

STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2022

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, Vice-President Erica McCabe, Council President Pro-Tem Jim Evanisko, Council member Victoria DeVries, Council member Tobias Sabatine, and Council member Joanne Kochanski. Council member James Smith was absent.

Also present were: Mayor Tarah Probst; Borough Manager Larry Kopp; Executive Assistant Mary Pat Quinn; Borough Solicitor Joseph McDonald, Jr., Esq.; Borough Solicitor Christopher Brown, Esq.; Borough Engineer Nathan Oiler, P.E.; Street Superintendent Brian Ace, Jr.; and Zoning/Codes Officer and Land Development Administrator Jennifer Walker.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on October 18, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting as circulated. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss proposed digital message board for Dreher Avenue by Adams Outdoor Advertising

Lois Arcisewskiu, the real estate manager representing Adams Outdoor Advertising, was present. She did not have anything new for Council. Mr. Evanisko reminded her that the Council asked for the information about the manufacturer's digital print structure. She did not have her notes from the last meeting with her, but she recalled that both parties were moving away from that request. Solicitor McDonald advised that he did not recall that. Mr. Abell asked that the information be provided as suggested by Mr. Evanisko. Ms. Arcisewskiu will get the information for Council. She left the meeting at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss the "Snowmen of Stroudsburg" with Jody Singer

Jody Singer advised Council that the snowmen will be put up the day after Thanksgiving through March 1, 2023. There are 37 snowmen this year, 20 of which will be located in the downtown area, and the rest of them will be at locations close to but outside of the Borough.

Mr. Singer was thanked by the Borough Council for his coordination of "Spooky Stroudsburg", which was a big success.

Consideration to award the bid to E.F. Possinger and Sons for Emergency Work for the period November 15, 2022 through November 14, 2027 and to authorize Council President Matt Abell and Borough Manager Larry Kopp to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough of Stroudsburg. There was only one bid received.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to award the bid for Emergency Work to E.F. Possinger. The contract will be for the period November 15, 2022 through November 14, 2027 which will be executed by the Council President and the Borough Manager. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to memorialize a payment that was made on October 26, 2022 to The Vanic Company (payment to be made to SureTec Information Systems) for Payment Request #2 in the amount of \$58,056.21 for the Multimodal Sidewalk Replacement Project .

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to memorialize a payment that was made on October 26, 2022 to The Vanic Company for Payment Request #2 in the amount of \$58,056.21 for the Multimodal Sidewalk Replacement Project. SureTec Information Systems is the authorized accounts receivable representative for The Vanic Company. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to adopt a Resolution of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stroudsburg in the County of Monroe, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to Authorize the Submission of a Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Project Program Grant (H2O PA Grant) Application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$1,000,082.00 for the Ann Street Sewer Replacement Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to adopt the aforementioned Resolution. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to adopt a Resolution of the Borough Council of the Borough of Stroudsburg in the County of Monroe, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Authorize the Submission of a PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant Application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Ann Street Sewer Replacement Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to adopt the aforementioned Resolution. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to adopt a Resolution of the Stroudsburg Borough Council to Revise the Residential Parking Permit Fee to \$10.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to adopt the aforementioned Resolution, which will be effective January 1, 2023. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to Adopt and Execute the Resolution for Plan Revision for New Land Development in the Sewer Planning Module for Alpha Recycling Hwy. 80, LLC.

Sean Policelli, P.E., the engineer representing Alpha Recycling Hwy. 80, LLC., was present for the discussion. Mr. Oiler advised that one of the conditions of approval for the subject application is that the Borough Council approve the Sewer Planning Module for the proposed project. The Sewer Planning Module allocates sewage flow to the project. The applicant will provide two pump stations on the two subdivided lots which will pump the flow to a forced main on Katz Drive. The forced main, which will tie in to an existing gravity-fed sewer main on Dreher Avenue, will also be installed by the applicant. The Brodhead Creek Regional Authority has provided the applicant with a Will Serve Letter for Water Service at Lots 1 and 2. Mr. Oiler also provided a Sewer Collection and Conveyance Capacity Will Serve Letter for the site. A “Resolution for Plan Revision for New Land Development” needs to be adopted by the Borough Council. Mr. Oiler also advised that there will be 6 EDU’s contributed to the project.

Mr. Evanisko asked if the Route 80 expansion would have any impact on this site. Mr. Oiler replied that the expansion is independent of this land development. He further stated that the expansion is not anticipated to impact this site. Should there be any impact on the site as a result of the expansion, Penn DOT would be responsible for all of those expenses. Mr. Kopp confirmed that he spoke with the Penn DOT project engineer, and this site will not be affected by the expansion.

Mr. Policelli informed Council that there have been delays in meeting the conditions due to Penn DOT’s review of their permit applications. He anticipates that the applicant will request another extension beyond the end of this year.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. DeVries to adopt and execute the Resolution for Plan Revision for New Land Development in the Sewer Planning Module for Alpha Recycling Hwy. 80, LLC. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Solicitor McDonald confirmed that at the request of Attorney Durso who is representing the applicant, there will be a staff meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 3 via Zoom.us. Solicitor McDonald, Solicitor Brown, Mr. Oiler, Ms. Walker, Mr. Kopp and representatives of the applicant will participate to discuss the timeframes and other procedures that need to be done moving forward. Mr. Policelli left the meeting at this time.

Consideration to Approve an Agreement between the Borough of Stroudsburg and GFL Environmental for Residential Municipal Solid Waste Hauling and Disposal.

Mrs. Kochanski reported that she has received a number of complaints about the boroughwide garbage collection, and she was not in favor of the Council authorizing the contract at this time. Ms. McCabe and Mr. Sabatine both reported that they have gotten a lot of positive feedback. They would like Council to look in to assistance for seniors. Mayor Probst advised that she has reached out to the United Way and also the Monroe County Office on Aging to see if their agencies have any programs that would assist seniors with trash collection expenses.

Harold Jacobs, a resident at 201 Huston Avenue, spoke in opposition to the boroughwide garbage collection as it would hurt low-income residents and that people could do better on their own.

Fred Kresge, a landlord and owner of 108 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, was also opposed to the collection. He has his tenants recycling as much as they can, and he provides one container for all four units that costs \$40.00 per month from GFL.

Isaac Levy, a resident of the Borough, was opposed to people being charged the same rate for the three different sized containers and asked Council to allow an opt out option.

Bob Armstrong, a resident at 214 Collins Street, asked the Borough Council to not sign the agreement citing many of the concerns mentioned by others in attendance at the meeting.

Kris Anzini, a resident of the Borough, asked the Council to table signing the agreement until all of the facts about the collection are known. She stated that she has a philosophical problem with what the Borough is doing. She continued to state that she is capable of picking a company for trash removal at her home, and that she has a philosophical difference with Council. She also asked that Council repeal the ordinance.

Diane Heller, a resident of Huston Avenue, stated that her son picks up her trash, so she does not need the expense of having GFL provide that service. She was concerned that her rent will be increased accordingly. She added that there are many people in South Stroudsburg who also have family members picking up their trash.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Evanisko to table the signing of the contract until there is more information and also to allow time for East Stroudsburg Borough to be contacted about their experience implementing borough-wide trash collection. Voting yes: Mr. Evanisko, Ms. DeVries and Mrs. Kochanski. Voting no: Mr. Abell, Ms. McCabe and Mr. Sabatine. Mayor Probst voted yes. The motion was carried.

Mr. Kopp advised Council that he spent a considerable amount of time working on the trash collection program and that if it is to be implemented on January 1, 2023, time is of the essence. He also noted that three staff members have been working on the mailings and actually hand delivering postcards to rental properties.

A discussion ensued about how senior citizens could be subsidized. Mr. Abell suggested using the Vacant and Abandoned Registration fees to offset the cost for seniors. Those properties will not generate any trash.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe to ask the Budget Committee to allocate \$10,000.00 in the 2023 Budget toward the cost of trash collection for low-income senior citizens. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 1-no Mrs. Kochanski; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. DeVries to revisit agenda item 12. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 1-no Mrs. Kochanski; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to authorize the Council President and the Borough Manager to execute the contract between the Borough of Stroudsburg and GFL Environmental for residential municipal solid waste hauling and disposal. The motion was carried. (5-yes; 1-no Mrs. Kochanski; 0-abstain)

Pete Andrews stated that the Borough got a very good rate.

### Committee Reports

Codes Committee – Mr. Abell advised that the Monroe County Planning Commission made recommendations about the proposed joinder ordinance in a letter dated October 26, 2022. The Codes Committee will discuss those at their next meeting. The Committee continues to work on problem properties in the Borough.

Mrs. Kochanski received information from Megan Williamson about Bell Terrace which was very helpful to the Codes Office.

Budget Committee – Mr. Kopp will meet with the Budget Committee on Monday, November 7 at 5:00 P.M.

Parking Committee – Ms. McCabe discussed two situations that recently occurred regarding booted vehicles. The Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

Recycling Committee – Mr. Kopp reported that the Twin Boroughs Recycling checking account has \$110,000.00. There is no meeting scheduled at this time.

Sewer Committee – see the Borough Manager's report.

Personnel Committee – Mr. Williamson asked when the Committee will revisit the preparation of a code of conduct. Mr. Abell will schedule a Committee meeting to discuss the matter.

Public Relations/Media Committee – The Committee will meet on November 15 at 5:30 P.M.

I-80 Expansion Task Force – There was nothing to report.

Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission – Ms. McCabe advised that the pool passes were down this summer as a result of the pool being closed for two weeks due to the pump and electrical failures at the beginning of the season. SROSRC is hosting a comedy show at 6:30 P.M. on Monday November 7, 2022 at The Pocono Cinema to raise funds for our local parks, recreation, and the cinema & cultural center. The comedian is Jim Dailakis. Ms. McCabe urged everyone to attend. There is a need for volunteerism on these subcommittees of SROSRC: skate parks, dog parks, and pickle ball. Mr. Sabatine has a dog park meeting scheduled for November 14.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Probst thanked Jody Singer again for his coordination of "Spooky Stroudsburg".

### Committee Reports

Mr. Sabatine reported asked about the status of decriminalizing marijuana in the Borough. Mr. Abell suggested that he contact Stroud Township and East Stroudsburg Borough to see if they are interested in putting together a Committee.

He discussed vehicular and pedestrian safety at North 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Quaker Alley and asked if a mirror could be put up. Mr. Ace will look in to that.

He also suggested that the Borough develop a Facebook policy. Ms. McCabe added that Facebook has algorithms that block comments containing certain words. There has been feedback from the public about comments being deleted by the Borough which is not the case. Mayor Probst advised that the Facebook page was intended to inform the public about Stroudsburg Borough events. A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to disable the comment feature on the Borough's Facebook page. This would not prevent the public from copying, sharing and commenting on their individual Facebook pages about Borough events and news. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Mr. Sabatine is trying to organize a meeting with the downtown merchants next week to discuss the idea of a plastic bag ban. He will contact Mary Evanisko about getting information out to the downtown merchants to see if there is interest in participating.

Mr. Abell asked for staff to look at overhauling the Borough website to make it more user-friendly.

### Solicitors Reports

Solicitor McDonald and Solicitor Brown did not have anything to report.

### Manager's Report

Mr. Kopp advised that the Borough will go out to bid again for more sidewalk replacement. Mayor Probst asked that 6<sup>th</sup> Street be included in the next round. Mr. Kopp will reach out to Jerry Dunkelberger to discuss 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

### Meetings

Jim/PCA Grant  
Tom/United Way  
East Stroudsburg/Public Works Issues

October 20<sup>th</sup>  
October 20<sup>th</sup>  
October 24<sup>th</sup>

Jon/Trash Billing	October 25 <sup>th</sup>
Nate/Alpha Recycling	October 26 <sup>th</sup>
Tax Collection Committee	October 31 <sup>st</sup>
COG Meeting	October 31 <sup>st</sup>
Pocono Public Policy Mtg	November 4 <sup>th</sup>

#### Infrastructure/Streets/Capital Projects

*Sidewalk Replacement Project/Multimodal Grant.* Underway. Working on portions in the downtown, S 8<sup>th</sup>, N 6<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets.

*Ann Street Sewer Replacement & Paving.* New budget received. Significant increase in project cost, now up to \$1.08 Million. Coordinating with Stroud Township for their portion of funding.

#### Grants Strategy 2022

*LSA Grant.* LSA Grant submitted on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussed with Chuck Leonard, Pocono Mountains Economic Development Corporation. May be able to fund with grant funds on hand if DCED doesn't fund.

*DCED Greenway, Trails and Recreation Program Grant.* Submitted May 31<sup>st</sup>.

*DCED Multimodal.* Grant complete and submitted. Contains "Quick Build" elements of Main Street Project.

*Monroe County LSA Grant.* Submitted on September 28<sup>th</sup>. For "Quick Build" elements of the plan.

*H2O & Small Water and Sewer Grants.* Funding opened up for sewer projects through CFA-DCED. Programs have not been funded for several years. Will apply for both. Grants due December 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Verkada Security Cameras

Installation underway. Approximately 60% complete.

#### AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program

Pat started work on Monday. Will be working on Monday-Friday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Focus will be on filing and data entry.

#### Mobility Study/Alta Planning

Met with Alta Planning & Penn Strategies in regard to RAISE Grant. Timeline has been greatly truncated, due to new grant round scheduled to be announced in November. DOT Grants are

very political, strategized how to get support from politicians while working on studies. Working on scheduling a meeting with PennDOT to discuss.

### Solid Waste Ordinance

Postcards dropped off to all affected properties last week. Letters to all property owners. Second postcard mailed to all addresses in the Borough this week. New story on WNEP-16 last week, and story on their website. Posts on our website and Facebook.

### Dumpster Ordinance Implementation

Letter sent to the owners of all properties in the Borough identified to have dumpsters on their property. Currently, one dumpster has been completed and there are permits for two more to be constructed. We have 16 requests for extensions or exemptions from the Ordinance. The vast majority of dumpsters in the Borough, a total of 110, have not requested an exemption or secured permits to do the work to comply. I was planning on sending another letter for compliance this month. How do we proceed from here?

### Sewer Billing

BCRA has been doing billing for the Borough's Sewer Service under an agreement from 2003. Received a cost estimate from BCRA; \$21,168 estimated annual billing costs. This is up from \$7,752 in 2021 and \$5,047 to date in 2022. I am looking at outsourcing trash billing, I am looking at whether it makes sense to do so for sewer billing as well.

### Sewer Rates/EDU Reassessment

Inspection of properties complete. Sending out follow-up notices to letters without response and additional letters.

### Sewer Collection System/I&I Initiative

BCRA has updated I&I Plan and we are waiting for a meeting with other member municipalities to review. Acquired GIS capabilities to accurately, and quickly, map sewer collection system. Smoke testing ongoing.

### LERTA

Met with Cos Curry from the School District to discuss LERTA. School Board is tentatively "on-board," need to draft a new "draft" Ordinance in conjunction with the District and County Commissioners to ensure everyone agrees.

### Code Enforcement



*Rental Properties:* Sent letters to all property owners to remind them of requirements to register properties. We have been losing considerable income and have not developed a good list of all rental properties in the Borough. Have had an excellent response to the mailing so far, \$21,420. Last year to this point, \$4,315.

*Short-Term Rentals:* Compiling list of properties for notification.

#### Staff Training

Working on a training presentation on Customer Service.

#### MyGov Software for Codes/Zoning

Going fully “live” with MyGov in November on select permits and licenses. Customers will be required, unless they have a compelling reason, to submit all permit and license online through the Customer Service Portal.

#### Five Points Intersection North 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Cost estimate for project around \$1.2 Million. Ben is going forward to PennDOT to begin the approval process. Looking at PennDOT Multimodal Grant to potentially fund the work in 2023 or 2024.

#### Emergency Operations Plan

I’m working with Mehmet to update our contacts and to look specifically at EMP and Cyber Attacks. Current world situation has me concerned and I want us to be ready. Plan was due to be updated in 2021.

#### Capital Improvements Plan

Working, as part of the budget, to put together a 10-year Capital Improvements Plan for the Borough listing all major capital projects and purchases through 2031.

#### Sewer Fund Delinquent Accounts/Liens

Mary Pat is looking at our list of liens and see what liens need to be renewed and if any need to be taken of the lit. BCRA wants to review billing procedures, as do I. I have talked to three collection agencies with the idea of letting them go after delinquent accounts, which is allowed in our Sewer Ordinance.

#### Bicycle Racks

Three racks remain to be installed: 745 Main, 401 Main & 33 North 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. North 7<sup>th</sup> Street was approved with a slightly changed location. Waiting to hear back from the remaining two

property owners. One property owner (1172 Main Street) declined to have the rack on their property. Installation in Spring 2023.

### Upcoming Focus

Solid Waste Ordinance Implementation	2023 Budget
Sewer EDU Assessment Plan	
Code Enforcement (Dumpster/Recycling/Rental Prop)	
Main Street Grants	Day to Day Activities

### Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Ms. Walker reported that 13 building permit applications were issued last month. The owner of 707 Thomas Street advised her that Wayne Vanderhoof has been retained to look at options for the barn on the property. The property owner is aware that demolition and/or reconstruction would require HARB approval. The owner of 712-714 Scott Street has removed the porch and the chimney. He will be at the next HARB meeting for roof replacement.

### Street Superintendent Report

Mr. Ace reported that his department paved Bank Alley, Sunset Lane and did a leveling course on Ann Street. They will be paving Woodcliff Avenue and Robeson Street. Mayor Probst asked about her request to name Bank Alley as Weiss's Way. Ms. McCabe advised that Council tabled consideration about that. Mr. Abell suggested that the Streets Committee could discuss it at their next meeting.

Solicitor McDonald left the meeting at this time (9:38 P.M.).

### Approval of Bills on Warrants 221101

A motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Sabatine to authorize the payment of bills on Warrants 221101. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

### Public Input for Non-Agenda Items

David Williamson, 626 Scott Street, advised that he did not receive a newsletter at his home; however, he did receive the notices about the Borough-wide trash collection. The current newsletters are not on the Borough website, and he did not see the HARB survey link on the website. Mr. Kopp replied that he would put the link for the survey on the website. He advised that all of the postal routes in the Borough were used for the bulk mailing of the newsletter. He will also put the newsletters on the website as well.

Mr. Williamson asked about the status of Council member James Smith. Mr. Abell replied that Mr. Smith has not attended any meetings for almost two years with the exception of a meeting this past July. He has also not filed a Statement of Financial Interests. Mr. Abell checked with PSAB and there isn't much that can be done about that. Mr. Williamson stated that Mr. Smith should resign so that Council can appoint someone to take his place.

Mr. Williamson reported that there has been vandalism to Borough trees along 7<sup>th</sup> Street recently, the most recent is the tree across from the Municipal Building entrance.

Pete Andrews asked about whether digital billboards are permitted in the Borough. Mr. Abell responded that they can only be located in the Industrial District.

Mr. Andrews would also like to participate in the Parking Committee meetings. Ms. McCabe reminded everyone that the meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 4:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building and on Zoom.us.

Mr. Andrews asked about the status of the Mobility Study. Mr. Abell replied that nothing is set in stone at this point. The consultant is performing a traffic study at this time.

There was no need for an executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Sabatine, seconded by Ms. McCabe. The motion was carried. (6-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)