



MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATION

The City Council and Mayor is the legislative and policy-making branch of City government. The Council must approve City laws (through ordinances) and policies (through resolutions); they approve expenditures through the annual budget process and set the general tone for the government itself. The Mayor and seven-member City Council meets at least twice monthly to conduct business. The City operates under the Mayor-Council form of government and utilizes a City Administrator appointed by the Mayor.

The Mayor is elected to a four-year term. The City Administrator runs the day-to-day business of the City. Councilmembers are elected at-large for four-year overlapping terms. Any resident of the City for longer than one year, if a qualified voter, is eligible to run for election to the Council. Elections are held on odd-numbered years.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

In addition to serving as members of the City Council, Councilmembers also participate in various committees which have been created to assist them in examining in greater depth and detail issues that may come before the Council. Every two years the Council organizes itself with respect to the number and makeup of the Committees.

The Committees meet normally twice a month or as needed in order to review issues that come to them via referral from the full Council, a member thereof, citizens, or staff. Often times, issues are resolved in Committee without further action on the part of the Council. Frequently the Committees make recommendations which are then later considered by the full City Council. The following standing Committees currently exist:

Public Works & Utilities Committee

Councilmembers Hansen, Goodrich & Zimmerman

This Committee directs its attention primarily to matters of City infrastructure. The Committee may hear issues concerning City development standards, the scheduling of improvements within the water, sewer, storm drainage, or street systems, or the consideration of rates, fees and policies for the utility operations of the City.

Planning & Land Use Committee

Councilmembers Faria, Goodrich & Ingram

This Committee is focused on the planning, legal, and criminal justice activities with the City. Frequently, new legislation originates in the Planning & Judicial Committee.

Finance & Administration Committee

Councilmembers Malpezzi, Ingram & Faria

This Committee concerns itself with City park and recreation activities as well as City finance and budget matters. Additionally, the Recreation and Finance Committee has historically been involved in labor relations, and in giving direction to the staff on personnel issues.



Public Health & Neighborhood Services Committee

Councilmembers Malpezzi, Mutchler & Zimmerman

This Committee is focused on Parks maintenance and other similar neighborhood issues.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

Councilmember Zimmerman

The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee consists of five members appointed by the City Council. One member is a current Councilmember, two members are representatives of businesses required to collect the tax, two members are persons in activities authorized to be funded by revenue received from the tax, and one member is the Parks and Recreation Director (or acting), who coordinates the meetings. The Council reviews the membership on an annual basis to make changes as appropriate.

COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS

Members of the City Council and City staff serve on a number of Boards or Committees which are intergovernmental, support, or advisory in nature and designed to coordinate activities of the City with the other political subdivisions and groups within the County or within the State. The following is a listing of current council assignments:

Bellingham International Airport Advisory Committee

Councilmember Hansen

The Airport Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the various groups served and affected by the Airport. The Committee makes recommendations to the Airport Manager and the Port of Bellingham, which operates the Airport.

Ferndale School Board Liaison

Councilmember Ingram

The Council liaison to the Ferndale School Board attends Board meetings and meets with School District Administration to provide a communications link between the Council and the School District.



Whatcom Transit Authority Governing Board

Councilmember Hansen

The Whatcom Transportation Authority provides specialized and public transportation services through out most of Whatcom County. The Governing Board oversees the activities and operations of the agency.

Whatcom County Fire District #7 Council Liaison

Councilmember Ingram

The Council liaison to fire District #7 attends Fire Commissioners' meetings to provide a communications link between the City and the Fire District.

Chamber of Commerce Council Liaison

Councilmember Ingram

The Council liaison to Ferndale Chamber of Commerce attends Chamber meetings to provide an effective communications link between the Council and the business community.

PRTAB Liaison

Councilmember Hansen

The Council liaison to the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board (PRTAB) attends meetings to provide an effective communications link between the Council and this group.

Heritage Society Council Liaison

Councilmember Faria

The Council liaison to Ferndale Heritage Society attends Society meetings to provide an effective communications link between the Council and this civic group.

Old Settlers Council Liaison

Councilmember Hansen

The Council liaison to Old Settlers attends meetings to provide an effective communications link between the Council and this civic group.

Art Commission Council Liaison

Councilmember Malpezzi

The Council liaison to the newly formed Art Commission attends meetings to provide an effective communications link between the Council and this group.