

Public Participation in Council Meetings Explained

	PUBLIC MEETING	DEPUTATION/PRESENTATION	PUBLIC FORUM	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 submitting comments or 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.	 3 minute maximum per comment. 15 minute maximum per meeting.	• 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 comment on any topic. Commenters must begin with their name and the municipality where they live. 	 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 listen but not enter into debate or discussion.	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.	Comments will be recorded in the meeting minutes.	 Action is dependent on the correspondence. The outcome can be viewed by watching the meeting (live or after).

^{*}Public participation goes beyond Council meetings. There are many ways to be involved from serving on committees to responding to surveys.

See www.OwenSound.ca for more information.