MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING/BUDGET WORKSHOP
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026 – 7 PM

Ms. Wolbert read the SPECIAL NOTE: To meet the requirements established by the Office of Open Records for virtual meetings, this meeting shall be audio and video recorded via WebEx and East Stroudsburg Borough Page on Facebook from the initial announcement of the meeting until its end with the exception of the executive session if any, which shall not be recorded.

PRESENT IN PERSON: Sonia Wolbert; Jane Gagliardo; Charles Garris; Lauren Peterson; Paul Shemansky; Mayor Victor Brozusky; Borough Manager Kelly Lewis; Director of Finance Layla Richard-Rau; and Assistant to Borough Manager Danielle Decker.

ABSENT: Carrie Panepinto; Solicitor John Prevoznik; Director of Public Works Lee Philips; UTRS Engineer Russ Scott;

Ms. Wolbert called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – Agenda Items: There were no public comments.

2025 Audit: A motion was made by Mr. Shemansky and seconded by Ms. Gagliardo to accept the 2025 Audit for the Borough of East Stroudsburg. The motion passed unanimously.

2027 Stroud Area Regional Police Department (SARPD) Budget Discussion: Chief Lyon explained about a funding issue from a revenue prospective and going back to the municipalities, for the three (Stroud Township, Stroudsburg Borough, and East Stroudsburg Borough) to come together for clarification. A motion was made by Mr. Shemansky and seconded by Ms. Gagliardo to rescind the adoption of the 2027 proposed Stroud Area Regional Police Department (SARPD).

A motion was made by Mr. Shemansky and seconded by Mr. Garris to authorize the Borough Manager to send a letter to the SARPD Police Commission explaining in detail that East Stroudsburg cannot adopt the 2027 Budget because it appears from the correspondence we received that Stroudsburg and Stroud Township do not agree on how the 2027 Budget is being funded, and we are requesting a budget meeting so we can discuss the same. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Gagliardo and seconded by Mr. Shemansky to authorize the Borough Manager to end a letter to Stroudsburg, Stroud Township, and the SARPD Police Commission requesting a meeting prior to November 15th to discuss the 2027 budget because it appears municipalities disagree on how to fund the 2027 budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Gagliardo to place SARPD Budget on the November 3rd Council Meeting Agenda to reconsider the SARPD Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

2027 Budget Presentation for East Stroudsburg Borough: Mr. Lewis gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed 2027 Budget. Ms. Richard-Rau interjected there is a typo in the presentation on page 3 on the one fund that says Street Lighting Fund, that it actually should say Pension Fund instead. There was much discussion on the 2027 proposed budget, capital budget, fee schedule, and trash fund. Some of the questions that were fielded were: Mr. Garris asking why there is no millage rate for the SARPD Budget and Ms. Richard-Rau explaining that the taxes do not cover the entire SARPD yearly Funding; Ms. Wolbert inquired why the Trash Cart costs are so much cheaper for Stroudsburg Borough than us and asked for the Stroudsburg Borough Garbage Contract to be reviewed.

Mr. Lewis explained there are assessment appeals still taking place for those appealing for a lower assessment of their properties. Mr. Garris asked for us to look at them and fight the appeals. Mr. Lewis responded by stating we do fight for the appeals with the school district, but mainly end up losing when the county lowers their original assessments. Mr. Lewis explained we are looking for additional grants to apply for throughout the year and hopefully we will be awarded additional funding for some of the projects. A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Gagliardo to advertise the proposed 2027 Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Notice of Budget: A motion was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Gagliardo to advertise, pursuant to 3 Pa.C.S.A. §§1307 and 1308, Notice that the East Stroudsburg Borough proposed budget for the year 2026 be available for inspection for a period of thirty (30) days at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building, 24 Analomink Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM, and is available for inspection on the Borough Website, www.eaststroudsburgboro.org and such Notice shall provide a summary of the 2027 Budget, with further Notice of Public Hearing to adopt the 2027 Proposed Budget on the 1st day of December 2026, at 7 PM at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building. The 2027 Borough Budget includes an increase of 1.3 mills or approximately $250 per household. The motion passed unanimously.

Tax Ordinance 1427-2026: A motion was made by Mr. Shemansky and seconded by Ms. Peterson to advertise for a Public Hearing to be held on December 1st, 2026, at 7 PM for proposed Borough Ordinance 1427-2026 setting the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Borough of East Stroudsburg 2027 Budget year at 10.2655 mills representing an increase of 1.3 mill over the 2026 Budget year pursuant to 8 Pa.C.S.A. §§1310.1, 3301.1(b), and 3301.2. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Victor Brozusky: Mayor Brozusky inquired if there was an update on the dirt bikes being worked upon behind Brewskies. Mayor Brozusky asked about Mr. Manter coming to Council Meetings. Mayor Brozusky stated a house close to his is being sold and wondered how many houses have been sold over the past year. Mr. Lewis stated he would house sales details for the upcoming Council meeting.

Jane Gagliardo: Ms. Gagliardo spoke about another dog mauling from last Saturday down in the flats. And the dog that was mauled was badly injured, but lived. Ms. Gagliardo explained this is the 4th dog mauling this year and asked if anything could be done about it. Ms. Gagliardo explained she was informed that there residents that seem to be breeding rottweilers in their home. Ms. Gagliardo stated she would send the owner's name that she was given to Mr. Lewis.

Paul Shemansky: Nothing to report.

Lauren Peterson: Ms. Peterson thanked everyone who had a hand in getting the railroad crossings worked on.

Charles Garris: Mr. Garris inquired where the speed study with SARPD in the Borough stood. Ms. Wolbert explained at the last SARPD monthly meeting that this was tabled until the budget is approved. Mr. Lewis explained we ordered 2 solar powered flashing speed signs to go around the Borough. Mr. Garris gave his opinion that the real estate values would be going down cause of the Airbnb's in the Poconos for he read an article and that would mean the County would have to reassess properties again.

Sonia Wolbert: Ms. Wolbert suggested at the intersection of Centre Street and Braeside Ave to remove the one stop sign on Braeside Ave for no one uses it. We observed in an hour's time 15 people that drove right through it. Ms. Wolbert inquired on the audit a section and Ms. Richard-Rau responded that had to do with the capital purchases. Mr. Lewis added that Budget Modifications are being done throughout the year that Council approves.

Manager's Report: Mr. Lewis added that he had received correspondence from Wal-Mart and asked for it to be placed under correspondence. Ms. Gagliardo thanked Kelly, Layla and the entire team for their budget and putting it all together so everyone can understand it for she knows it is a lot of work.

Public Comments – New Business & Non-Agenda Items: **Ted** from Henry Street inquired about the changes in the roadway and the widening of the road. Mr. Lewis explained the 4 feet for the widening of the road would be coming from 25 South Courtland Street property. Ted inquired if a map with a legend that can be read be given, for unable to see the lines.

Mr. & Mrs. of Henry Street also asked for a map with a legible legend. They also had questions on where Henry Street would be widen.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Gagliardo and seconded by Mr. Shemansky to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 8:38 PM. The motion passed unanimously.