

Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
November 5, 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), Brian Andruszko (BA), Laura Wentz (LW), Matt Silva (MS) via Zoom, Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), and Myron McNeely (Mmcneely).

Excused: Meaghan Wagner (MW).

Also present: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, 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

Connie Komm of 440 Hampshire discussed a political group and its members, policies, and practices.

Sheldon Rich discussed First Amendment rights within legal limits during Upper Darby Township Council meetings, as well as the earned income tax and the recent local election.

John DeMasi spoke about comments made during Public Forum and aired grievances regarding the Council.

Becky Duggan read a statement sent to her by a resident regarding available information about township events.

Joanne Nammavong inquired about the status of the 2024 audit. She asked about payment options for Blue Devil Realty Parking and stated that she believes the lack of a cash option is discriminatory and violates an Ordinance passed this past year.

Olivia Taylor discussed a parking ticket she received and parking enforcement in other areas of the township, and said there is racial profiling in the 6th district.

Lee Jordan of 90 Pilgram Lane congratulated the election winners and spoke to the unsuccessful candidates. She encouraged better communication about township events and would like paper calendars to be sent to residents.

Stephanie Nottingham congratulated the election winners.

Mae Sirleat, 416 Glendale Road, discussed the need for parking permits, tree trimming, and street sweeping on her street.

Steve Komm congratulated the election winners and aired grievances about a political party.

Sheikh Siddique of 7109 Hilltop congratulated the election winners and noted that taxicabs are occasionally used for personal purposes and should not be ticketed on residential streets when used as private vehicles.

Justine Mays stated there is a need for interpreters at Council meetings and aired grievances about council members.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by LW, seconded by MB

Motion to Approve the October 15, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes

All in favor

Motion passes.

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

Mayor Brown delivered his FY2026 Mayor's Budget Message. He presented the proposed FY2026 General Fund budget totaling \$104,737,066.00, noting that it would be the first full-year budget to reflect the anticipated \$17.8 million additional revenue from the earned income tax. The proposed budget also reflects an Operational Reserve of nearly \$4.3 million, which will build toward the goal of maintaining an unencumbered 20% fund balance. He said the township is in the preliminary stages of establishing formal policies for fund balance, investments, and capital funds. There will be no increase in the township's millage rate.

President of Council, Hafiz Tunis, Jr.

President Tunis thanked everyone who participated in this year's municipal election and congratulated the winners. He announced that resumes for the 2nd district council seat vacancy are due on November 7, 2025, and that the next budget hearing will be on November 19, 2025, at

6:00 pm, followed by the Council meeting. He asked Council to review the proposed 2026 Council meeting schedule.

Resolution No. 41-25: Approving the Appointment of the 2nd District Council Member

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by DB

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 41-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

All in favor

Motion passes

2026 Council Meeting Schedule Advertisement

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by MB

Motion to Introduce and Advertise the 2026 Council meeting schedule and place on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

All in favor

Motion passes

Community and Economic Development

Resolution No. 37-25: Zoning Hearing Board Appointments

CAO Jones introduced Resolution No. 37-25, appointing Steve Bertil and Alfonso Zamora to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 37-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

LW noted that resumes were not included in the packet and requested them.

All in favor

Motion passes

Mayor's FY2026 Budget Message

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by MB

Motion to Approve the Advertisement of the Mayor's Budget Message for the 2026 Fiscal Year for Review and Inspection.

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

Motion passes

Public Works

Resolution No: 38-25: Authorize Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Local Share Account (LSA) Grant for Collenbrook Creek Gabion Retaining Wall Reconstruction Phase-II

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by MB

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 38-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

All in favor

Motion passes

Chief Administrative Officer, Crandall O. Jones

Resolution No. 39-25: Waiving of Parking Fees

CAO Jones introduced Resolution No. 39-25, which waives parking fees in the Township Hall Parking Lot after 5:00 PM on evenings when official public meetings are held.

Motion by LW, seconded by DB

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 39-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

All in favor

Motion passes

Ordinance No. 3193: FY26 Budget Appropriations

CAO Jones outlined appropriations of specific sums for the purpose of municipal government for Upper Darby Township for the fiscal year 2026.

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by MB

Motion to approve the introduction and advertisement of Ordinance No. 3193: Appropriating Specific Sums for the Purpose of Municipal Government in Upper Darby Township for 2026

BA expressed concerns about the appropriations and the Operational Reserve balance in this budget.

HT asked for clarity on the \$17.8 million figure from the administration.

Roll Call Vote: 7 in favor (MB, MM, HT, DB, MS, Dblackwell, Mmcneely), 2 opposed (BA, LW), 1 excused (MW).

Motion passes

Ordinance No. 3194: FY26 Real Estate Tax

CAO Jones stated that the Ordinance proposes a tax rate for general fund purposes, the sum of 13.56 Mills on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation of real property, and for debt service purposes, .46 Mills on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation of real property.

Motion by DB, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to approve the introduction and advertisement of Ordinance No. 3194: Levying a Tax on Real Property for General Fund and Debt Purposes for 2026.

LW inquired about why the tax rate was proposed before receiving the County assessments, noting that the figures could change once the assessments are received.

Roll Call Vote: 5 in favor (MB, MM, HT, DB, Mmcneely), 3 opposed (BA, LW, MS), 1 not present (Dblackwell), 1 excused (MW).

Motion passes

Resolution No. 40-25: To Adopt the Budget for the 2026 Fiscal Year

CAO Jones introduced Resolution No. 40-25, which adopts the proposed 2026 budget attached as Exhibit "A" in the resolution.

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to Introduce and Place Resolution No. 40-25 on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote.

LW expressed concern about the Budget Hearing Agenda and posting on the UDT website, to which Solicitor Gallagher responded.

HT asked about the adoption date for this Resolution.

LW clarified the adoption date for this Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: 7 in favor (MB, MM, HT, DB, MS, Dblackwell, Mmcneely), 2 opposed (BA, LW), 1 excused (MW).

Motion passes

Solicitor

No report

LW asked for the remaining list of all lawsuits involving the Township, to which Solicitor Gallagher responded.

Old Business

DB expressed his appreciation to everyone who attended the town hall he hosted in the 6th District on 10/29/25.

LW discussed newsletters she has distributed to township residents over the years, which include extensive information about available township resources and programs.

New Business

Mmcneely announced he will partner with State Representative Heather Boyd to do a food drive in District 5-9 and at the Garrettford-Drexel Hill Firehouse on 11/12/25. He is also planning a food drive in the 5th District, and more details will be provided.

MB shared a list of locations where residents may access food resources.

LW discussed the food drive collection at Highland Park Elementary School on Election Day, which she helped organize. She also mentioned various upcoming Veterans' Day events and said additional information would be provided. She raised a resident's concern regarding towing fees and requested that it be investigated, to which Solicitor Gallagher responded.

DB discussed clean-up events held on the 4th Saturdays of the month, encouraging residents to participate.

Motion by MB, seconded by DB

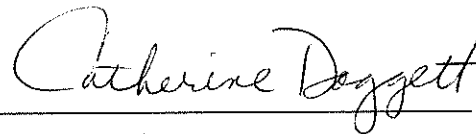
Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

Motion passes

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Doggett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Catherine Doggett
Chief Municipal Clerk