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Orinda adopts hybrid model for city council meetings

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The city of Orinda will begin a public rollout of a hybrid meeting format for city council meetings in May and will add planning commission meetings starting in June. Beginning with the council meeting on May 2, interested persons may attend the city council meeting in person at the Orinda Library auditorium, watch the proceedings live-streamed on the city's new YouTube channel, or participate via the Zoom meeting platform. The Zoom link will be included in the agenda for the meeting, which will also include instructions on how to participate in the meeting. The meeting videos will continue to be available on YouTube after the meeting.

In June, the city plans to add hybrid capability to meetings of the planning commission, which also meets in the Library auditorium. At this time, staff is not recommending that meetings, other than for the council and planning commission, be considered for hybrid options owing to the additional expense that would entail.

Since the conclusion of the COVID-19 state of emergency, all city meetings have resumed in person. The city council and the planning commission generally meet in the Library Auditorium, and other committees and commissions meet in other venues.

Members of the public may now attend city council meetings in person and speak to the council during the public forum or make comments concerning agenda items. For those who cannot attend in person, or prefer not to, public comments may be submitted in advance of the meeting, or during the meeting, by emailing the city clerk. Such comments will be read out loud by staff at normal speaking cadence and are subject to the same three-minute limit as in-person comments.

Orinda City Council meetings can be viewed at www.youtube.com/@cityoforinda9535/streams

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