

Public Participation in Council Meetings Explained

	PUBLIC MEETING	DEPUTATION/PRESENTATION	PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD	CORRESPONDENCE
Registration	 Required if joining electronically. Not required if attending in person. 	 Required at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date. Material to be published with the agenda must be provided 24 hrs prior to the agenda being published. 	 Required if joining electronically or submitting questions electronically. At least 24 hours in advance of meeting. Not required if attending in person. 	 Not Required. Correspondence needs to be submitted 7 days prior to the meeting to be included in the agenda.
Time	Based on the items of business on the agenda.	• 10 minute maximum.	• 5 minute maximum.	• N/A
Purpose	Hear input from the public on a particular matter, i.e., Budget or Zoning By-law Amendment.	 Provide information on a specific topic. Requests for support, financial or otherwise will be presented at the appropriate Committee. 	 Allow the public to ask questions on any topic. Persons asking a question must provide their name and the municipality where they live prior to asking their question. 	 Consider items at the appropriate Council or Committee meeting based on the topic of the correspondence. Correspondence must be deemed to be valid and complete.
Response	Members are not to enter into debate or discussion during the public meeting.	Members can ask questions but not enter into debate or discussion.	Members will hear questions and answer if appropriate.	The reponse will be dependent on the type of correspondence. There may be discussion, or it may be received for information purposes without discussion.
Outcome	Public input will be used to complete the particular process, i.e., Budget or Zoning By-law Amendment.	Information provided in a public forum.	If the question is not answered at the meeting, staff will try to respond after the meeting by phone or email if contact information has been provided.	 Action is dependent on the correspondence. The outcome can be viewed by watching the meeting (live or after).