

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - City Council Attendance and Meetings

1. When does City Council meet?

City Council meets regularly on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Special meetings may be scheduled as needed. Please check the City's website for specific dates and times.

2. Where do City Council meetings take place?

City Council meetings are held at Beachwood City Hall, Council Chambers, located at 25325 Fairmount Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122. Meetings are open to the public.

3. Can I attend a City Council meeting?

Yes! City Council meetings are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend. You can participate during Citizen's Remarks or simply observe.

4. How can I participate in a City Council meeting?

Residents can participate by attending in person and speaking during the public comment period, which typically occurs following the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

5. Do I need to register to speak at a City Council meeting?

Yes, you will need to sign up in advance to speak. Sign-up sheets are provided at the beginning of the meeting, and Citizen's Remarks are addressed in the order they are received. Each speaker is allotted three minutes to share their remarks.

6. What if I cannot attend or miss a City Council meeting?

If you cannot attend a meeting, you can follow along via the livestream or watch the recording, which is typically available on the City's website. If you miss a meeting, you can review the minutes and recording to stay informed about the outcomes.

7. What is the process for voting at City Council meetings?

At each meeting, Council Members vote on various items presented. Typically, two votes are taken: one to suspend the three-reading rule and pass the item on the first reading, and a second vote for the adoption of the item. Votes are conducted by roll call, called by the Clerk in alphabetical order. The outcomes of the votes are recorded in the meeting minutes and made available to the public.

8. How is a quorum determined for City Council meetings?

City Council has seven (7) elected members. To conduct official business, at least four members need to be present. If fewer members are there, they can still meet and may decide to excuse absent members. But without at least four members, no official decisions can be made.

9. What is an Executive Session, and when does City Council hold one?

An Executive Session is a closed portion of a City Council meeting or Committee Meeting that is not open to the public. It is held to discuss specific confidential matters as permitted by law, such as personnel issues, pending litigation, real estate transactions, or collective bargaining. Council must first vote in an open meeting to enter Executive Session, and no formal decisions or votes can be made during the session. Any official action resulting from these discussions must be taken in a public meeting.

10. What is the procedure for calling a special meeting of the City Council?

Special meetings can be called by the Mayor, Council President, or by the request of a majority of Council Members. Public notice will be provided at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

11. Can I contact Council Members directly about issues?

Yes! You are welcome to contact individual Council Members directly via email or phone to express concerns or ask questions. Contact details for each Council Member are available on the [City website](#).

12. Does City Council have a summer session?

Yes, during the summer months, City Council typically operates on a reduced schedule. Meetings may be held less frequently. Please refer to the City's website or contact the Clerk's office for specific dates during the summer session.

13. What is a committee meeting?

A committee meeting is a gathering of a smaller group of Council Members assigned to review and discuss specific issues in greater detail before presenting recommendations to the full City Council. These committees focus on areas such as finance, public safety, or public works. Members of Council chair these committees, leading discussions and guiding the review process. Committee meetings are open to the public unless otherwise specified and provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion before formal decisions are made at a regular Council meeting.

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