

Council Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
April 15, 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.

Roll Call:

Present: Michelle Billups (MB), Marion Minick (MM), Noah Fields (NF), Jonathan McMahon (JM), Melissa DiNofia-Bozzone (MDB), Syama Disa (SD), Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), Myron McNeely (Mmcneely), David Bantoe (DB), Kyle McIntyre (KM), and Brian O’Neill (BO).

Also present: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, Chief Administrative Officer Crandall O. Jones, Solicitors Clarke and Youngblood, Chief Municipal Clerk Kate Doggett, and UDT police officers.

Motion by KM, seconded by DB

Motion to move the agenda item, Recognition of Bonner-Prendergast Boys Basketball Team, to before the Public Forum.

All in favor

Motion passes

Mayor Brown recognized the Bonner-Prendergast Boys Basketball Team for winning its first state title in the PIAA Boys 5A Basketball Championship. He read a Proclamation, and pictures were taken.

Public Forum

Motion by KM, seconded by JM

Motion to Extend Public Forum to Allow all speakers to speak.

All in favor

Motion passes

Jennifer Stock, Director of Library Services, provided an overview of the upcoming National Library Week and related planned programs.

Steve Komm discussed the township resolution regarding public comment, as well as the proposed capital budget funding sources and interest rates.

John Vizzarri commented on the role and duties of the elected Treasurer. He referenced Administrative Code requirements regarding the reporting of paid bills and invoices, as well as quarterly year-to-date financial reports. He spoke about public accountability and cited responses filed in a lawsuit in which the Council was a party.

John DeMasi submitted documents to the Council and discussed the Solicitor's response to the Office of Open Records regarding him.

Connie Komm spoke about family members who have served the country in various capacities and expressed opposition to the Township's public comment rules. She noted disagreement with some residents and policies, while supporting their right to speak.

Stephanie Nottingham submitted photos to the Council showing illegal dumping and requested that a "No Dumping" sign be installed. She thanked Councilor Blackwell for hosting two events and supported a resident's right to free speech.

Becky Duggan inquired whether a process exists for a councilmember to conduct fundraising for a township special project. She thanked MDB for requesting to see the full presentation on the capital budget.

Lee Jordan announced the Pilgrim Garden Civic Association annual meeting on 4/27 at Collenbrook Church and the Darby Creek clean-up event on 4/18. She commented on illegal dumping at Pilgrim Park, suggested relocating the Small Business Hub to the One Center, and expressed interest in progress on previously conducted studies.

Joanne Nammavong thanked MDB for her email and requested that its information be shared on social media. She said she does not condone limiting anyone's speech and spoke about the importance of having working carbon monoxide detectors.

Peggy Kowalski, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee, announced several upcoming environmental events open to the public.

Richard A. Blye discussed free-speech violations and his efforts on Juneteenth.

Jeannie Moberly discussed bicycles.

Olivia Taylor addressed a councilmember about a rat infestation in the 6th District. She aired grievances about the Council and the Solicitor.

Dean and Fortune (last names not provided) submitted photographs to the Council and discussed a citation they received, a tree they removed, and the township's removal of the resulting wood.

Jean Kosha announced several upcoming library events open to the public. She also inquired whether there was a line item for library buildings in the five-year capital plan budget.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Approve the April 1, 2026 Council Committee Meeting Minutes

All in favor

Motion passes

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

Mayor Brown invited Superintendent Bernhardt to speak. Superintendent Bernhardt reported two achievements: accreditation of the Parking Enforcement Department, noted as the only police/parking enforcement agency to achieve such accreditation in the country, and the re-accreditation of the Police Department.

Mayor Brown reported on events he attended or participated in since the last meeting, and he announced the swearing-in of two new police officers and the promotion of one officer to Sergeant.

President of Council, Marion B. Minick

No report.

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

Resolution 11-26: To amend the Upper Darby Township Citizen Participation Plan for United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement Grants.

Rita LaRue presented information about the Citizen Participation Plan, the first of three steps in this year's Community Development Block Grant process through HUD. She noted that this is the 52nd year Upper Darby Township has received these grants. She stated the plan is an amended plan and reflects several adjustments.

MB clarified that these are updates.

Mayor Brown thanked Rita LaRue for her work with the HUD Program.

Motion by BO, seconded by KM

Motion to introduce and approve Resolution No. 11-26

All in favor

Motion passes

Financing Discussion with PFM Financial Advisors, LLC

Presentation by Zach Williard, Managing Director and Melissa Maze, Director of PFM Financial Advisors, LLC to discuss bond financing for the Township's capital needs.

KM asked for clarification on the outstanding debt, interest rates, and payments.

Dblackwell inquired about the consequences of not completing the projects at this time and asked what alternative funding options are available.

KM had questions about the past and current budgets and the terms required for tax exemption.

DB asked about the criteria used to determine interest rates and the township credit rating.

Dblackwell asked if the interest rate will be fixed or variable.

Solicitor

No report.

Old Business

KM reported on ongoing Saturday cleanup events, discussed legislation reviewed by the Planning, Zoning, and Building Code Committee, and noted that the Flag Design Competition submission deadline has been extended to May 1, 2026.

MDB reported that the Public Health and Environmental Affairs Committee met, received a presentation on lead paint poisoning from the Delaware County Health Department, continued discussions of the Environmental Advisory Committee's priorities, and supported Earth Week events. She discussed implementing a township-wide community clean-up effort on the second Saturday of each month, beginning May 9, with additional details to be shared. The Community Engagement Committee met and discussed ways to celebrate America 250 and partner with historic sites in the area.

MB announced that the Upper Darby Community Engagement Committee will host the annual Mental Health Fair on May 2nd at Observatory Park between 12:00 and 3:00.

DB reported that on April 9, he and State Representative Curry hosted a meet-and-greet in Lansdowne with members of the immigrant community and thanked attendees. He also addressed a resident's public comment, advising residents to contact him or the One Center with concerns so he can coordinate with other Council members.

New Business

MDB expressed appreciation to Superintendent Bernhardt and his team for their response to parking and traffic issues at the kindergarten center in District 3. She thanked Director Amrinder Singh for addressing L&I issues in District 3. She and BO attended the Drexel Hill Little League Board meeting and reported that participation has increased to nine hundred players. She also recognized Kevin McGonigle, a Bonner/Prendie alumnus, for signing an eight-year contract with the Detroit Tigers.

Dblackwell announced the 4th District clean-up events will be held on the 4th Saturday of each month from April to October.

KM noted that the Urban Land Institute has released its plan for downtown Upper Darby, which is available on the township website. He stated he will be visiting businesses on 69th Street to discuss cleanup efforts and provide informational materials. He also indicated he will use social media to share information regarding rental permit regulations.

Mayor Brown announced he will respond to comments made during the Public Forum regarding Juneteenth at the next meeting.

Motion by MB, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

Motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Doggett". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Catherine Doggett
Chief Municipal Clerk