
CITY COUNCIL MEETING BASICS

The City Council meets on the first, second and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., and serves as the city's policy making and legislative body. During these meetings, decisions are made to approve contracts, enact laws called ordinances, adopt policy, and authorize the expenditure of city funds. An ordinance, or amendment to an ordinance, is a "legislative act" that requires two readings at separate Council meetings. A resolution is a formal action of the Council expressing policy or directing certain types of administrative action that requires only one reading.

The Mayor may approve or veto an ordinance or resolution that is passed by the Council. Any veto can be overridden with six Council-member votes. The Mayor is also the presiding officer or chair at City Council meetings. In the event of a tie, the Mayor has the authority to cast the deciding vote.

Each meeting is governed by Robert's Rules of Order unless those guidelines conflict with City ordinance or charter.

City Council meetings offer an opportunity for citizens to speak directly to their elected representatives. Those in attendance are invited to address the Council during the Public Input segment at the beginning of the agenda. At that time, any issue that is not subject to a final vote later in the agenda can be addressed. Testimony that concerns a resolution or an ordinance's second reading is only allowed when those specific agenda items are being addressed by the council. When addressing the Council, citizens should speak directly into the microphones at the podium and state their names for the record after being recognized by the chair.

To accommodate and respect all viewpoints, citizen comments are limited by ordinance to no more than five minutes each. Comments should be respectful and focused on providing new information that will benefit the Council's deliberative process. The Chair reserves the right to limit the number of speakers, but may be overridden by the Council. Any member of the Council may also call on a citizen to provide additional public testimony.

| City Council meetings are broadcast live on CityLink and [online](#).

Information regarding the City Council, its committees, meetings, briefings and members is available by visiting www.siouxfalls.org/council or by calling the Council Office at 605-367-8085.