

Council Meeting Minutes
Upper Darby Township
100 Garrett Road
Upper Darby, PA 19082
July 1, 2026 7:00 pm

****The video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on 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) via Zoom, Marion Minick (MM), Noah Fields (NF), Jonathan McMahon (JM), Melissa DiNofia-Bozzone (MDB), Danyelle Blackwell (Dblackwell), Myron McNeely (Mmcneely), David Bantoe (DB), Kyle McIntyre (KM), and Brian O'Neill (BO).

Excused: Syama Disa (SD)

Also present: The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown, Acting Chief Administrative Officer Rita LaRue, Solicitors Clarke and Youngblood, Chief Municipal Clerk Kate Doggett, and UDT police officers.

Motion by NF, seconded by Mmcneely

Motion to allow those who did not have an opportunity to speak during the initial thirty (30) minutes of the Public Forum to comment at the end of the meeting.

All in favor

Motion passes

Public Forum

Jeff Nicholson raised concerns about ongoing disturbances at Penn Pines Park, thanked those who have helped resolve some of the issues, and requested assistance to address the remaining concerns, including consideration of an ordinance or a park ranger presence.

Mark Latrenta inquired about any steps being taken to improve traffic safety and reduce speeding on Township Line Road, and stated his opposition to the Mozino Tract development.

Terri McGrath expressed opposition to the proposed development and rezoning at the Mozino Tract. Bob Yantorno expressed opposition to the proposed development at the Mozino Tract. He raised traffic safety concerns, inquired about the cost to the township for the Pride Festival, and asked about the police contract negotiations.

Peggy Kowalski, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee, stated her support for Ordinance 2026-09, which would formalize the EAC in the township.

Wendie Hetherington, member of the Tree Tenders and the Environmental Advisory Committee, opposed the Mozino Tract development and variances and advocated for open green space.

David Dryden commented on the role of Council, expressed concerns regarding several Council members, and voiced opposition to the proposed Mozino Tract development and related ordinances.

Evan Hunt voiced opposition to the proposed Mozino Tract development and related ordinances and urged Council not to support it.

Lee Jordan voiced opposition to the proposed Mozino Tract development and related ordinances and urged Council not to support it. She expressed support for Ordinance 2026-09 related to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

John DeMasi discussed limitations on speech, taxes, the CAO contract, and the Mozino Tract development.

Becky Duggan discussed limitations on speech and stated opposition to the Mozino Tract development. She inquired about the quarterly financial reports.

Council recessed for ten minutes.

Council reconvened.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Dblackwell, seconded by MB

Motion to Approve the June 17, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

All in favor

Motion passes

The Honorable Mayor Ed Brown

Mayor Brown reported on events and activities attended since the previous Council meeting, including the Challenger League event, Juneteenth celebration, and Jazz in the Park event. He commented on two firefighter promotions and one retirement. He also announced an upcoming Upper Darby Township America 250 Independence Day celebration and a veterans event.

President of Council, Marion B. Minick

Ordinance 2026-09: Environmental Advisory Committee

President Minick requested the Council approve the introduction and advertisement of Ordinance No. 2026-09, with a public hearing and action scheduled for July 15, 2026, for the Council to approve formalizing the Environmental Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising on environmental issues within the Township.

Motion by KM, seconded by MB

Motion to Amend Ordinance 2026-09 adding the words “approved by council” to the end of the sentence in Section 1, Subsection 21.17, titled “Appropriation of Funds”; after the second sentence after the phrase “adhere to a budget”.

All in favor

Motion passes

Motion by MDB, seconded by KM

Motion to Approve the Introduction and Advertisement of Ordinance 2026-09 with Amendments.

All in favor

Motion passes

Councilwoman Melissa DiNofia-Bozzone described the purpose of the Environmental Advisory Committee and outlined the process for formalizing it by ordinance.

Council recessed for two minutes.

Council reconvened.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Rita LaRue

Ordinance 2026-10: Removal of Parking Two Parking Meters at 0 West Chester Pike.

President Minick requested the Council approve the Introduction and Advertisement of Ordinance No. 2026-10, with a public hearing and action scheduled for July 15, 2026, for the Council to approve the removal of two parking meters and parking stalls at 0 West Chester Pike, Tax Parcel ID 16-06-01224-00, to accommodate CDBG renovations.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Rita LaRue explained that the CDBG renovations are block grants, that the project was funded in Program Year 50 at approximately \$335,000.00, and that it should be completed by the end of September.

MB clarified that this is for the removal of two parking meters and two parking stalls to facilitate completion of the project by PennDOT.

BO asked whether the removals are temporary or permanent.

Motion by Mmcneely, seconded by NF

Motion to Approve the Introduction and Advertisement of Ordinance 2026-10.

All in favor

Motion passes

Solicitor

No report.

Old Business

Mmcneely reported discussions with Mayor Brown and CAO Jones regarding establishing a staging area for paramedics in the busiest area of town to improve emergency response for residents.

Dblackwell inquired about the location of the staging area.

KM reported that funding for the Pride Festival was covered entirely by sponsors, organizations, and community donors, with no Township funds used. He also addressed and denied an allegation that he threatened violence. He announced that the flag competition is resuming and assured the residents that the Council is gathering information on the Mozino Tract development and will provide the community with updates.

DB thanked members of the Bangladeshi community for attending the Independence Day program and expressed appreciation to the event organizer.

New Business

MB noted that 69th Street was free of trash and thanked the Upper Darby Township Sanitation Department for its efforts. She announced that the Community Action Agency of Delaware County and the Delaware County Department of Human Services in Upper Darby have funding available to assist residents with emergency rent assistance, utility payments, and eviction prevention.

KM congratulated Upper Darby High School graduate Kandakar Mahin for winning the Presidential AI challenge. He outlined several initiatives he plans to pursue, including establishing a business and tourism board and an immigrant affairs board, as well as continuing efforts to preserve affordability through zoning reform.

Mayor Brown stated Kandakar Mahin will be honored at a future Council meeting.

MDB expressed appreciation to the Director of Public Works for her efforts to coordinate with PECO to restore street lighting on Argyle Road and discussed a new turf field project in District 3.

DB acknowledged residents' concerns about public safety and stated that the Public Safety Committee is working to address safety issues in every district of the Township. He noted that the committee is reviewing public safety programs in other municipalities.

JM wished everyone a Happy 4th of July holiday.

McNeely thanked the Council and Mayor Brown for attending the Jazz in the Park event and spoke about its success.

BO assured residents that their public safety concerns are being heard and stated that the committee is gathering information to develop action items.

Public Forum continued

Joanne Nammavong commented on playground equipment, quarterly financial reports, turf fields, and baseball player Kevin McGonigle. She inquired about the location of the parking meters in Ordinance 2026-10.

Dolores Lombardi requested that the Mozino Tract remain open space and not be rezoned. She stated that a trail would be a preferable alternative to the proposed development.

Olivia Taylor opposed not extending the initial thirty minutes of the Public Forum to allow all speakers an opportunity to comment. She inquired about any decisions made regarding commercial parking signage.

Justine Mays asked which Council members supported the rezoning and development of the Mozino Tract. She also inquired whether there would be an increase to the EIT tax above 1%, the availability of interpreters at Council meetings, and Councilwoman Disa.

Jean Kosha thanked Mayor Brown for attending the Summer Reading Kickoff event and expressed appreciation to Council, the administration, and the Upper Darby Firefighters Charitable Trust for the Jazz in the Park event. She also spoke in support of preserving the Mozino Tract.

Sarah Dunn spoke about the benefits of open space and advocated for preserving the Mozino Tract.

Motion by NF, seconded by DB

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor

Motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Catherine Doggett
Chief Municipal Clerk