

Council Committee Meeting Minutes  
Upper Darby Township  
100 Garrett Road  
Upper Darby, PA 19082  
August 6, 2025 7:00 pm

**\*\*The video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on [youtube.com/upperdarby.org](https://youtube.com/upperdarby.org)\*\***

President Tunis opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Mayor Brown requested a moment of silence to honor the memory of employee Bill Kaplan's daughter following her passing.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Michelle Billups (MB), Marion Minick (MM), Meaghan Wagner (MW), Hafiz Tunis (HT), David Bantoe (DB), Jess Branas (JB), Brian Andruszko (BA), Laura Wentz (LW), Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), and Myron McNeely (Mmcneely).

Excused: Matt Silva (MS).

Also present: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, Chief Administrative Officer Crandall Jones, Solicitors Clarke and Gallagher, 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**

Shellie Hoyt, no address provided, expressed appreciation to a Council member and members of the Administration for their assistance. She also voiced concern regarding actions taken by a Council member and the Administration.

John Vizzarri yielded his time to Robert Yantorno, who shared his political views and the key issues he focuses on in his campaign. He also spoke about Resolution No. 30-25.

Robert Yantorno of Drexel Avenue addressed and corrected misinformation regarding his opponent in the upcoming election and said he is in favor of the resolutions on tonight's agenda.

Dane Wilson of 130 Garrett Road described ongoing issues involving interactions with other residents at his apartment building and asked who he could talk to about this.

Maxwell McGrath, address not provided, discussed the proposed implementation of an earned income tax.

John DeMasi, address not provided, discussed granted Right-to-Know appeals and requested clarification from the solicitor regarding a response he received to his request.

Terry Bradley addressed the council and the Mayor regarding hazardous trees near her residence.

Joanne Nammavong, address not provided, asked CAO Jones about the new accounting firm's staffing, the LSA grant funding for 3620 Garrett Road, and the real estate taxes owed on the Delaware County Memorial Hospital property. She discussed foreclosure laws and cars blocking the handicap-accessible curb cutouts at street corners. She spoke about the proposed earned income tax.

Becky Duggan, address not provided, discussed various issues in the township and urged the Council to set the Earned Income Tax rate at 0.25%.

Judy Duggan, address not provided, yielded her time to John DeMasi, who discussed his Right-to-Know requests, appeals, and correspondence with the administration. He also spoke about the proposed earned income tax.

Olivia Taylor, address not provided, voiced concerns regarding a council member and discussed pending road work to be completed by Aqua and PECO.

Susan Emery, address not provided, yielded her time to Robert Yantorno, who discussed issues related to drug addiction and its impact on the community.

Connie Kowan, address not provided, discussed her political views and expressed opinions on those she holds responsible for current problems.

Carl Hemphill, address not provided, voiced opposition to a proposed land development project in the township and urged the Council to lower the Earned Income Tax rate.

Lee Jordan, address not provided, voiced opposition to a proposed land development project, and suggested that summer stage be held at the Tower Theater this year.

Steve Komm, address not provided, thanked the Council and Administration for advancing investment and infrastructure projects in the Township and opined on national issues.

Justine Mays, address not provided, urged the Council to set the Earned Income Tax rate at 0.25% or .5%. She inquired about the street sweepers in the township and asked if there were any updates on economic development in the 69<sup>th</sup> Street area.

Stephanie Nottingham, address not provided, aired grievances about a council member and provided information about a STEM program in her district.

Jean Kosha of 7216 Brent Road shared information about library events and the Teen Advisory Board. She advocated for adequate library funding.

Elaine Weaver, address not provided, commented on the L&I violation notice issued to the American Legion and questioned its timeline. She also spoke about the services the American Legion provides.

Richard A. Blye, address not provided, discussed the timeline of the violation notice issued to the American Legion and related mail delivery concerns. He stated that American Legion Post 214 is dissolving its relationship with Upper Darby Township.

Stacey Hawley of 1017 Mason Avenue opposed the land development near Drexeline. She discussed the condition of the streets following work by Aqua and PECO, as well as issues concerning the hospitals and Prospect Holdings.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by LW, seconded by MM**

**Motion to Approve the July 16, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes.**

### **Community and Economic Development**

**Resolution 24-25: 8520 Monroe Ave Minor Subdivision and Land Development Plan**

Developer Kevin Rowghani and attorney George Lavin, III, Esquire, presented the council with a minor subdivision and land development plan for 8520 Monroe Avenue.

**Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by MB**

**Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 24-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.**

LW raised questions regarding the attached properties, landscaping, tree maintenance, and stormwater management plans.

MB favors this land development and thanked the developer.

Dblackwell thanked the developer and noted that West Chester Pike would benefit from additional businesses.

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

### **The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown**

Mayor Brown provided updates on events he had attended since the last meeting.

**President of Council, Hafiz Tunis, Jr.**

President Tunis explained the purposes of the month's first and second council meetings. He expressed appreciation to Mayor Brown and the administration, with special thanks to Erik and Pete for their assistance during the Liberian Independence Day celebration. He congratulated Councilman McNeely on hosting his first community event on 7/26 and urged respect and cooperation during the election season.

**Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones**

**Ordinance No. 3191: Imposition of an Earned Income Tax**

CAO Jones presented Ordinance No. 3191 with a request for the Council to approve its introduction and advertisement. He explained the timeline which is: a vote would take place on September 17, 2025, the Ordinance would become effective thirty days after the date on which the Mayor approved the Ordinance or in the event the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the Ordinance, forty-five days after the last day on which the Mayor can approve or veto the Ordinance as set forth in the Local Tax Enabling Act. Notwithstanding the effective date of the Ordinance, this proposed earned income tax, if levied, would not commence collection until January 1, 2026. He stated that the conservative estimate for additional revenue is \$17.8 million, that policy decisions will be required, and provided details regarding anticipated funding needs.

**Motion by MM, seconded by JB**

**Motion to Introduce and Advertise Ordinance No. 3191 for the Imposition of an Earned Income Tax to be voted on at the September 17, 2025, meeting.**

MB expressed that an earned income tax would help Upper Darby Township support essential services, and that most municipalities use the tax to raise revenue.

LW disagreed with CAO Jones' statement that an earned income tax would benefit low-income people, saying that it would negatively impact all residents.

MB said most people are already paying an EIT and explained that the money would be returned to Upper Darby Township.

CAO Jones clarified that the ARPA money set aside for capital projects is still in place and that only the first year of the five-year capital plan is funded.

**Roll Call Vote: 7 in favor (MB, MM, HT, DB, JB, Dblackwell, Mmcneely), 3 opposed (MW, BA, LW), 1 excused (MS)**

**Motion passes.**

**Resolution 25-25:** approval of a qualified independent certified public accounting firm, Clifton Larson Allen, to conduct the Township's annual financial audit for the fiscal years 2025-2027. CAO Jones explained that four accounting firms responded to an RFP, and a committee reviewed and evaluated the proposals and made this recommendation. He noted that after selecting the

firm, it acquired the local government portion of Withum; however, no former Withum staff will be involved in Upper Darby Township audits moving forward.

**Motion by DB, seconded by MB**

**Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 25-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.**

LW asked whether the audit would be delayed due to the personnel transfer and requested the estimated completion date.

**All in favor**

**Motion passes.**

**Resolution No. 26-25: Upper Darby Township Fire Chief Appointment**

CAO reported that a national search for a Fire Chief resulted in twenty-three responses. The candidate pool was narrowed, and Nicholas Martin was selected through a panel review process utilizing a rating system. He discussed his credentials.

**Motion by LW, seconded by MW**

**Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 26-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.**

LW thanked the administration for hosting the meet and greet and supports this selection.

**All in favor**

**Motion passes.**

**Resolution No. 27-25: Update and amend Resolution 34-24 to include the exact amount requested on the application for a PA DCED LSA grant for public space improvements at 3620 Garrett Road.**

CAO Jones explained that the Council approved Upper Darby's submission of this grant application via Resolution 34-24. On July 25, 2025, the Township received a message from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development that the exact amount requested in the grant application, \$499,106.50, must be stated in the resolution.

**Motion by MB, seconded by Dblackwell**

**Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 27-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes.**

**Resolution No. 28-25: Appointing Special Counsel to Upper Darby Township**

CAO Jones explained that this resolution would appoint Beth Stern Fleming, LLC, as special counsel to Upper Darby Township in the Prospect Holdings bankruptcy case.

**Motion by LW, seconded by MW**

**Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 28-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.**

LW thanked Solicitor Clarke for providing information to the Council and requested that he also share information with residents.

**All in favor**

**Motion passes.**

### **Committee Reports**

Law and Government & Rules and Procedures Chair: Jess Branas

Members: Meaghan Wagner, Danyelle Blackwell

**Resolution 30-25: Affirming LGBTQ+ Community Members' Right to Care**

President Tunis explained that this resolution would affirm that LGBTQ+ community members may receive confidential healthcare without interference, declare Upper Darby Township a safe and welcoming haven for the LGBTQ+ community, and urge county and state officials to support similar legislation.

**Motion by LW, seconded by JB**

**Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 30-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.**

JB stated that in the current political climate, with the rise of anti-trans legislation at the state level, it is the responsibility of local communities to protect residents from future harm. She emphasized the importance of affirming protection and support for all residents and thanked Kyle McIntyre from U.D.T.J. for his insight.

BA requested clarification from the Solicitor regarding the Council's authority as outlined in the resolution.

MW stated that the resolution is not clear.

**Motion by MW, seconded by MB**

**Motion to Amend Resolution No. 30-25 for the purpose of providing clearer language.**

**LW accepts the amendment.**

**JB does not accept the amendment.**

**Motion fails.**

LW inquired whether there should be more letters than LGBTQ+

**Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 30-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes.**

**Solicitor**

No report

**Old Business**

LW requested an update on police contract negotiations, raised safety concerns for people crossing Burmont Road at the Garrettford Elementary School driveway behind Wawa, discussed the violation notice issued to American Legion Post 214, and inquired about the process for addressing hazardous trees.

Motion to Amend Minutes passed at the 8/20/2025 meeting striking “raised safety concerns at the intersection of Burmont and Garrett Roads” and amending it to state “raised safety concerns for people crossing Burmont Road at the Garrettford Elementary School driveway behind Wawa.”

**New Business**

Mmcneely thanked MB and MM for partnering with him at his cookout events and the other council members and Mayor Brown for their support. He announced a cookout scheduled for 8/23/25 at the 7100 block of Hilltop, where toiletries for people experiencing homelessness will be collected.

**Motion by MB, seconded by JB**

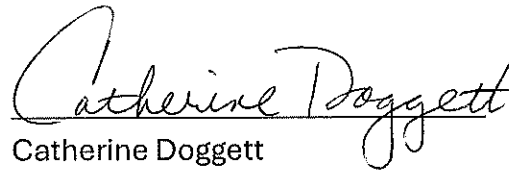
**Motion to Adjourn**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Catherine Doggett  
Chief Municipal Clerk