

About Tumwater City Government

The City of Tumwater is a non-charter code city which utilizes mayor-council form of government.

Seven Councilmembers act as policy makers, providing the Mayor (the City's separately elected chief executive officer) with guidelines and performance objectives.

The City Administrator and staff turn these goals into programs and services for the citizens. Councilmembers are elected citywide (at-large) and, consequently, represent all residents. It is the Council's role to adopt policies for the City and it is the Mayor's role to administer or carry out the adopted policies.

Council Committees

Council Committees are the policy review and means of discussion for the City Council created to assist in examining issues that come before the Council in greater depth and detail.

There are four standing Committees of the Tumwater City Council:

- Budget & Finance Committee
- General Government Committee
- Public Safety Committee
- Public Works Committee

Recommendations made by the Committees are only suggestions to the full Council, who then vote on the issues at a regular Council meeting and may or may not vote according to the Committee's recommendation.

Tumwater TV Channel 26

Most regularly scheduled Tumwater City Council meetings are telecast live on Tumwater Television, Channel 26. Meetings are broadcast as follows:

- Live: 7 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
- Rebroadcast: 7 p.m., the Thursday following the Council meeting
- Rebroadcast: 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday of the following week

ADA Accommodations

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations are provided upon request, with reasonable, adequate notice. Contact the City Clerk in advance of the meeting at (360) 754-4130 or by email at cityclerk@ci.tumwater.wa.us

City of Tumwater
555 Israel Road SW
Tumwater, WA 98501 Phone:
(360) 754-5855 FAX: (360)
754-4126
cityclerk@ci.tumwater.wa.us
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Attending a City Council Meeting



City of
Tumwater

Attending a City Council Meeting

The Tumwater City Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise noticed) at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Tumwater City Hall. This is a formal meeting of the Council for the purpose of conducting official City business and includes public comment; public hearings; presentations; reading of proclamations and community recognition; adoption of ordinances and resolutions; contracts; agreements; the City budget and budget amendments.

All meetings are open to the public except when the Council adjourns to executive session, as provided by law (RCW 42.30.110), or when Council is legally allowed to meet in closed session.

The Council also meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Tumwater Fire Department Headquarters Training Room, 311 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA for a Worksession. A Worksession is an informal meeting for the purpose of receiving briefings from staff. Worksessions do not include public comment and no final action is taken at a Worksession.

Meeting Agendas

Meeting agendas help provide the order of public meetings.

The City of Tumwater provides advance notice to the public by posting in *The Olympian* newspaper.

Tumwater City Council Meetings generally follow an established order:

1. Roll Call
2. Flag Salute
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Special Items
5. Public Comment (for discussion of items not having a public hearing later on the agenda)
6. Consent Calendar
7. Public Hearings
8. Council Considerations
9. Committee Reports
10. Mayor/City Administrator's Report
11. Councilmember Reports
12. Executive Session

Public Participation

Residents are encouraged to express their opinions on any matter within the Council authority. Speaking at the meeting and written communications are both appropriate methods of expression during public meetings. Written communications may also be directed by mail to the City Council at 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501; or sent by email to council@ci.tumwater.wa.us. This email address forwards your message to the Mayor, each Councilmember, the City Administrator and Executive Assistant.

How to Give Testimony

1. Write your information on the sign-in sheet provided in the Council Chambers just inside the door. Persons on the sign-in sheet will be called in order. When your name is called, go to the podium. State your first and last name for the record and your address. If you have a particular qualification of education or training, state that for the record. (If you cannot find a sign-in sheet, the Mayor will ask if anyone else wishes to testify after everyone on the sign-in sheet has been called.) The sign-in sheet is a public record, and eligible for release upon request.
2. Address the Mayor as "Madame Mayor" or "Your Honor."
3. Address Councilmembers as "Councilmember (Last Name) or as a group "Councilmembers."
4. Use your time at the podium to give your testimony. Your time at the microphone should be limited to about five minutes so be prepared with your thoughts before you speak. Direct your comments to the Council, not to the audience. This is not a dialogue, this is testimony for purposes of creating a legislative record. The Council will use your testimony to help adopt findings of fact after the hearing is closed.
5. The Council may question you about your testimony, ask for clarification, etc.
6. If you have documents to submit, hand them to the Mayor and ask that they be admitted into the record. The Mayor decides whether to admit the documents for purposes of the record.
7. When finished with your testimony, please take your seat unless the Mayor or Council has questions for you.