COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City of Renton and the City Council encourage resident participation in the local government process, and attending a city council meeting is one way to do that. Council meetings are held on the first four Mondays of each month in the Council Chambers at Renton City Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. Committee of the whole meetings (work sessions) often precede the council meeting and offer in-depth explanation and discussion of topics facing the city. If you cannot attend in person, you can view all regular council meetings and committee of the whole meetings live on government access Cable Channel 21, which is available within the Renton city limits or on the city’s website at rentonwa.gov/council. Videos from each meeting are also available on the website, and meetings are rebroadcast on Cable Channel 21 throughout the week.

COUNCIL AGENDAS AND MINUTES

Council meeting agendas are published in advance of meetings, and are available in the City Clerk’s office on the Thursday preceding the Monday meeting. They are also available on the city’s website and at the council meeting. Adopted minutes of council meetings are available in the City Clerk’s office on the Tuesday following the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING PROCEDURE

Public hearings and public meetings are sometimes scheduled at regular council meetings and are limited to a specific topic. In some instances, council will request a public meeting to gather public input on an area of concern or interest to council. Following a brief presentation by staff, audience comment will be invited. Comments are limited to five minutes per person so that everyone can be heard, and are limited to the specific hearing/meeting topic.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Public opinions are an important part of the decision-making process and there are many ways to let the city and council know your thoughts about a subject. You may call council directly at 425-430-6501. You may also submit a letter which will be recorded and forwarded to all councilmembers, or email council individually (addresses are available at rentonwa.gov/council) or council as a group at council@rentonwa.gov.

Speaking during the audience comment period is another way to share your concerns. Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker.

We offer these suggestions to make the process easier for you:

■ When your name is called by the Presiding Officer, please walk to the podium and state your name and city of residence for the record, spelling your last name.

■ Purpose: What is the idea you wish to present? Begin with an “I” statement outlining your idea, such as “I am here to (support/oppose)...”

■ Reason: Why are you making this point? This is an important step so the listener does not misunderstand your motives.

■ Example: A brief and relevant example will clarify and make your point.

■ Summary: What condition will be changed or improved if your point is adopted?

■ Action (If appropriate, depending on the situation): What, in your opinion, needs to be done?

EXECUTIVE SESSION
This is a closed portion of the meeting for discussion of confidential legal matters, personnel matters, labor negotiations, and/or property transactions. A comprehensive list of all topics that can be discussed in executive session can be found in R.C.W. 42.30.110.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES
Many issues facing council are referred to a council committee for more in-depth review. If you are interested in a particular topic, you may want to attend the committee meeting where the issue will be discussed. Committee meetings, while open to the public, are working sessions and, typically, public testimony is not taken. The topics that will be discussed in committee are always announced prior to the meeting at the end of the regularly scheduled council meeting under the “New Business” portion of the agenda. After the committee has reviewed and discussed a topic, the committee makes a recommendation to the full council in the form of a committee report that is presented and voted on under the “Unfinished Business” portion of the regular council meeting. If council approves a committee report, that decision becomes a decision of the full council.

All committee meetings times can be changed (or canceled) based upon committee workloads, so confirm the times of those in which you are interested by visiting rentonwa.gov/calendar.

CITY OF RENTON MISSION STATEMENT
The City of Renton, in partnership and communication with residents, businesses and schools, is dedicated to:

■ Providing a safe, healthy, welcoming atmosphere where people choose to live.

■ Promoting economic vitality and strategically positioning Renton for the future.

■ Supporting planned growth and influencing decisions that impact the city.

■ Building an informed, inclusive city with opportunities for all.

■ Meeting service demands through high quality customer service, innovation, a positive work environment, and a commitment to excellence.

CITY OF RENTON VISION
Renton: The center of opportunity in the Puget Sound Region where families and business thrive.