceed \$305,683.91, which is under the PA COSTARS cooperative purchasing program. Motion passed unanimously. Also a motion was made by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Maurath, to ask the Public Works Director to investigate getting rid of the old unit entirely or selling it and report back to Council for discussion. Motion passed 5-2-0 with Mrs. Kochanski and Mr. Abell voting no.

New Business

24. Discussion of a communication from the BCRA asking if the Borough will approve night work for a water line replacement project on Sarah Street: Motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mrs. Kochanski, to approve the request of the BCRA for night work for a water line replacement project on Sarah Street. Motion passed unanimously.

25. Consideration of a Recommendation from the Borough Pension Board not to provide an increase to retirees in their pension payments for the year 2016: Motion by Mrs. Kochanski, second by Mr. Connors, to not provide an increase to retirees in their pension payments for the year 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

26. Consideration of a motion to approve the following expenses related to meetings, conferences and training under Chapter 7 of the PA Borough Code:

- a. for Mayor Probst and Councilpersons Smith, Connors and Maurath to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) training: PSAB Newly-Elected Officials Boot Camp: Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Lang, to approve the expenses related to Mayor Probst and Councilpersons Smith, Connors and Maurath attending the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) training: PSAB Newly-Elected Officials Boot Camp. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. for Councilperson Smith to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) training: PSATS Boot Camp: Councilperson Smith withdrew this request.

27. Consideration of a Resolution to approve budgetary transfers: Motion by Mrs. Kochanski, second by Mr. Abell, to adopt a Resolution to approve budgetary transfers. Motion passed unanimously.

28. Solicitor's Report: None.

29. Mayor's Report: The Mayor thanked everyone and plans on doing a lot of great things working with businesses. She has a laundry list from the business owners that she will discuss at the next meeting.

30. Councilmembers' Reports:

Mrs. Kochanski welcomed all the newly elected officials.

Mr. Smith thanked everyone and will do his best to move the Borough forward in a positive way.

Mr. Lang requested from staff analysis on the current Recycling partnership with East Stroudsburg Borough.

Mr. Maurath expressed his thanks and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Mr. Abell welcomed all the new officials and asked Brian Bond to look at the damage done by the water company to the cold patch on North 6th.

Mr. Connors stated he is enthusiastic about making improvements.

31. Manager's Report: None.

32. Approval of Bills on Warrants 151231 and 160104: Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mrs. Kochanski, to approve the Bills on Warrants 151231 and 160104. Motion passed unanimously.

33. Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Abell, to have an Executive Session at the next normal meeting for discussion of the salary proposals that were not part of the previous motion regarding 2016 Wages and Salaries. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Matergia stated that when you choose to leave session and go to executive session that has to be done by motion at that time so we will consider Mr. Connor's motion a direction of staff to assemble the information necessary to discuss this at the next meeting.

Chief Seip thanked Council on behalf of the Fire Department for the approval of the truck purchase.

State Representative Dave Parker thanked all the new Council Members and requested that the area residents be notified when BCRA does the night work.

34. Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Connors, second by Mr. Smith, to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Approved:

Boyd Weiss, President of Council

Attest:

Cathryn Thomas, Borough Manager/Secretary