

Council Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
August 20, 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), Meaghan Wagner (MW) viz Zoom, Hafiz Tunis (HT), David Bantoe (DB) via Zoom, Jess Branas (JB), Brian Andruszko (BA), Laura Wentz (LW) via Zoom, Matt Silva (MS) via Zoom, Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), and Myron McNeely (Mmcneely).

Also present: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, Chief Administrative Officer Crandall O. Jones, Solicitors Michael Clarke and Lauren 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, address not provided, thanked the community and specific individuals for their assistance with various matters. She requested increased use of Delco Alert for communication and aired grievances about the administration and Council.

Greg Spessald, address not provided, yielded his time to Robert Yantorno, who discussed the condition of the police pension fund and inquired about the name of the attorney representing the township in the police contract matter.

Terry Bradley, address not provided, discussed the issue of hazardous trees in the township and her recent meeting with the administration on this matter.

Robert Yantorno, 3rd District, discussed the township's financial condition and spending.

Becky Duggan, address not provided, spoke about the possibility of a plastic bag ban amid widespread use of other plastics, the repaid HUD grant money, and traffic concerns.

John DeMasi, address not provided, discussed the community support during the recent backpack and school supply giveaway event.

Joanne Nammavong, address not provided, inquired why Delco Alert was not used during the recent mosquito spraying, which firm would sign the 2024 audit, and opined on the possibility of a plastic bag ban.

Stephen Komm, address not provided, commended the administration and Council for their work, and addressed national issues.

Elaine Weaver, address not provided, discussed two senior trips the township has planned, mosquito spraying and the backpack and school supply giveaway event.

Olivia Taylor, address not provided, inquired about sewer funds and township-owned vehicles.

Kyle McIntyre of 1040 Drexel Avenue discussed the community backpack giveaway event and Resolution 30-24, affirming LGBTQ+ community members' right to care.

Richard A. Blye cited Scripture and spoke about people's rights.

Stephanie Nottingham, address not provided, spoke about the Tiger Woods Foundation, and aired grievances against a council member.

Jeanine Mobely, address not provided, discussed the importance of children playing outside.

Judy Duggan, address not provided, urged better communication through Delco Alert. She spoke about the potential plastic bag ban, the retaining wall at the American Legion, and the importance of making the police department building ADA-compliant.

Justine Mays, address not provided, discussed the proposed earned income tax.

Sandra Ghilardi followed up on her previous complaint and requested help regarding a roach infestation on her street.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by MM, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion for Council to Approve the August 6, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

LW noted that what she said in Old Business was incorrect and proposed an amendment.

Motion by LW, seconded by MS

Motion to Amend the Minutes to change "raised safety concerns at the intersection of Burmont and Garrett Roads" to "raised safety concerns for people crossing Burmont Road at the Garrettford Elementary School driveway behind Wawa."

The amendment is accepted.

All in favor

Motion to Amend the Minutes passes.

Motion to Approve the August 6, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes with Amendment

All in favor

Motion passes.

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

Mayor Brown discussed a recent back-to-school event at Bywood Elementary and a working lunch he had with Pennsylvania House Speaker Joanna McClinton. He thanked Rita LaRue and CAO Crandall Jones for their efforts in securing the EMLI Mini Cohort Grant, and will soon provide further details.

President of Council, Hafiz Tunis, Jr.

President Tunis requested that each Council member review how the definitions of taxicabs and commercial vehicles impact their respective districts. He thanked Councilors Blackwell and Bantoe for partnering with the Zakat Foundation to host a food drive for those in need. He clarified that no legislation has been introduced regarding a possible plastic bag ban and that current efforts are limited to gauging public opinion. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2025.

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

Motion by JB, seconded by MM

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 30-25, Affirming LGBTQ+ Community Members' Right to Care

JB expressed pride in the legislation brought forward to protect the LGBTQ+ community, noting that, as a member of the community herself, she understands its significance and impact.

LW expressed her support for this Resolution.

All in favor

Motion passes

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

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

Joshua Chast introduced the applicants for the subdivision and land development. The attorney and developer then addressed the Council and answered questions.

Motion by MB, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Approve Resolution No.24-25: 8520 Monroe Ave Minor Subdivision & Land Development Plan.

HT asked if the developer is committed to following the recommendations of the Shade Tree Commission.

LW stated that the Shade Tree Commission's recommendations should be included in the Resolution and clarified that the recommendation is to correct the diameter for several trees on the plan. She proposed an amendment.

Motion by LW, seconded by BA

Motion to Amend Resolution No. 24-25 to include the Shade Tree Commission Review Form to Exhibit "A" and correct the spelling of the Architecture firm to *Wiedenman*.

The amendment is accepted.

All in favor

Motion to Amend Resolution No. 24-25 passes.

LW appreciated that the Shade Tree Commission's recommendations were included in the Resolution.

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 24-25 with Amendment

All in favor

Motion passes.

Resolution 25-25: Approval of a new qualified independent certified public accounting firm, Clifton Larson Allen, for the fiscal years 2025-2027

Motion by BA, seconded by JB

Motion to Approve Resolution 25-25, the 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 the audit cost per fiscal year is \$85,470.00 in 2025, \$87,750.00 in 2026, and \$89,985.00 in 2027.

LW inquired whether Clifton Larson Allen would be working on and issuing the 2024 audit letter and if this would violate the Home Rule Charter's three-year limit on accounting firm contracts.

DB inquired whether the audit fees are fixed or if additional charges may be incurred.

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

Motion passes.

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

Motion by LW, seconded by BA

Motion to approve Resolution No. 26-25, appointing Nicholas Martin as the Upper Darby Township Fire Chief.

LW commented on Nicholas Martin's communication with Council, expressed support for his appointment, and thanked CAO Jones for his efforts on the matter.

JB expressed support for this appointment and stated that the Council will ensure there is no outside interference in the operation of the Fire Department.

MB thanked Nicholas Martin for meeting with the Council and acknowledged his transparency and integrity.

All in favor

Motion passes

Mayor Brown administered the Oath of Office, and Nicholas Martin was sworn in as the new Fire Chief of Upper Darby Township. Photographs were taken.

Resolution No. 27-25, amending Resolution No. 34- 24 for a PA DCED LSA grant for public space improvements at 3620 Garrett Road.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by JB

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 27-25, amending Resolution No. 34- 24 for a PA DCED LSA grant for public space improvements at 3620 Garrett Road.

CAO Jones explained that this amends Resolution 34-24 by including the grant amount, which is \$499,106.50.

LW discussed the "program for the Garrett business district project" referenced in the original ARPA Ordinance and stated that the triangle property is outside the Ordinance's jurisdiction. She also spoke about the funds being used to purchase the property.

8 in favor (MB, MM, HT, DB, JB, BA, Dblackwell, Mmcneely), 3 opposed (LW, MS, MW)

Motion passes.

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

Motion by MM, seconded by JB

Motion to approve Resolution No. 28-25, Appointing Beth Stern Fleming, LLC to serve as special counsel to Upper Darby Township.

HT announced that the solicitors requested that Resolution 28-25 be amended to make the resolution retroactive to June 23, 2025.

Motion by MM, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to amend Resolution No. 28-25 to make the resolution retroactive to June 23, 2025.

MB requested clarification on the amendment.

LW inquired about the legality of including a retroactive date in the resolution.

Dblackwell asked if the payment to the Special Council would be retroactive.

The amendment is accepted.

All in favor

Motion to Amend Resolution No. 28-25 passes.

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 28-25 with Amendment

All in favor

Motion passes.

Solicitor

No report.

LW requested that the Solicitor provide information regarding the impact the sale of the former Delaware County Memorial Hospital would have on the taxes owed to the Township. Solicitor Clarke provided a detailed explanation.

Old Business

BA inquired about any past reimbursements or discounted rates provided by the previous solicitor for their services.

Dblackwell spoke about the cleanup events taking place on the fourth Saturday of each month, and they meet at Observatory Field. She also urged residents to shop locally.

LW noted that there is an Ordinance governing taxicabs, which are not included in the Commercial Vehicles Ordinance.

New Business

Mmcneely discussed District 5-10, where half of the parking spots were painted. He announced that he is hosting a cookout this Saturday, where toiletries will be collected for people experiencing homelessness.

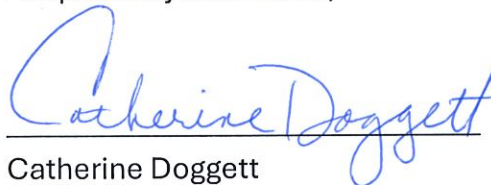
Motion by MB, seconded by JB

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Doggett
Chief Municipal Clerk