

1. Your Council generally handles all business at Ordinary or Special Council Meetings.
 2. From time to time Council may form a Committee, Working Party or Steering group to examine specific subjects and then report to Council.
 3. Generally, all meetings are open to the public. Occasionally Council will be required to deal with personal, legal and other sensitive matters and on these occasions, Council will generally close that part of the meeting to the public. Every endeavour will be made to do this as the last item of business of the meeting.
 4. **Public Question Time:** It is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1995* to allow at least fifteen (15) minutes for public question time following the opening and announcements at the beginning of the meeting. Should there be a series of questions, the period can be extended at the discretion of the Presiding Member. If presenting questions to Council please note the following, as guided by the *Shire of Irwin Meeting Procedures Local Law 2016*:
 - Public Question Time occurs early in the meeting so please arrive at least 5 minutes before the advertised meeting start time (Ordinary Meetings are scheduled for a **6.00pm** start, unless otherwise advised).
 - Record your full name and suburb of residence on the Attendance Form available in the public seating area.
 - When invited by the Presiding Member to ask your question/s, please state your full name for the benefit of the minute taker and those present.
 - Only questions can be addressed to Council, not statements.
 - A minimum of 15 minutes is allocated to Public Question Time. A member of the public has 2 minutes to submit a question.
 - You may ask up to 2 questions before other members of the public will be invited to ask their questions to ensure all have an equal and fair opportunity to ask questions.
 - The Presiding Member may elect for written questions to be responded to as normal business correspondence.
 - The Presiding Member may decide that a question shall not be responded to where:
 - the same or similar question has been asked at a previous meeting and a response has already been provided;
 - a statement has been made and is not reformed into a question; or
 - a question is offensive or defamatory in nature and is not reformed into a question.
 - A question may be taken on notice by Council for a later response. Responses will be provided in writing to the member and a summary will be included in the agenda of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.
 - Members of the public are encouraged to raise matters relating to operations and administration through the Shire's Customer Request System.
 - At a Special Meeting of Council, only questions relating to the purpose of that meeting may be raised.
 - Should you wish to provide written questions prior to the meeting so that an appropriate response can be prepared, please submit them at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the Council meeting at which you wish them to be presented.
 5. Agendas for Ordinary Meetings of Council are available to the public from the Shire of Irwin Administration Centre or via the Shire's website www.irwin.wa.gov.au seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting.
 6. Public Inspection of Unconfirmed Minutes will be available for public inspection at the Shire of Irwin Administration Centre or via the Shire's website www.irwin.wa.gov.au within ten (10) working days after the Meeting.
 7. The Shire of Irwin is a Class 3 Local Government. As such, and in line with Section 58 of the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023*, there is now a requirement that Council Meetings:
 - are to be audio recorded; and
 - the recording is to be published on the Shire's website within 14 days of the meeting taking place.
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