



# Public Hearing Times

June 23, 2026 Council Meeting





# Public Hearings 2022-2026

## Participation

- 45 Public Hearings
- 135 Verbal presentations
- 7 Verbal Submission by Virtual Attendance
- 68 Written Submissions



## Key Themes

- 32 Public Hearings received at least one submission
- 13 Public Hearings received no submissions
- Public interest varies by subject matter.



# Legislative & Procedural Framework

Public hearings must follow the rules in the Municipal Government Act, Parkland County's Advertising Bylaw, and the County's Meeting Procedures Bylaw. These rules set out when hearings can be held, how they must be advertised, what information must be shared with the public, and how individuals and groups can participate. Together, they help ensure public hearings are open, clear, and fair.



01

## Scheduling & Advertising

A required public hearing must be advertised in accordance with Parkland County's Advertising Bylaw, enacted under section 606.1 of the *Municipal Government Act*, before it is held, and the hearing must occur during a regular or special Council meeting.

02

## Procedural Fairness

Council ensures that the process is fair, consistent, and transparent by applying the same process for all public hearings.

# Considerations

- Meeting Procedures Bylaw Amendments
- Accessibility & Equity Considerations
- Council Capacity
- Operational Impacts





# Public Hearing Options

## Option 1

**Maintain Status Quo with Enhancements and Added Flexibility**

## Option 2

**Pilot Program: Dedicated Monthly Evening Public Hearing Meeting**

## Option 3

**Hybrid Scheduling: Daytime or Evening Based on Criteria**



# Option 1

## Maintain Status Quo with Enhancements and Added Flexibility

Parkland County would continue to hold public hearings as part of regular or special Council meetings. For items that Council deems to be significant, additional flexibility would be introduced to allow the Agenda Review Committee to schedule evening hearings, as needed. Communications and accessibility would also be enhanced by:

- Updating public hearing notice templates to provide clear, plain-language information on how the public can participate (in person, virtually, or through written submissions).
- Reviewing and refining overall communication approaches to improve clarity, consistency, and awareness, including making information easier to locate on the County's website.
- Highlighting the public hearing process in a future edition of Your Parkland magazine to support broader community awareness.



# Option 2

## Pilot Program - Dedicated Monthly Evening Public Hearing Meeting

Parkland County could implement a pilot program that establishes one dedicated evening per month for public hearings.

Potential benefits of this option include:

- Increased predictability in scheduling for residents, Administration, and Council.
- The ability to evaluate the program at the conclusion of the pilot based on participation levels, written submissions, and operational considerations.



# Option 3

## Hybrid Scheduling: Daytime or Evening Based on Criteria

Council could adopt a flexible approach in which public hearings are scheduled during the day or evening based on defined criteria. This approach would build on the County's existing framework while allowing additional consideration for matters that may generate broader public interest or community impact. To support consistent application, Council would establish a clear process and set of criteria to guide the appropriate scheduling of hearings. Possible criteria may include:

- Type of public hearing
- Wishes of affected parties
- Anticipated level of public interest
- Potential community or geographic impact
- Complexity or significance of the matter



# Recommendation

## Option 1 - Maintain Status Quo with Enhancements and Added Flexibility

- Administration recommends Option 1, as it represents a practical, low-impact approach focused on incremental improvements.
- This option will improve understanding and access to Public Hearings within the existing framework, as well as make enhancements where needed.
- Parkland County would continue to schedule public hearings as part of regular or special Council meetings and focus on improving communications and accessibility around public hearings.
- Council would have the option to schedule Public Hearings in the evening through the Agenda Review Committee as needed.
- This option is the least likely to create scheduling delays, while preserving Council's ability to schedule a Public Hearing at another time where warranted.

# Questions

Public Hearing Times

