

Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
May 6, 2026 7:00 pm

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

Vice-President Fields opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Present: Michelle Billups (MB), Noah Fields (NF), Jonathan McMahon (JM), Melissa DiNofia-Bozzone (MDB), Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), Myron McNeely (Mmcneely), David Bantoe (DB) via Zoom, Kyle McIntyre (KM), and Brian O'Neill (BO).

Excused: Marion Minick (MM), 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, and UDT police officers.

Vice-President Fields announced that an Executive Session was held before the meeting to discuss matters related to the Volunteer Fire companies; no deliberations took place, and no votes were taken.

Rules for Meeting Decorum

Upper Darby residents and concerned persons have the opportunity to speak for 3 minutes. All speakers 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 30 minutes. If a speaker 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

Memanatu Turak advocated for a larger space for the Upper Darby Policing Community Center and spoke about the benefits the center provides to teens in the community.

Future Gray advocated for a larger space for the Upper Darby Policing Community Center and spoke about the positive impact the program has had on his life.

Samuel Crowley advocated for a larger space for the Upper Darby Policing Community Center and spoke about the positive impact the program has had on his life.

Greg Limonius advocated for a larger location for the Upper Darby Policing Community Center and outlined the benefits of relocating to a larger space.

Camille Bentley spoke about the benefits of investing in a new community center for teens in Upper Darby.

Mayor Brown commended the teens who spoke and advocated for a larger community center, and he assured them that a larger space would be available soon.

Connie Komm spoke regarding political party members at both the local and national levels.

Bob Yantorno stated that he is investigating information he received about alleged, unverified irregularities involving an Upper Darby official.

John Vizzarri spoke regarding the Administrative Code's requirement for quarterly financial updates, a Right-to-Know request, and the lack of evidence that reports were publicly presented.

He also referenced Resolution No. 16-26 and the Public Hearing for Resolution No. 12-26.

Steve Komm discussed oil prices and their impact on the township's ability to finance projects.

Olivia Taylor discussed dead animals in the street that were not picked up, a parked bus that is interfering with traffic, and the township treasurer.

Motion by KM, seconded by BO

Motion to Extend Public Forum

All in favor

Motion passes

Becky Duggan discussed Resolution No. 16-26 in relation to the land developer's taxes and inquired about Exhibit "A." She spoke about the volunteer fire companies and asked about the funding for the planned community center.

Judy Duggan requested Exhibit A of Resolution No. 16-26 and expressed opposition to the resolution.

Jean Kosha discussed "Delco Gives," a 24-hour fundraising initiative in which Upper Darby is participating. She also spoke about the Teen Advisory Board, acknowledged Atifa Mahera for representing Upper Darby at a special Senate session, and provided updates on upcoming library events and programs.

Richard A. Blye thanked Upper Darby Township for removing graffiti at the Second Ward playground and for the trail that extends from Lansdowne into Upper Darby. He also announced programs at the Upper Darby American Legion, including a global African line dance exchange and scout meetings.

Mark Litrenta discussed the recent Pilgrim Gardens Aronimink Civic Association meeting, as well as traffic flow and speeding on Township Line and State Road.

Peggy Kowalski thanked the administration, council, and residents for attending the recent Earth Day event and discussed pollinator gardens.

Justine Mays discussed how parking on State Road and Delco obstructs visibility, inquired about the EIT total revenue for the year, and the bond amount in Ordinance No. 2026-04.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Approve the April 15, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes.

All in favor

Motion passes

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

Mayor Brown stated he looks forward to advancing initiatives following the approval of the FY 2026 Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Program. He provided an update on the events he attended and participated in since the last meeting and highlighted the re-accreditation of the Upper Darby Police Department.

President of Council, Marion B. Minick

Vice-President Fields extended an invitation, on behalf of President Minick, to members of the community for a BBQ and Meet-and-Greet with local representatives on May 23rd from 12:00-4:00 pm at Michelle Park.

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

Resolution 13-26: To Provide Refund and Settle Case Re: 20 S. Union Ave (PPF SS 41 South Street Union Avenue LLC) 4912-8864-6298

MB requested clarification on the property's location and the tax issue.

Dblackwell asked if the 2% discount was being applied.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by DB

Motion to approve Resolution 13-26

All in favor

Motion passes

Resolution 16-26: To Introduce and Approve a Land Development Plan for 600 Garrett Road, Upper Darby, PA 19082

MDB inquired whether there is an option to table this or whether this resolution needs to be voted on within a certain time frame.

Dblackwell asked whether the minimum parking requirement was met.

NF inquired whether an exhibit was missing and whether any harm would result if action were not taken at this meeting.

MB asked whether the applicant owes taxes.

KM requested additional information regarding the land development plan. Mr. Chast provided a PowerPoint presentation.

MB inquired about the financial and legal protections available to the Township if the project is not completed and whether any community feedback has been received.

JM followed up with questions regarding allegations of past due taxes and the granting of waivers.

BO asked whether the amount owed in taxes could be held in escrow.

KM asked who the owner of New Hope Properties is.

Attorney for the applicant, David Shafkowitz, provided Council with information regarding the development plan and process.

KM expressed support for the resolution and emphasized the importance of economic development within the Township.

Motion by KM, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to approve Resolution 16-26

All in favor

Motion passes

Resolution 12-2026: FY2026 Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Program

Motion by MB, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Open a Public Hearing on Resolution 12-26

All in favor

Motion passes

Public Hearing

Judy Duggan inquired about the purpose of the proposed capital budget and the five-year capital program and for what the ARPA money will be used. She expressed her opposition to the Township's policy on Public Hearings.

Justine Mays posed questions regarding fire trucks, the community center, and projects included in the five-year plan for Leisure Services and Administrative Services departments.

Jean Kosha expressed disappointment that the library is not included in the 2026 Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Program and urged better communication between the library board of trustees and the township.

Steve Komm asked whether the bond money would fund the first-year projects or be used over the five years.

Judy Duggan asked about the township's credit rating and commented on residents not paying their taxes/fees.

Mark Litrenta inquired whether the plan is a rolling five-year plan and whether bond proceeds would be used to fund projects over five years. He spoke about the EIT revenue.

Becky Duggan asked what would happen to the plan if the township did not receive bond funding, and about projects for the Administrative Services and Parking Enforcement departments.

Justine Mays asked whether a Public Hearing would be held every year on the Five-Year Plan and whether completed projects would be reported. She asked how the Plan would impact the EIT. Judy Duggan approached; however, the Township's public hearing policy limited further inquiry. Vice-President Fields called for a five-minute recess.

The meeting was reconvened following the recess.

Richard A. Blye asked for information on the pedestrian bridges to be financed by the bonds, the Darby Creek connectivity project, and the 69th Street improvement project.

(Unidentified person) clarified who owns and maintains the Primos, Municipal, and Sellers branch library buildings. He commented that the library is not included in the five-year Plan.

Olivia Taylor discussed funding for the Volunteer Fire Companies.

Jean Kosha asked whether the township had discussed capital improvements with the Library Board. She urged the township to investigate state grant opportunities for the library.

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by MDB

Motion to Close the Public Hearing on Resolution 12-26

All in favor

Motion passes

CAO Jones announced that representatives from Obermeyer and PFM were available via Zoom to answer questions.

Dblackwell inquired about the replacement timeline for trash and fire trucks to avoid service interruptions, police department upgrades, funding for the Community Center, township building improvement costs, and MS4 stormwater program update requirements.

KM asked if and when funding for the libraries and the Policing Community Center could be included in the capital budget.

MDB clarified that the first year of the capital budget does not include the construction of the community center.

Dblackwell stated her support for the libraries and noted their importance to the community.

DB asked about stormwater improvements within the five-year capital program due to flooding issues in the township.

Motion by MDB, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 12-26

All in favor

Motion passes

Ordinance 2026-04: Incurring Debt through the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of providing funds for Capital Projects

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by KM

Motion to Approve the introduction and advertisement for Ordinance No. 2026-04

All in favor

Motion passes

Ordinance 2026-05: Incurring of Debt through the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of Township's Outstanding Series of 2021 bonds.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to Approve the introduction and advertisement for Ordinance No. 2026-05

All in favor

Motion passes

Resolution 14-26: Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG GRANT)

MB requested an explanation of the resolution.

Superintendent Bernhardt provided information regarding the purpose of the resolution and the grant.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by MB

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 14-26

All in favor

Motion passes

Solicitor

No comments

Old Business

MDB announced that the Public Health and Environmental Affairs Committee is launching a monthly community-wide clean-up initiative beginning May 9th. She thanked Superintendent Bernhardt and Superintendent McGarry for their involvement in addressing resident concerns about parking and safety at the kindergarten center.

MB suggested renaming Naylor's Run Area Five and proposed holding a contest to select a new name.

KM reported that the flag competition has concluded and that a vote will be held soon. The Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting has been rescheduled, and the Planning and Zoning Committee continues to work through many pieces of legislation. He reported that he continues to engage with township businesses and members of the immigrant community regarding issues he intends to address.

Mayor Brown discussed trash and litter concerns observed along 69th Street and noted that he will participate in a cleanup of the area on Saturday.

DB thanked everyone who participated in the clean-up event he hosted.

New Business

MDB wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

BO spoke about a constituent in his district who earned the highest Girl Scout award and wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

KM wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and provided information for upcoming events, including the AAPI Festival, Greek Festival, Delco Gives Day, and the Music Man 5K. He urged everyone to support local businesses.

MB thanked everyone who attended the Zoning Board Hearing in support of Mental Health Partnership and inquired about the trees at Naylor's Run in relation to hosting events there.

Mmcneely wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

NF invited everyone to attend the May 23rd BBQ event at Michelle Park from 12:00–4:00 PM.

Motion by JM, seconded by BO

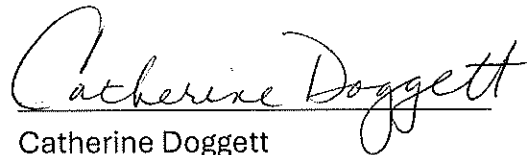
Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

Motion passes

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Doggett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Catherine Doggett

Chief Municipal Clerk