

Council Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
April 16, 2025 7:00 pm

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

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

Roll Call:

Present: Michelle Billups (MB), Meaghan Wagner (MW), Hafiz Tunis (HT), David Bantoe (DB), Jess Branas (JB), Laura Wentz (LW), Matt Silva (MS), and Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell).

Excused: Marion Minick (MM), Brian Andruszko (BA), Honorable Mayor Ed Brown.

Also present: Chief Administrative Officer Crandall O. Jones, Solicitor Gallagher, Chief Municipal Clerk Kate Doggett, and Officers Bateman and Monahan.

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

Shellie Hoyt (address not provided) read a prepared statement she wrote containing many grievances about the council president, council members, the Mayor, the CAO, and the department heads. She also discussed the appointments of a solicitor and a 5th District Council member..

John Vizzarri of 353 Kirks Lane inquired why residents were not notified about the limited EMS coverage and requested an update. He also asked how information about the new parking system is being communicated to residents. Additionally, he said that the proposed site for the new

community center is not the best option. Finally, he asked when appointments would be made to fill the 5th District Council vacancy and select a new solicitor.

Becky Duggan (address not provided) discussed public safety, specifically children's safety. She spoke about reckless driving in the township and said she would like more police to patrol traffic.

Judy Duggan (address not provided) stated that the website erroneously refers to the township as a city. She asked about the burned property on West Chester Pike and Linden, and Director of L&I Singh provided a status update.

Joanne Nammavong (address not provided) discussed buckling roads and requested that the township collaborate with PennDOT to remedy this.

Elaine Weaver (address not provided) asked that the Rules of Meeting Decorum language be changed from "residents" to "concerned persons." She discussed a leaking tanker truck in the township sanitation yard. Fire Chief Boyce responded that he investigated the issue and confirmed that the truck was not leaking.

John DeMasi (address not provided) discussed the burned building on West Chester Pike. He stated that Councilor Branas's vote for the new solicitor represented a conflict of interest involving both her and the solicitor. He said he has not received information from his Right to Know Request and asked for the documents.

Olivia Taylor (address not provided) aired grievances about the council.

Maxwell McGrath asked the solicitor about the EIT related to public referendums and asked council members if they believe the EIT violates the law.

Richard A. Blye announced that today was Emancipation Day, when enslaved people were freed. He said the 6th District was in trouble.

Jae Mays asked when State Road, where it meets West Chester Pike, would be opening.

Stephanie Nottingham raised concerns about trash on certain streets and suggested placing signs to remind residents to maintain cleanliness in those areas. She inquired about the committee assignments of a council member and what remedies are available when a neighbor's tree is causing damage to her property.

Jean Kosha announced an upcoming Spring Fling event hosted by the teen advisory board and invited the council and administration. The event will occur on April 26th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Municipal Library. She discussed the teens' trip to Harrisburg to advocate for libraries. They had lunch with their local State Representatives and were introduced on the House floor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by MW, seconded by JB

Motion to Approve the April 2, 2025, Council Committee Meeting Minutes.

All in favor

Motion passes

Community and Economic Development

Resolution 10-25: 223 S. 69th Street - Land Development

Motion by DB, seconded by MW

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 10-25: Preliminary/Final Proposed Land Development Including All Variances at 223 S. 69th Street.

LW asked if L&I or Zoning has any problems with the requested variances.

MB asked for the contact information of the property owner and developer.

All in favor

Motion passes

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

No Report.

President Hafiz Tunis, Jr.

President Tunis discussed the process underway to fill the 5th District Council vacancy and announced all five applicants will be on the agenda, and any resident of the 5th District can be nominated. He appointed Councilor Minick as Chair of the Finance Committee and added Councilor Branas as a member. The next meeting is May 7, 2025.

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

Resolution No. 9-25: FY2025 Capital Budget and 5-Year Capital Plan

CAO Jones discussed the proposed Capital Budget, and the 5-Year Capital Plan previously presented to the Council, including the various funding sources.

Motion by LW, seconded by MW

Motion to Open a Public Hearing on Resolution No. 9-25

All in favor

Motion passes

John DeMasi inquired when the township would file for a credit rating and have it reviewed by the rating agency. He asked what spending cuts were considered to help fund the Capital projects and encouraged fiscal responsibility.

Mike Hemphill spoke about inefficiencies and said he favors spending cuts.

Judy Duggan inquired about the budgeted amounts from year to year and whether ARPA funds were reflected in the budget.

John Vizzarri asked for a listing of the spending details for each department.

An unidentified speaker asked about the decrease in the Fire Department's budget.

Joanne Nammavong stated that the budget details can be found on the website under Finance, then Budget.

Motion by MW, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Close the Public Hearing on Resolution No. 9-25

All in favor

Motion passes

Motion by MW, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 9-25: FY2025 Capital Budget and 5-Year Capital Plan

Dblackwell explained the difference between the operational budget and the capital budget.

LW asked whether the ARPA-funded program for free smoke detector installation in residents' homes is reflected in the budget. Fire Chief Boyce explained that the Red Cross funds the smoke detector program and discussed its specifics.

All in favor

Motion passes

Resolution No. 11-25: Approving the Application for a PA DCNR Peer Grant

Motion by LW, seconded by MB

Motion to approve Resolution No. 11-25, Approving the Application for a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Peer Grant.

All in favor

Motion passes

Upper Darby Community Center Site Selection Presentation

Pennoni presented the Council with a detailed summary of the current state and next steps in selecting the Beverly Hills Recreation Area (Marshall Road) as the site for the proposed Upper Darby Community Center.

HT discussed the previously proposed site in the 7th District, and CAO Jones explained that the Urban Land Institute will provide immediate recommendations.

MS asked whether the residents who use the site's existing athletic fields would be accommodated or if they would have to move to a different area. He also asked if the township sanitation yard would be relocated.

DB asked if it was certain that this site is not a flood zone.

MB asked whether the properties nearby had experienced flooding in the past five to ten years.

LW noted that the "Next Steps" portion of the presentation was not provided to the council and asked that it be sent. She asked for confirmation that the plans would be prepared to scale. She inquired whether the field would be natural grass or plastic and if there was a plan to plant more trees.

Dblackwell asked about quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-use comparisons to evaluate potential sites.

MS had questions about whether the trail enhancements would impact the floodplain analysis.

Solicitor

Solicitor Gallagher discussed the resolution concerning the appointment to fill the 5th District Council vacancy and reviewed the procedure following the Home Rule Charter and the First-Class Township Code. He also addressed a resident's question about implementing the EIT through a voter referendum or by ordinance.

Old Business

LW discussed issues with "Passport." CAO Jones said the transfer to a new vendor is underway. She also asked for the new vendor's signage to be covered until it is active.

New Business

No new business.

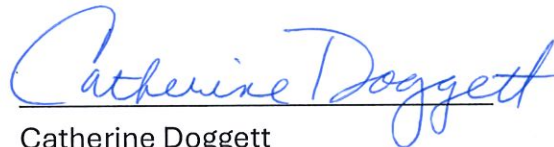
Motion by MW, seconded by JB

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Doggett
Chief Municipal Clerk