

**INDEX**  
**SECOND BUDGET HEARING**  
**NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

<b>Call of the Meeting</b>	1
<b>Roll Call</b>	1
<b>Rules for Meeting Decorum</b>	1
<b>Finance and Appropriations Committee</b>	2
Chair: Laura A. Wentz	
Members: Matt Silva, Meaghan R. Wagner, Brian Andruszko	
<b>Second Public Hearing</b>	2
<b>Public Comments</b>	2
<b>Council Comments</b>	2
<b>Adjournment</b>	3

**MINUTES**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> HEARING FOR 2023 BUDGET**  
**UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**  
**NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

\*\*\*The video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on [youtube.com/upperdarby.org](https://youtube.com/upperdarby.org)\*\*\*

**A special meeting of Upper Darby Township Council was held on Wednesday evening, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. before the regularly scheduled 7:00 p.m. meeting in the Council Meeting Room #202 of the Municipal Building, Long Lane and Garrett Road, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania**

**Call of the Meeting**

Members of Council  
Upper Darby Township  
Pennsylvania

Dear Members of Council:

There will be a special meeting of the Upper Darby Township Council on Wednesday evening, November 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. before the regularly scheduled meeting in the Council Meeting Room #202 of the Municipal Building, Long Lane and Garrett Road, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania for the following purposes:

- 1) Public Hearing for the purpose of review of the budget for the fiscal year 2023.
- 2) For all other purposes necessary or incidental thereto.

**Roll Call**

Andrew Hayman (AH), Danyelle Blackwell (DB), Brian Andruszko (BA), Sheikh M. Siddique, (SS),  
Lisa Faraglia (LF), Brian K. Burke (BB), Meaghan Wagner (MW), Hafiz Tunis Jr. (HT), Laura Wentz (LW)

Michelle Billups, (MB), via Zoom  
Matt Silva (MS), via Zoom

**Present at the Meeting**

Mayor Barbarann Keffer  
Chief Municipal Clerk, Alexis Cicchitti  
Diana Scutti, Controller  
Donna Stilwell, Brinker Simpson  
Solicitor Sean Kilkenny  
Solicitor Colleen Marsini

**Rules of Decorum**

**“Upper Darby residents have the opportunity to speak. 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”**

## **Finance and Appropriations Committee**

Chair: Laura A. Wentz

Members: Matt Silva, Meaghan R. Wagner, Brian Andruszko

### **Council Vice-President Wentz opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for the 2023 Budget.**

#### **Speakers:**

Spero Pappas, 2423 Cedar Lane, stated that he doesn't know the reason for these meetings because taxes are going to be raised anyway and asked if the Environmental Committee and the new Urban Committee are paid or volunteers and asked about other line items in the budget. He feels that it is ridiculous to raise taxes during a recession.

Mayor Keffer stated that for the last two years, there was no tax hike. When the trash and sewer fees are raised, the Township follows the Solid Waste Authority for the trash and the three Sewer Authorities that the Township is a part of. When they raise their rates, the Township needs to raise their own rates in order to stay ahead of that. The Mayor added that ideally, she would like to never have to raise taxes. However, the Township does have contractual agreements with four different unions and the Police Contract is still in arbitration. In addition, the contracts have raises built into them and the Township has the fiscal responsibility to cover what was promised to them. Costs are high.

Donna Stilwell added that they are all aware of the struggles and have tried to limit the increase. However, each year in 2020 and 2021, the Township had increases in expenses, including salaries, and you cannot keep taking from the Fund Balance to pay future bills. Ms. Stilwell stated that the Township has a consultant working on a five-year projection to help project out what will be needed and that numerous people are working very hard together to try to reduce expenses and keep the tax increase as low as possible.

Mr. Pappas asked about leaf collection and Mayor Keffer stated that there is a new leaf vacuum truck.

Olivia Taylor, 204 Kent Road, asked why there are two Deputy CAO's and asked for their salaries.

Mayor Keffer stated that the Administration has been re-structured.

Ms. Taylor added that Mayor Keffer could get the Police contract out of arbitration and should give these men and women what they deserve. She asked several additional questions.

Kyle McIntyre, 1040 Drexel Avenue, asked why the line items were not public. After brief discussion, Solicitor Kilkenny stated that if this were ultimately a budget for consideration to vote on to adopt, it would be a public document. LW stated that it could be put up on the website for the public to view.

John McDevitt, 440 Hampshire Road, spoke of the Police and Fire portions of the Budget and the volunteer staffing at the fire companies and compared Upper Darby Township's fire budget to Springfield and Lower Merion

Joanne Nommavong, 133 N. Pennock Avenue, stated that it is necessary to be more transparent and provide the line items

Becky Duggan, 129 N. Pennock Avenue, asked what line items the Deputy CAO's were taken from

Spero Pappas, 2423 Cedar Lane, asked about UD "stepping up" for Yeadon. Mayor Keffer stated that Superintendent Bernhardt and Solicitor Kilkenny are working on creating an MOU for Upper Darby with Yeadon to hold prisoners in UD holding cells. Upper Darby Township has a similar agreement with Millbourne.

Olivia Taylor stated that our police officers are already overworked and believes that this will be a further burden.

President Burke stated that Council voted on the fire agreement with Millbourne and asked if Council would be voting on this as well. Mayor Keffer stated that she has the power to sign contracts and they would not be voting.

**Council Vice-President Wentz officially closed the Budget Hearing.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn: LW/AH**

**All in favor. The meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Alexis Cicchitti*

Alexis Cicchitti

Chief Municipal Clerk

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