

Council Committee Meeting Minutes  
Upper Darby Township  
100 Garrett Road  
Upper Darby, PA 19082  
April 1, 2026 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 Minick opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Michelle Billups (MB), Marion Minick (MM), Noah Fields (NF), Jonathan McMahon (JM), Melissa DiNofia-Bozzone (MDB), Syama Disa (SD), Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), Myron McNeely (Mmcneely), David Bantoe (DB), Kyle McIntyre (KM), and Brian O’Neill (BO).

Also present: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, Chief Administrative Officer Crandall O. Jones, Solicitors Gallagher and Youngblood, Chief Municipal Clerk Kate Doggett, and UDT police officers.

**Rules for Meeting Decorum**

Upper Darby residents and concerned persons have the opportunity to speak for 3 minutes. All speakers 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 30 minutes. If a speaker 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.

President Minick polled Council; all members were in favor of extending Public Forum beyond 30 minutes to allow all speakers to be heard.

**Public Forum**

Bob Yantorno reported that police officers received retention pay, inquired about the status of arbitration with the police officers, and expressed appreciation for the firefighters.

Tim Smith inquired about whose responsibility it is to ensure that the 1% EIT is remitted to Upper Darby Township for employees working outside the Township.

John McDevitt raised concerns about the March 9th Finance and Appropriations Committee Oversight Hearing.

Christine Fierras raised concerns and expressed opposition to the oversight of the Upper Darby Township Volunteer Fire Companies.

Connie Komm expressed opposition to a political party, certain fellow residents, and the Upper Darby Township Resolution regarding public comment.

Rudolph Holloway reported damage to his property from Upper Darby Township trash trucks and submitted photos. He asked for assistance with this issue.

Lee Jordan announced that the Pilgrim Garden Civic Association will hold its annual meeting on 4/27 at Collenbrook. She asked that residents be reminded about e-bike safety, inquired who to contact about roadkill, requested police enforce underage drinking laws at Pilgrim Park, and followed up with questions about MOUs with neighboring towns.

Steve Komm commended the Council and Mayor Brown for taking action against ICE, discussed gas and food prices, and the right to vote.

James Durante commented on cooperation between ICE and Upper Darby Township Police, thanked retired Public Works Director Joe Martin, and suggested offering tax leniency to residents employed by the TSA.

Spiro Pappas asked why recycling and trash are collected in the same truck, requested that a basketball court be replaced in Drexel Gardens Park, and discussed the Highland Park and Garrettford Fire Companies.

Becky Duggan noted that a Highland Park Fire Company representative attended the March 9th Oversight Hearing, mentioned a Vietnam Veterans' brunch hosted by Post 214, and urged support for the Post. She thanked retired Public Works Director Joe Martin, inquired about a replacement for his position, and asked if anyone had communicated with the Treasurer.

Chris Fabre commended Animal Control for managing a recently abandoned dog, raised concerns about trash and recycling being collected in the same truck, and noted the lack of recognition for National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29th, compared to a flag-raising to celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility.

Judy Duggan discussed the difficulty in reaching township employees by telephone.

Joanne Nammavong commented on trash in township streets, asked if America 250 celebrations are planned, and expressed support for free speech at township meetings.

Olivia Taylor commented on offensive speech directed at certain residents during the Public Forum and urged limiting spending to ensure funding for firefighters.

Peggy Kowalski, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee, announced a free Earth Day event on 4/18 at Arlington Cemetery and a free Bokashi Composting Event on 4/20 at the Municipal Building One Center.

Nate Goodson, Pastor of the Prayer Chapel Church and Chairman of the Bywood Community Association in the 7th District, expressed interest in collaborating with the 7th District Councilor to benefit the community.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by DB, seconded by Mmcneely**

**Motion to Approve the March 18, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes.**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

**The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown**

Mayor Brown highlighted recent events he participated in, including the swearing-in of Assistant Fire Chief Callahan, a press conference on the Garrettford Fire Company, the ribbon-cutting at Delaware County Community College's Southeast Center campus, the opening day of the Drexel Hill Little League Baseball Season, and a free tie giveaway with lessons. He also spoke about the Council's review of the capital budget and five-year capital plan, addressed a resident's concern about the One Center, and discussed plans for America 250 celebrations. He expressed confidence that the township's complex issues can be resolved through cooperation and communication, emphasizing that they are not political matters.

**President of Council, Marion B. Minick**

No comments.

**Resolution: 12-2026: FY2026 Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Program**

**Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by JM**

**Motion to approve the introduction and advertisement of Resolution No. 12-2026, with a public hearing and action scheduled for May 6, 2026, for the Council to approve the FY2026 Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Program.**

CAO introduced Resolution No. 12-26, which outlines a plan for capital expenditures over the next five years totaling \$83,517,928.00, with revenue from several sources, including grants, capital reserve funds, and anticipated bonds. He noted that the vote is to accept the plan and commit funding for 2026, the plan's first year. Years two through five are flexible, with discussion and deliberation each year. He emphasized the need to proceed promptly with grant-funded projects due to approaching expiration deadlines.

MDB asked that the full presentation be shown.

BO also asked to see the full presentation. He requested that any significant investment include recognition of Vietnam veterans who lost their lives, such as dedicating a fire truck in their honor.

MB would also like to see the full presentation.

CAO Jones presented a PowerPoint on the 5-Year Plan, highlighting a focus on the Community Center and Observatory Park Improvements projects.

Diane Scutti presented a spreadsheet detailing the 5-Year Plan, with an emphasis on 2026 department-specific projects and funding sources.

MDB inquired about the timeline for replacing trash trucks.

KM inquired about funds allocated for the maintenance of the 69th Street Bridge.

BO asked whether narrower trash trucks had been considered for purchase.

DB inquired about potential revenue opportunities from certain projects.

MB inquired about the possibility of implementing twice-weekly trash collection in the future.

MDB asked Superintendent Bernhardt whether the funding is sufficient to cover the number of computers and pole cameras needed.

Mayor Brown thanked CAO Jones and Diane Scutti and confirmed whether the emergency Colleenbrook retaining wall project had begun.

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

**Solicitor**

Solicitor Gallagher reported that her office has been addressing health, safety, and welfare concerns at Grand Court Apartments with township staff, including the L&I Department and Fire Marshal's Office. A contempt order was entered against the property owner and management company. The township is authorized to install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers in each unit, inspect units with complaints of lack of heat, hot water, or electricity, and remediate violations requiring immediate action if the owner/manager fails to comply. The township is also authorized to place a lien on the property for a \$250,000 punitive fine plus \$18,757.20 in attorney fees, and she confirmed that the lien has been filed.

Dblackwell asked Solicitor Gallagher for guidance related to a communication matter, wherein she requested that two emails be sent to Council, to ensure that there was full compliance with all applicable laws, including the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and the Upper Darby Township Home Rule Charter, and sought clarification on when an elected official's request can be lawfully refused.

**Old Business**

NF spoke about the recent Free Food Giveaway event and thanked Councilman McNeely for leading the effort. He also expressed appreciation to his Council colleagues, the Administration, and Tommy Thornton, President of the IAFF Local 2493, for contributing to the event's success. He stated that the oaths he took represent a duty to act, emphasizing that action is not a choice but rather an obligation when working people are struggling.

Mmcneely thanked President Minick, Vice-President Fields, and Secretary Billups, Councilmen McIntyre and McMahon for their contributions and support for this event, and expressed appreciation to his colleagues on the Council.

Dblackwell announced the Sound the Alarm Save a Life event on 4/11/26 and the Meet-and-Greet event with Judge Benjamin Johns on 4/8/26.

KM announced that submissions for the Upper Darby Township Flag Competition are open through April 17, 2026. He discussed a recent flag-raising event honoring Transgender Day of

Visibility and Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29), expressing gratitude to the veterans who served. As Chair of the Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, KM reported outreach to neighboring municipalities to strengthen partnerships and share ideas on community challenges. He noted that the master plan survey for Naylor's Run Park remains open, inviting community feedback on potential improvements.

DB invited the public to a Meet-and-Greet event with State Representative Gina Curry on 4/9/26.

### **New Business**

MDB reported that the Public Health and Environmental Affairs Committee met on March 19 and discussed regular community-wide clean-up opportunities. They met with EAC members and also offered to share information about America 250. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 9.

BO thanked the Police Department for their swift and professional response to a recent public safety issue.

KM reported that the Planning, Zoning, and Building Code Committee meeting was rescheduled to April 13, reviewed its goals, and that the Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for April 2, and outlined the planned discussion topics. He noted that this Saturday is Radar's fifth birthday, with a celebration at Gillespie Park at 10:00 AM. He mentioned the last free tennis clinic at Naylor's Run Park and announced that DCCC's new Southeast Center open house will be held on April 9 from 5:00–6:30 PM and will be open to the public. He provided information about the Hanwha Philly Shipyard Apprentice Program available through a partnership with DCCC.

DB commended the Fire Chief, Police, EMS, and Animal Control for their coordinated efforts in rescuing a cat from a tree. He acknowledged STAT EMS for assuming EMS responsibilities in the township on short notice and thanked CAO Jones, Mayor Brown, and the Council for their support during this situation. He discussed the ongoing challenges faced by the EMS and Fire Department related to mutual aid.

MB requested public support at the April 28 Zoning Hearing for two vital service providers, Mental Health Partnership and Best Choice, whose requested variances had been denied.

Dblackwell extended well wishes and safe travels to the four astronauts launched into space today.

Mayor Brown responded to DB's remarks on mutual aid, stating that he has requested CAO Jones to arrange meetings with counterparts from other municipalities, including their CAOs, Mayors, and Fire Chiefs, to review existing agreements and identify what still needs to be formalized.

**Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by NF**

**Motion to Adjourn**

**All in favor**

**Motion passes**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Catherine Doggett  
Chief Municipal Clerk