

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

RCW 42.30, the Open Public Meetings Act, requires all meetings of the City Council be open to the public. MTMC 2.10.090 states that the public may address Council after being recognized by the presiding officer and provides an order for doing so. To facilitate orderly meetings and to encourage appropriate public comment during meetings, the City Council adopted the following policy:

1. During regular meetings held generally on the first and third Mondays, public comments on matters, not on the agenda, shall be taken under the Public Comment agenda item that precedes the consent calendar. Comments must be limited to five (5) minutes and persons shall first be recognized to speak by the presiding officer. A sign-up sheet will be provided on a table near the Council Chambers entrance and following recognition of those who signed up, public comments shall be taken from the floor and from those persons participating remotely. All in-person public comments shall be made from the designated public comment location. No speaker may convey or donate his or her time for speaking to another speaker. Comments shall be made to the Council as a body and shall not be addressed to individual members of the City Council.
2. Prior to Council consideration of any action item on the agenda, the presiding officer shall ask for any public comment on the agenda item requiring Council action. A sign-up sheet shall be provided on a table near the Council Chambers entrance for public comment on action items on the agenda. Comments must be limited to five (5) minutes and shall be addressed to the Council as a body. Each speaker may address the Council only one time during the public comment portion of the meeting and one time for each agenda action item on the meeting agenda. Public comment and/or verbal testimony on agenda items subject to quasi-judicial consideration by the Council shall only be during the specified public hearing on that topic. City Council work/study sessions are held on Thursday nights, preceding regular meetings. The City Council uses work sessions to study issues and to discuss issues among themselves and with City staff. There shall be no public comment during these discussions. The Council generally takes no formal action at work sessions, however if action is noted, the regular meeting public comment policy applies. Matters on work/study session agendas will also typically come before the Council for action at a subsequent regular meeting. Public comment shall be allowed and each speaker will be given a maximum of two (2) minutes to speak. Public comments at work/study sessions shall be noted preceding the review of the upcoming regular meeting agenda items.
3. Members of the public who wish to address the Council should come to the designated public comment location after they are recognized by the Mayor and state their name for the record. No person shall make personal attacks, threatening remarks, or engage in conduct which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the Council meeting.

Agendas and meeting materials are available on the city's website at www.cityofmlt.com/129. You may also make a request for records by contacting the Public Records Officer at 425-744-6235 or recordsofficer@mltwa.gov. There is a fee for copying records.