

Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
September 3, 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. Mayor Brown requested a moment of silence to honor the memory of an Upper Darby Township child following their passing.

Roll Call:

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

Excused: Jess Branas (JB).

Also present: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, Chief Administrative Officer Crandall Jones, Solicitors Clarke and Youngblood, Chief Municipal Clerk Kate Doggett, and Upper Darby Township police officers.

President Tunis announced that an Executive Session was held before the meeting to discuss potential litigation related to Prospect Medical.

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 the community, the police, a Council member, and members of the Administration for their assistance with various issues. She voiced grievances regarding Mayor Brown and CAO Jones.

Terry Bradley, no address provided, addressed the council and the Mayor regarding hazardous trees near her residence and spoke about her meeting with Mayor Brown.

Greg (illegible), no address provided, yielded his time to Robert Yantorno, who expressed satisfaction with L&I Director Singh. He inquired about the status of FOP contract negotiations and the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the police.

Robert Yantorno, no address provided, recognized the 1st District council candidate and the candidate for treasurer, and discussed the use of motorized scooters in the township. He inquired about CAO Jones' residence.

Spiro Pappas, no address provided, discussed the township's finances and salaries, a construction site at Bond Park, and a recent shooting in Minnesota.

John DiMasi, no address provided, listed problems he observed in the township and stated nothing was improving.

Olivia Taylor, no address provided, inquired about the ARPA money allotted for the sewers and spoke about the proposed EIT.

Becky Duggan, no address provided, asked about the funding for Resolution No. 32-25 and spoke about the potential plastic bag ban.

Joanne Nammavong, no address provided, asked who put notices citing Ordinance No. 2972 on recycling bins on her street and discussed safety concerns related to traffic.

Bonnie Hallam, 4719 Woodland Avenue, spoke about land development in the township and favors a plastic bag ban. She announced that free trees are available through Tree Tenders.

Constance Komm, no address provided, discussed her political views and expressed opinions on those she holds responsible for current problems.

Steven Komm, no address provided, opined on national issues and policies.

Peggy Kowalski of 634 Marion Avenue spoke about the Environmental Advisory Committee, outlining its purpose and summarizing completed projects. She discussed the proposed plastic bag ban, which she favors.

Judy Duggan, no address provided, discussed the need for upgrades to the police department building to make it ADA compliant, rental inspections, and inquired about the funding for the grant in Resolution No. 32-25.

Justine Mays, no address provided, discussed the proposed earned income tax, which she does not favor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by LW, seconded by MW

Motion to Approve the August 20, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes

All in favor

Motion passes.

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

Mayor Brown reported on his collaboration with State Representatives Gina Curry, Heather Boyd, Malcolm Kenyatta, and Councilwoman Blackwell to address the mass transit and SEPTA funding crisis.

President of Council, Hafiz Tunis, Jr.

President Tunis announced that the Upper Darby Township Police Department is hiring and clarified that the Council has no authority or influence over the hiring process. He also announced that the Chief Municipal Clerk had completed multiple training courses and stated that five minutes would be allotted per presentation.

Community and Economic Development

Resolution No. 32-25: Submission of a grant application to the National Fitness Campaign's Statewide Fitness Court Program

Director Rita LaRue introduced Resolution No. 32-25, which included a video presentation outlining the proposed fitness program at 7000 Walnut Street. She discussed the project cost of approximately \$286,000 and noted that typical grant awards range from \$30,000 to \$50,000. She also stated that \$700,000 approved in the CDBG Program Year 51 Action Plan is available for the project.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by DB

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 32-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

Dblackwell inquired whether this grant requires a match by the township.

LW clarified that 7000 Walnut Street was formerly the Welcome Center and had been slated as a community center site. She inquired whether this grant requires a match by the township and expressed safety and security concerns related to the project. She stated she believed the \$750,000 approved by the Council for public facilities was intended to improve existing public facilities. She also recommended applying the five-minute speaking limit to the Mayor and CAO. BA inquired whether the National Fitness Campaign (NFC) provides any fitness programming and about anticipated future expenses related to the project.

MM thanked Ms. LaRue for the presentation and favors using this space for the project.

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. LaRue for her work on this project and for the presentation.

HT requested that Ms. LaRue provide Council with additional feedback and a follow-up presentation if this Resolution is approved.

MB thanked Ms. LaRue for the presentation and asked what happens to the fitness equipment in the fall and winter months.

DB raised concerns regarding the safety of individuals using the facilities.

Mmcneely inquired about the availability of parking for this facility.

MS favors this project and asked about the estimated total cost for the entire project.

LW asked if there would be trash and recycling cans at the location. She confirmed the project costs and funding sources and inquired whether any remaining funds from the \$700,000 would be used to complete the property as a green space or support other projects. She asked if tree planting was included.

All in favor

Motion passes.

Resolution No. 33-25, AAMA Grant Application

Director Rita LaRue introduced Resolution No. 33-25, a grant application for a \$5,000 Economic Mobility Leadership Institute grant from the African American Mayors Association. She announced that Mayor Brown is a member of the Association, which makes the township eligible for the grant.

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by LW

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 33-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

LW inquired whether the township would incur additional costs beyond \$5,000, if Delco Alert could be used to inform residents about this opportunity and if information would be available in different languages.

HT inquired whether the grant allows the township to partner with other organizations.

MB spoke about partnering with other organizations on this.

All in favor

Motion passes

Resolution No. 34-25, Delaware County Community College Amended Land Development

Director Rita LaRue introduced Resolution No. 34-25, explaining that the purpose of this resolution is to grant amended preliminary phase land development approval for phases one through three and final land development approval for phases one and two.

Legal counsel for DCCC gave a brief presentation, and the Council posed no questions.

Motion by LW, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 34-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

All in favor

Motion passes.

Resolution No. 35-25, Rise Up Towers, LLC Easement Agreement

Director Rita LaRue introduced Resolution No. 35-25, explaining that the resolution seeks to approve temporary access, maintenance, and utility easement agreements with RiseUp LLC to

enable the construction and maintenance of a wireless communications facility on a rear portion of the 69th Street recreational area.

Motion by LW, seconded by MB

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 35-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

All in favor

Motion passes.

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

Notification of Consultant Selection for 69th Street Multimodal Grant from Walnut Street to Marshall Road

CAO Jones informed the Council that this is for informational purposes only and does not require a vote. Following Resolution 20-25, the Selection Committee reviewed submitted proposals and selected Michael Baker International as the Consultant for the 69th Street Multimodal Grant from Walnut Street to Marshall Road project. The consultant will be contacted to submit a technical and price proposal for negotiating an agreement.

Resolution No.36-25, Funding of the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police, Fire, and Municipal Pension Plans

CAO Jones explained that this is a statutorily mandated actuarial funding standard for pension obligations, which the Township must calculate and pay every year for the Police, Fire, and Municipal Pension plans. He stated that the obligations for 2026 are as follows: Police - \$6,505,240.00; Fire - \$2,487,695.00; Municipal - \$2,006,303.00 for a total of \$10,999,238.00. Pennsylvania's four thresholds based on the funded ratio, which compares the plan's total assets to its total liabilities, are "not distressed," "minimally distressed," "moderately distressed," and "severely distressed." The township's three pension plans are all in the "minimally distressed" category.

Motion by LW, seconded by Dblackwell

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 36-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

Dblackwell inquired about the pension plans being in the "minimally distressed" category.

LW asked when the pension payment would be made and if the 2025 obligation budgeted for had been paid yet.

MS clarified the purpose of the resolution.

All in favor

Motion passes

Solicitor

No report

Old Business

LW clarified statements made during Public Forum, stating that Upper Darby Township had its own Health Department before Covid, which allowed the township to receive Covid funding directly. She also verified with the CAO that ARPA funds allocated for fixing the sewer system are not being used to pay for Philadelphia's water treatment.

MB discussed proposed legislation on electric scooter safety.

Dblackwell announced the last clean-up event scheduled for 9/27/25.

New Business

No new business.

Motion by DB, seconded by MW

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

Motion passes

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 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