Council Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
January 21, 2026 7:00 pm

The video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on youtube.com/upperdarby.org

President Minick opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.
President Minick announced that an Executive Session was held before the Council Meeting to discuss personnel matters related to a Finance Director.

Roll Call:
Present: Michelle Billups (MB), Marion Minick (MM), Noah Fields (NF), John McMahon (JM), Melissa DiNofia-Bozzone (MDB), Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), Myron McNeely (Mmcneely), David Bantoe (DB), Kyle McIntyre (KM), and Brian O'Neill (BO).
Excused: Syama Disa (SD).
Also present: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, Chief Administrative Officer Crandall O. Jones, Solicitors Gallagher and Youngblood, Chief Municipal Clerk Kate Doggett, State Representative Gina Curry, and UDT police officers.

President Minick asked the Council to approve moving the agenda item recognizing the Greater 69th Street Wildcats and Drexel Hill Raiders Youth Football teams before the Public Forum. Council approved.

Recognition of the Greater 69th Street Wildcats and Drexel Hill Raiders Youth Football Teams for Winning Bert Bell Memorial Conference Championships
Mayor Brown recognized the youth football team players, their parents, coaches, and league organizers, and spoke about their accomplishments. Mayor Brown and State Representative Curry read Proclamations honoring both the Greater 69th Street Wildcats and Drexel Hill Raiders Youth Football Teams, and pictures were taken.

Rules for Meeting Decorum
"Upper Darby residents have the opportunity to speak for three (3) minutes. Residents are prohibited from making threats, using profanity, or acting in a manner that would impede or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting. Any person who attends the meeting and

makes remarks, disrupts, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting after receiving a verbal warning may be required to leave the meeting at the discretion of the Council President." Public Forum should not exceed thirty (30 minutes. If a resident chooses to ask questions, they are voluntarily giving up their time for a response. This means that the 3-minute timer will continue to run no matter who is speaking. The timer will be clearly displayed on the screen.

Public Forum

Bob Yantorno, 900 Drexel Avenue, discussed a PCCD grant providing $1,200 to police officers and inquired whether the funds had been distributed.

Justin Cohen, 7218 Brent Road, a home missionary and veterans' chaplain, spoke about the "Reboot" program, a free 12-week program addressing military trauma, which begins at the AMVETS post in Morton on January 22. He asked for the status of permit parking on the 7200 block of Brent Road. He prayed for Council.

Becky Duggan gave her time to Bob Yantorno, who inquired about the police contract negotiations and whether the MMO obligation had been paid.

Elaine Weaver requested that the Rules of Meeting Decorum be revised to replace "resident" with "concerned persons," expressed concern about inadequate salt supplies for the impending storm, and stated that the EIT places a burden on residents amid rising energy costs.

John DeMasi cited a statement made by a council and administration member in a Pennsylvania State Supreme Court filing.

Olivia Taylor commended the streets department and inquired about township salt supplies.

Lynne Rabchuk of 639 Lukens Avenue spoke in support of her immigrant neighbors.

Kelly McBride, 553 Beverly Boulevard, expressed opposition to ICE and inquired about Council actions to protect the community.

Joanne Nammavong inquired about township salt supplies and discussed her communication with Keystone regarding the EIT low-income exemption and how to claim the credit.

Connie Komm discussed a political party, its policies, and practices.

Sharon St. John of 841 Gainsboro Road discussed the rat problem on her street and her interaction with the Code Department. She requested help with this problem.

Motion by KM, seconded by DB
Motion to Extend Public Comment
All in favor
Motion passes

Bonnie Hallum of 4719 Woodland Avenue urged the Council to pass a Resolution establishing an official policy regarding ICE and the protection of residents.

Jennifer Hallum of 4719 Woodland Avenue requested a written policy about local law enforcement cooperation with ICE and spoke in support of the immigrant community.
Karen Closkey spoke about the high cost of taxes and inquired about the legality of renting a room in an owner-occupied home. She asked what steps are being taken to lower property taxes.
Michael Matyka spoke about the increase in ICE presence and asked whether local law enforcement officers will protect township residents.
Steve Komm discussed a political party, its policies, and practices.
Justine Mays spoke about another resident's previous public comments.
Kayla Cocci, 115 Fairfield Avenue, expressed support for the immigrant community, noted a dangerous township intersection where she was involved in an accident, and asked Council to address the issue.
Saminur Rahman discussed the recent increase in ICE activity in the township and spoke in support of the immigrant community.
Joel Dinenger discussed the recent increase in ICE activity in the township and spoke in support of the immigrant community.
Jennifer Dinenger discussed the recent increase in ICE activity in the township and spoke in support of the immigrant community. She asked Council to join the fight to remove ICE from UDT.
Jeannie Moberly discussed the problems with public surveillance.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by Mmcneely
Motion for Council to Approve the following Minutes: December 17, 2025 Council Meeting, January 5, 2026 Reorganization Meeting, January 7, 2026 Special Meeting, and the January 7, 2026 Committee Meeting.
All in favor
Motion passes.

Presentation: Upper Darby Township Small Business Resources Initiative Update
Rita LaRue provided an update on the Upper Darby Small Business Empowerment Hub and the Small Business Grant Program, detailing funding, services, and grant opportunities. She noted that the township is partnering with EQALL Business Solutions, which will manage outreach, technical assistance, and grant program management.
Dblackwell asked Holly Burrow, the founder of EQALL, how they will meet the needs of diverse types of businesses.
Mayor Brown clarified what qualifies as a "small" business.
KM expressed his appreciation for this initiative and spoke of his personal experience with a small business.
MB asked if this opportunity would be available to non-profit organizations.

Blackwell advocated for 4th District businesses to receive priority for this opportunity.
Mayor Brown thanked Rita LaRue and Holly Burrow for their work on this project.

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

Mayor Brown addressed residents' concerns about ICE and stated that the safety of residents is his top priority. He invited Superintendent Bernhardt to speak.
Superintendent Bernhardt stated that the township does not participate in the 287(g) Program. He noted that the police department does not enforce federal immigration laws but does enforce federal warrants. Officers respond to all public calls regardless of residency. He communicates with the administration regarding ICE activity and emphasized the importance of maintaining professional relationships with all law enforcement agencies.
JM inquired about the appropriate procedure for Council members to follow when ICE activity is reported directly to them.
DB asked whether the township shares information with ICE and if it maintains data on ICE activity.
KM asked whether there are ever times when ICE is in the township, and the police have not been notified, and how Council can support the police in reporting ICE activity to the public.
Mayor Brown discussed methods for tracking ICE activity within the township.
KM asked if the police have protocols in place to ensure public safety.
Mayor Brown assured the public that the administration will collaborate with the Council to ensure the safety of all residents.
Mayor Brown discussed preparations for the impending storm and the partnership with Breaking Bread. He congratulated the Greater 69th Street Wildcats and Drexel Hill Raiders Youth Football teams, thanked Rita LaRue for the Small Business Resources Initiative, and noted his participation in the monthly engagement meeting with the state legislative delegation.
Dblackwell asked if Breaking Bread is still functional and about their building renovations.

President of Council, Marion Minick

President Minick addressed ICE activity within the Township, acknowledged residents' concerns and fears, and affirmed Council's support for the immigrant community, noting its intent to pursue legislative measures to protect residents.

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2024 Township Financial Audit

A presentation was given by Mr. Michael Johns, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, on the highlights of the 2024 Township Financial Audit.
Dblackwell requested clarification regarding the GASB standards and confirmation about other aspects of the report.

MB asked if there is an anticipated completion date for the 2025 audit.

Resolution No. 2-26: Authorizing a Parking Lease Agreement with Blue Devil Realty LLC.
Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by DB
Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2-26 authorizing a parking lease agreement with Blue Devil Realty LLC.
All in favor
Motion passes

Ordinance No. 2026-02: Amending Chapter 290, Fees, to update parking fees for Fiscal Year 2026.
Motion by MB, seconded by Dblackwell
Motion to Open a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2026-02
All in favor
Motion passes
Public Hearing
Joanne Nammavong opposed the $2 parking fee at the Artillery Lot.
Justine Mays clarified the parking lot payment method and hours of operation.
John DeMasi asked what necessitated this ordinance.
Motion by MB, seconded by Mmcneely
Motion to Close the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2026-02
All in favor
Motion passes
Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by NF
Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-02 amending Chapter 290, Fees, to update parking fees for Fiscal Year 2026 to include the Artillery Lot, located at 4221 Ferne Boulevard, Drexel Hill.
MB clarified with Solicitor Gallagher as to what necessitated the ordinance.
JM asked what the standard parking fee is for the meters on Ferne Boulevard.
Roll Call Vote: 10 in favor (MB, MM, NF, JM, MDB, Dblackwell, Mmcneely, DB, KM, BO), 1 excused (SD), 0 opposed.
Motion passes.

Ordinance No. 2026-01: Authorizing Interfund Borrowing from the Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund
Motion by MB, seconded by Mmcneely
Motion to Open a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2026-01
All in favor

Motion passes

Public Hearing

John DeMasi asked why the Capital Reserve Fund was not used to purchase the airpaks instead of for tax anticipation, who determined the interest rate, whether there is encumbered money in the Capital Reserve, and, if so, how much, and whether any funds in the Capital Reserve originated from the bond issue.

Justine Mays asked how the EIT tax revenue is used, and CAO Jones, MB, KM, Mayor Brown, and Mmcneely explained that the ordinance is necessary to support cash flow rather than address a shortfall.

Olivia Taylor discussed the impact of employee salaries on the budget.

Joanne Nammavong detailed what she believed necessitated borrowing from the Capital Reserve Fund and asked about the money currently in the Capital Reserve Fund.

Becky Duggan discussed the importance of residents paying their taxes.

Judy Duggan commented on the high interest rate.

Motion by MB, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to Close the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2026-01

All in favor

Motion passes

Mmcneely asked when the last budget shortfall occurred and expressed support for the ordinance.

JM confirmed that any borrowed funds would be repaid by the end of March.

Motion by NF, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-01, Interfund Borrowing from the Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund up to $5,000,000.

Roll Call Vote: 10 in favor (MB, MM, NF, JM, MDB, Dblackwell, Mmcneely, DB, KM, BO), 1 excused (SD), 0 opposed.

Motion passes

Solicitor

No report.

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

KM read a statement directly to the family of Parady La, the immigrant resident who passed away while in ICE custody.

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by NF
Motion to Adjourn
All in favor
Motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Doggett

Catherine Doggett
Chief Municipal Clerk