

NEWS RELEASE

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Council & Committee meeting changes in response to COVID-19

January meetings going virtual, Public Hearings postponed

Summary

The City of Nanaimo continues to adapt its processes due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Due to concerns regarding the highly infectious nature of the Omicron variant, all Council and Committee meetings for the month of January will be held virtually. In addition, Public Hearings that had been scheduled for January 20 and January 24 have been postponed until February.

Staff continue to monitor public health orders and will re-evaluate the situation later this month to determine the best course of action for future Council and Committee meetings.

As required by Legislation, the public are still able to attend these virtual meetings in person, to ask questions and/or appear as a registered delegation; however, the City strongly encourages the public to participate electronically if at all possible. Delegations are encouraged to join the meeting via Zoom rather than attend in person, and all meetings continue to be live-streamed and available for viewing on the City website at www.nanaimo.ca/meetings.

For members of the public who wish to attend a meeting in person, please be advised that if maximum seating capacity is reached you will not be permitted to enter the meeting room. Masks are also required in all indoor public settings. Details on how to attend these virtual meetings in person is as follows:

Council meetings

- The public can attend in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre's Shaw Auditorium, located at 80 Commercial Street.

Committee meetings *(including Finance and Audit and Governance and Priorities Committee)*

- The public can attend in the Service and Resource Centre's Boardroom, located at 411 Dunsmuir Street.

Strategic Link: Ensuring public safety and access for public participation in Council's decision-making process supports a priority of providing good governance.

Key Points

- Council and Committee meetings for the month of January 2022 will be held virtually
- The Public Hearing dates scheduled for January 20 and 24 have been postponed
- Staff will continue to monitor and re-evaluate the situation later this month for future meetings
- Registered delegations are encouraged to attend meetings via Zoom, but public attendance is still permitted

Quotes

"It is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic will still be with us for the foreseeable future, but thanks to modern technology and the ability to have meetings virtually, the work of Council carries on. We thank Staff for continuing to adapt during these unprecedented times by helping develop solutions that allow public participation to still take place in a manner that ensures safety is prioritized."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

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