

Council Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
July 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), Marion Minick (MM), Hafiz Tunis (HT), David Bantoe (DB), Jess Branas (JB), Brian Andruszko (BA) via Zoom, Laura Wentz (LW) via Zoom, Matt Silva (MS), Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), and Myron McNeely (Mmcneely).

Excused: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, Meaghan Wagner (MW)

Also present: Chief Administrative Officer Crandall O. Jones, Solicitors Lauren Gallagher and Sydney Youngblood, Chief Municipal Clerk Kate Doggett, and Upper Darby Township police officers.

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

Justin Heimbecker, Executive Director of the Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation, provided an update on recent organizational activities, including the Schoener MusicMan 5K Run, MusicMan Academy programs, Summer Stage, and the upcoming opening and funding of the Barclay Square Arts and Education Center.

Jeannie Moberly of 240 Copley Road discussed the benefits of providing children with safe and enjoyable outdoor play areas.

John Vizzarri of 353 Kirks Lane discussed a prior meeting incident in which a council member interrupted the Council President's message.

Carol MacNeal of Media, PA, discussed a book she found in the library, stating that its content conflicts with her values. She inquired about library policies regarding books and all-gender restrooms. President Tunis responded that the library board sets library policies. She shared a picture of trash that was uncollected.

Becky Duggan, address not provided, asserted her right to address any topic during the Council meeting.

Terry Bradley, address not provided, discussed the previous solicitor, a meeting with Mayor Brown, and concerns about hazardous trees in the township.

Olivia Taylor, address not provided, addressed a council member regarding outstanding tax obligations.

Justine Mays, address not provided, stood at the podium for three minutes without speaking.

Judy Duggan, address not provided, stated she opposed the development discussed at the recent planning commission meeting, and discussed the U.S. Flag Code.

Bob Yantorno of Drexel Avenue discussed the current Upper Darby Township police contract negotiations.

Susan Emery, address not provided, yielded her time to Bob Yantorno, who spoke about his 3rd District Council seat campaign and expressed concerns about possible inappropriate interference.

Susan Parker of 2104 Greenhill Road discussed her recent experience with trash removal services at her home address.

Joanne Nammavong, address not provided, discussed a need for increased library funding, opposed the proposed development at the Collen Brook site, and inquired whether Solicitor Kilkenny had repaid funds previously paid to him by the township.

Jean Kosha of 7216 Brent Road discussed the relationship between Upper Darby Township libraries and the township and emphasized the need for increased library funding.

Corey Dixon, address not provided, spoke about the trash removal services in the 7th District. He discussed the Library Teen Advisory Board's presentation on their recent trip to Harrisburg.

Justin Cohen of 7218 Brent Road, a Chaplain for all veterans in Delaware County, provided information about Reboot, a 12-week support course on trauma recovery. It will start on 9/4/25 and will be held at Amvets Post 118 in Morton, PA. He asked for an update on permit parking on his street.

Sandra Gillardi, address not provided, said she lives on Briarcliffe Road and that the street has a major roach infestation due to a plumbing issue. She asked for assistance from the township.

Lee Jordan, of 90 Pilgram Lane, discussed her opposition to the potential new development near Drexeline and stated her reasons.

Richard A. Blye, address not provided, read “The American’s Creed” by William Tyler Page and discussed its key elements.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by JB

Motion to Approve the 7/2/2025 Council Committee Meeting Minutes.

LW expressed concern that John DeMasi’s comments during the Public Forum lacked sufficient detail and constituted a Sunshine Act violation.

Solicitor Gallagher clarified the Sunshine Act’s requirements for meeting minutes and stated that the recorded minutes were not in violation.

Motion by LW, seconded by MS

Motion to Table the Approval of the 7/2/2025 Council Committee Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Vote: 2 in favor (LW, MS), 8 opposed (MB, MM, HT, DB, JB, Dblackwell, Mmcneely, BA), 1 excused (MW)

Motion fails.

Motion to Approve the 7/2/2025 Council Committee Meeting Minutes.

8 in favor (MB, MM, HT, DB, JB, Dblackwell, Mmcneely, BA), 2 opposed (LW, MS), 1 excused (MW).

Motion passes.

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

No report.

President of Council, Hafiz Tunis, Jr.

The next Council Meeting will be on 8/6/2025, and various recreation meetings throughout the community are posted on the UDT website.

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

Resolution No. 20-25: Approval of PennDOT Policy and Procedure for Consultant Selection for 69th St. Multimodal Grant from Walnut Street to Marshall Road

CAO Jones explained that the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) funding for improvements to 69th St. (Marshall Rd. to Walnut St.) requires the completion and approval of the D-30(9-19) Consultant Selection Policy by the Council via Resolution. He noted that the grant amount is \$2,274,377.00, and there is a \$846,000.00 match from the township, which will come from the Liquid Fuels funds.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by JB

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 20-25, Approval of PennDOT Policy and Procedure for Consultant Selection for 69th St. Multimodal Grant from Walnut Street to Marshall Road.

LW inquired if it is normal for Liquid Fuels to be used as a matching fund source and if there are enough Liquid Fuel funds remaining to work on roads.

MB inquired about the project start timeline and estimated duration.

All in favor

Motion passes

Resolution No. 21-25: Program Year 51 Action Plan for the CDBG, HOME, and ESG Programs to allocate \$2,336,276.20 in Housing & Urban Development federal grant funds.

Motion by MB, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to Open a Public Hearing on Resolution No. 21-25

All in favor

Motion passes.

Public Hearing

Joanne Nammavong inquired about the timeline for spending the funds, what happens to them if they are not spent, and when the township will decide who will receive the 2025 ESG funds.

Becky Duggan clarified that the funds would serve the residents of Upper Darby Township.

Olivia Taylor discussed *Recovery Without Barriers* not being a sub-recipient.

Becky Duggan discussed community input in the grant process and urged the Council to include *Recovery Without Barriers* as a sub-recipient.

Joanne Nammavong noted that HUD requires community input.

Judy Duggan asked where on the website she could see the public comments, the number of non-profit applications submitted, and the number of applications approved. She also discussed the township's role in overseeing the sub-recipients.

Olivia Taylor highlighted community work being conducted by *Recovery Without Barriers*.

John Vizzarri asked for an explanation of "Program Year 51". He asked whether the sub-recipients had received funds previously and expressed that *Recovery Without Barriers* should also be considered.

Joanne Nammavong questioned the differences between grants and their allowable uses and suggested that residents be informed about the availability of grant funds.

Justine Mays asked how residents are informed about available grant funds and how to apply for them.

Lee Jordan asked for the criteria for choosing the organizations as sub-recipients and inquired about the process for residents to apply for housing rehabilitation funds.

John Vizzarri inquired whether the township has a process for monitoring the funds and what that process is.

Becky Duggan asked if the township had monitored the grant funds awarded to Men of Action Brothers of Faith and if the scorecards of the sub-recipients would be made public.

Justine Mays asked if the home rehabilitation grant funds cover temporary living accommodations.

Joanne Nammavong asked what criteria organizations must meet to be eligible for grant funding, and whether the scorecards would be made public. She asked how applicants would be informed of the reasons for not receiving grant funding and suggested that this feedback be provided in writing.

Judy Duggan inquired about the names of the non-profit organizations that did not receive funds.

Justine Mays asked if funds could be allocated for back driveways/alleys.

Richard Blye discussed the history of grant money for the back driveways/alleys. He spoke about emergency services for people experiencing homelessness and veterans.

Joanne Nammavong discussed the money CAADC (Community Action Agency of Delaware County) reported to the IRS in 2022.

Justine Mays asked if the funds would include street sweepers.

Motion by MB, seconded by JB

Motion to Close the Public Hearing on Resolution No. 21-25

All in favor

Motion passes

Motion by DB, seconded by JB

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 21-25: Program Year 51 Action Plan for the CDBG, HOME, and ESG Programs to allocate \$2,336,276.20 in Housing & Urban Development federal grant funds.

LW expressed concerns regarding the application process and the time allotted to apply.

Motion by LW, no second

Motion to Amend Resolution No. 21-25, reducing CAADC Cobbs Creek Housing Services allocation to \$50,000 and allocating \$30,000 to Recovery Without Barriers and \$40,000 to Breaking Bread.

Motion died for lack of a second.

LW asked who the committee members were who selected the organizations to receive grant funding. She verified that sub-recipients must spend their funds first and then submit for reimbursement from the Township.

MB spoke about the selection process being non-arbitrary and based on clear criteria.

HT suggested providing guidance to prospective applicants on applying for and receiving grant funding.

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 21-25: Program Year 51 Action Plan for the CDBG, HOME, and ESG Programs to allocate \$2,336,276.20 in Housing & Urban Development federal grant funds.

9 in favor (MB, MM, HT, DB, JB, BA, MS, Dblackwell, Mmcneely), 1 opposed (LW) 1 excused (MW)

Motion passes

Resolution No. 22-25, to amend the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan

This resolution amends the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan to allow Upper Darby Township to accept a \$501,630.20 award of HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by JB

Motion to Approve Resolution 22-25, to amend the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan

All in favor

Motion passes

Resolution No. 23-25, to amend the Community Development Block Grant Program Action Plan for Program Year 48 (PY48)

This resolution amends the Community Development Block Grant Program Action Plan for Program Year 48 to change the activity of the project entitled "Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation" to "provision of scholarships to low and low/mod and special needs families to participate in arts programs at the Upper Darby Cultural Arts & Education Center."

Motion by LW, seconded by JB

Motion to Approve Resolution 23-25 to amend the Community Development Block Grant Program Action Plan for Program Year 48 (PY48)

All in favor

Motion passes

Solicitor

No report.

Old Business

DB stated he kept his hat on today for medical reasons.

LW noted that the administration was nine hours late notifying the Council of ICE's presence in the township, and CAO Jones responded.

JB thanked the citizen who reported the safety concerns at the park at Penn Pines and commended CAO Jones, the Solicitor, and Public Works for their prompt and effective response.

Dblackwell spoke about the free mammogram screening event at Observatory Field and thanked Jefferson Hospital and Murphy's Giving Market.

New Business

Mmcneely announced the cookout in District 5-10 scheduled for 7/26/25 between 11:00-4:00 at 49 Golf Road. Instructions on wound care and CPR will be provided.

DB announced that he and President Tunis will host a Liberian Independence Day flag-raising ceremony at the Upper Darby Township Building on July 20 from 1:00 to 3:00, in collaboration with Upper Darby Township and the Liberian Association of Pennsylvania.

HT provided a brief history of Liberia, highlighting its founding by formerly enslaved people and its connection to American history.

Dblackwell announced that on 8/16/25, she and Councilor Bantoe will conduct a food distribution; on 9/2/25, she will partner with Councilor Billups for another food distribution; and a book bag giveaway is planned for August.

CAO Jones announced a public meeting for the three Fire Chief finalists on Monday, 7/21/25, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. The meeting is open to all.

Motion by MB, seconded by JB

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Doggett
Chief Municipal Clerk