

Council Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
October 15, 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), Hafiz Tunis (HT), David Bantoe (DB), Jess Branas (JB), Laura Wentz (LW), Matt Silva (MS) via Zoom, and Myron McNeely (Mmcneely).

Excused: Brian Andruszko (BA), Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell).

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.

President Tunis announced that an Executive Session was held before the regular meeting on potential litigation regarding a contract and audit of a township vendor.

The council agreed to move the agenda item recognizing Master Max Egge as Honorary Jr. Firefighter of the Year to precede the Rules of Meeting Decorum and Public Forum.

Mayor Brown recognized resident Max Egge, age five, for alerting others to a grill fire at a nearby home. His actions enabled the fire department to respond quickly and prevent the fire from spreading. Max was honored as Honorary Jr. Firefighter of the Year and presented with an engraved bobblehead firefighter. Photos were taken with the Fire Chief, Mayor, and Council.

President Tunis requested the Solicitor to brief the public on the agenda change regarding Ordinance No. 3192. The change was due to advertising scheduling issues; the ordinance will be placed on the November 19th agenda for consideration.

President Tunis announced earlier today that he received Councilor Jess Branas' resignation and requested that the agenda be amended so the Council could formally accept it.

Motion by MW, seconded by MB

Motion to amend the agenda to include 2nd District Councilwoman Jess Branas' resignation.

All in favor

Motion passes

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

William Scott of 324 Blanchard Road discussed his hope that the 2026 budget would be fair, transparent, and accountable.

Connie Komm commented on a political group, including its members and policies.

Jeannie Moberly discussed the effects of lighting on children and neighborhoods.

John Vizzarri shared two recent experiences with township L&I officials while selling his home.

Becky Duggan discussed a traffic incident on West Chester Pike during drop-off at Highland Park Elementary School and asked for clarification on parking enforcement during council meetings.

Bob Yantorno discussed the township's finances and his feelings about trustworthiness, citing a few personal examples. He would like to donate his benefits package to a worthy family if elected. He also inquired about the police contract negotiations.

Olivia Taylor commented on the noise level during a recent event in her neighborhood and inquired about the health plan for first responders.

Spiro Pappas spoke about the construction near Bond Park, after-school disruptions involving high school students at State and Lansdowne, and his disagreement with the school start time.

Steve Komm commented on a political group, including its members and policies.

Barry Hinkle yielded his time to Steve Komm, who continued discussing a political group, including its members and policies.

Lee Jordan commented on the parking enforcement policy during council meetings. She stated she opposes Ordinance No. 3192, the parking lease agreement with Blue Devil Realty, and development at the Mozino properties.

Joanne Nammavong discussed her email to the administration regarding parking enforcement during council meetings and ordinance advertisements.

Corretta Kinder addressed student safety related to school buses and the availability of extracurricular activities for township children.

Richard A. Blye read scripture from the bible and addressed a few council members about personal matters.

Earl Gorski of 7007 Wayne Avenue yielded his time to Jim Boulden, 7009 Wayne Avenue, who reiterated his request for traffic calming on three blocks of Wayne Avenue and asked that the study continue.

Sydney John of 7012 Wayne Avenue discussed issues on Wayne Avenue, specifically speeding and disruptive behavior by school students. He also questioned why senior citizens pay the full amount of school taxes.

Stacy Olkowski, founder of the Delco Skate Park Coalition (a non-profit organization), discussed the skate park project planned for Observatory Park, noting it will be Pennsylvania's first adaptive and ADA-forward park.

Judy Duggan yielded her time to David (last name not provided), who spoke about a township towing vendor, stating that they are not complying with the township ordinance regarding towing fees.

Stephanie Nottingham reminded residents about the upcoming election and spoke about issues she has with a council member.

Justine Mays asked the Council to propose an Ordinance that “explicitly codifies voting rights for every resident in this township.” She also opined that interpreters should be present at Council meetings and spoke about a council member.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by DB

Motion for Council to Approve the October 1, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

All in favor

Motion passes.

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

Mayor Brown discussed sessions from the 2025 Pennsylvania Municipal League Summit and recent community events he attended since the last meeting.

Resolution No. 29-25: Appointing Rajwinder Murare to the Shade Tree Commission

Motion by MB, seconded by DB

Motion to Approve Resolution No. 29-25, appointing Rajwinder Murare to the Shade Tree Commission.

Mayor Brown read Resolution No. 29-25, Whereas clauses.

All in favor

Motion passes

Revive & Thrive Parks Initiative Progress Report

Mayor Brown thanked residents for their feedback and announced that Public Works has begun planning and procuring new playground equipment. The selected equipment was displayed in a PowerPoint presentation. All ten parks are scheduled for completion by July 2026.

Superintendent Bernhardt addressed Public Forum questions regarding parking enforcement during council meetings. Mayor Brown, CAO Jones, President Tunis, and Councilors Wagner, Bantoe, and Wentz discussed suspending enforcement until a new ordinance or policy is adopted. Councilor Wentz would also like this extended to other township meetings.

Motion by MW, seconded by MB

Motion to officially accept 2nd District Councilwoman Jess Branas' resignation effective 10/16/2025.

Councilor JB reflected on the honor of serving with fellow Council members, noting it was a difficult decision to step down. She recalled hearing a resident say "People over politics" on her first day, a sentiment she shares. Council members and Mayor Brown expressed appreciation for her service, shared positive remarks, extended best wishes for her future endeavors, and presented her with a plaque.

All in favor

Motion passes

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

CAO Jones presented the proposed FY2026 budget, including an overview of the 2025 budget status, FY2026 fiscal considerations and projections, and Council input on the proposed strategy for FY2026 and beyond.

Finance Director Diane Scutti presented the FY24-26 General Fund Revenue Summary, Revenue Trends in terms of property taxes and local enabling taxes, FY24 General Fund revenue by category, FY26 General Fund revenue by category, FY24-26 General Fund Expenditure summary, FY24 General Fund Expenditures by category, FY26 General Fund Expenditures by category, FY24 General Fund Expenditures department summary, FY26 General Fund Expenditures department summary, Expense Trends-General Fund, FY24-26 General Fund Budget Summary, FY2026 Sinking Fund, FY2026 Highway Fund, FY2026 Sewer Fund, and FY2026 Trash Fee. A separate handout with the full fee schedule is available on the township website and was sent to Council.

Key dates: 10/16 Proposed 2026 Budget available for public review and comment; 11/5 and 11/19 Budget Hearings, 11/19 approval of the Budget Resolution and motion to introduce and advertise 2026 Appropriation and 2026 Tax and Fee Ordinances, and final adoption of the Appropriations and Tax and Fee Ordinances is 12/4.

LW inquired if the Fund Balance would be zero at the end of the year, if \$10,000,000.00 of Fund Balance was used for the budget or was it \$10,565, 093.00? She asked if the Contingency was used.

Motion by MB, seconded by JB

Motion to Advertise the General Summary of the 2026 Proposed Budget and Notice of Public Hearings.

LW asked for clarification on the advertisement.

All in favor

Motion passes

Solicitors

No report.

Old Business

MW responded to a comment by CAO Jones related to a letter from FOP President Eiserman about a change in insurance, to which CAO Jones responded.

MS requested a copy of the 10/3 email previously referenced.

New Business

MM announced that the Upper Darby Community and Economic Development is leading a "Safe Streets for All" study. All residents and visitors are asked to complete a community feedback survey, which is located on the Upper Darby Township website and social media, in the One Center, and outside the meeting room. A community feedback session will be held next Thursday, 10/23, at 6:00 p.m. in the One Center.

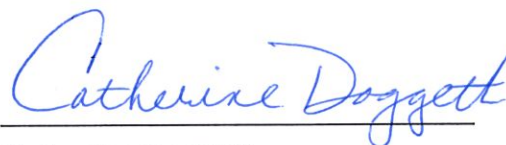
Motion by MB, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Doggett
Chief Municipal Clerk