

## **M. Public Meetings**

Oregon's public meeting law gives members of the public the right to attend all meetings of governing bodies of public agencies with a few exceptions. The right to attend is not the same as a right to participate in the meetings. Governing bodies include all City Commission and Planning Commission meetings, Budget Committees, citizen advisory boards and committees, and others if their functions are to advise the City Commission. The public meeting laws do not apply to staff meetings (ORS 192.610 – 192.690).

The public meeting law applies whenever a governing body convenes on any matter to make a decision or to deliberate toward a decision - this includes "conference call" telephone meetings or other electronic communications sent singly or serially among a quorum of board or commission members to avoid compliance with public meeting laws. In general, meetings may not be held outside the city limits. Notice is required for all public meetings and must include the date, location, time and principal subjects to be considered. Communications regarding city business, whether in "hard-copy" or electronic form, may be subject to the Oregon Public Records Law (ORS 192.410 to .505).