

Public Hearings

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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What is a Public Hearing?

Public hearings are formal hearings that must follow rules set out by provincial and local legislation. Public hearings are often required for the passing of statutory plans and bylaws.

Public hearings provide an opportunity for members of the public to speak to Council on presented projects or proposals.

Public hearings have to be advertised for 2 consecutive weeks, 5 days before the start of the public hearing, so that the public is informed.

When does a Public Hearing take place?

Public hearings must take place during a regular or special Council Meeting. A Public hearing is conducted at a set time and usually takes place between the 1st and 2nd readings of a bylaw.

Council's Role

During a public hearing, Council is there to listen to the concerns of the attending public. Council will not debate the issue or challenge any comments during this time. They may ask clarification questions.

Public's Role

The public can submit their concerns in writing by a set date before the public hearing if they cannot attend. The concerns will be read aloud by Administration. The public also has the right to attend and speak at any public hearing. Usually an individual's time to speak is limited to 5 or 10 minutes.

What happens next?

Council will take all comments received, both written and verbal, under advisement when making the decision to pass the bylaw or not. They may make the decision later in that same Council Meeting or at a subsequent meeting. Council may:

- Pass the bylaw or resolution
- Make an amendment to the bylaw or resolution and pass it without further advertisement
- Defeat the bylaw or resolution

QUICK FACTS:

- If a Councillor is absent during some or all of the Public Hearing, they cannot vote on the bylaw.
- All sign in sheets and minutes of the Public Hearing are considered part of the minutes of that Council Meeting.
- The public has the right within 60 days to appeal the bylaw to the Court of Queen's Bench.



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