

served. Taxes are comparatively low thanks to high property values and a fiscally conservative government. The City of Edina is proud of its Standard and Poor's AAA and Moody's Investors Services Aaa bond ratings. Edina is one of only a few Minnesota cities to have the top rating from both agencies.

**Boards, Commissions and Committees**  
ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL are elected, many resident volunteers serve on various commissions that make recommendations to the Council.

The meetings of these advisory boards are open to the public. Visit [www.EdinaMN.gov](http://www.EdinaMN.gov) for meeting locations. The present boards, commissions and committees and their regular meeting times\* are:

- Community Health Committee, 7 p.m., four times each year.
- Construction Board of Appeals, on call.
- Edina Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m., fourth Thursday of the month.
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m., second Thursday of the month.
- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m., second Tuesday of the month.
- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 p.m., fourth Tuesday of the month.
- Park Board, 7 p.m., second Tuesday of the month.
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m., second and the fourth Wednesdays of the month.
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m., third Thursday of the month.

\*Subject to change.

## CITY OFFICIALS

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>City Manager</b><br>Scott H. Neal .....  | 952-826-0401 |
| <b>Assistant City Manager</b><br>Karen Kurt.....                                      | 952-826-0415 |
| <b>Chief Building Official</b><br>Steve Kirchman.....                                 | 952-826-0450 |
| <b>City Assessor</b><br>Bob Wilson .....  | 952-826-0426 |
| <b>City Clerk</b><br>Debra Mangen.....  | 952-826-0408 |
| <b>City Engineer</b><br>Wayne Houle .....   | 952-826-0443 |
| <b>Communications &amp; Technology Services Director</b><br>Jennifer Bennerotte ..... | 952-833-9520 |
| <b>Community Development Director</b><br>Cary Teague .....                            | 952-826-0460 |
| <b>Finance Director</b><br>John Wallin .....  | 952-826-0410 |
| <b>Fire Chief</b><br>Marty Scheerer.....  | 952-826-0332 |
| <b>Human Resources Director</b><br>Lisa Schaefer.....                                 | 952-826-0416 |
| <b>Parks &amp; Recreation Director</b><br>John Keprios .....                          | 952-826-0430 |
| <b>Police Chief</b><br>Jeff Long.....   | 952-826-0491 |
| <b>Sanitarian</b><br>Sherry Engelman .....  | 952-826-0464 |

**The City of Edina**  
4801 W. 50th St. • Edina, MN 55424  
952-927-8861  
[www.EdinaMN.gov](http://www.EdinaMN.gov)  
[mail@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:mail@EdinaMN.gov)

## EDINA CITY COUNCIL

### JAMES HOVLAND MAYOR

Elected November 2004  
Current Term Expires January 2013  
5539 W. 70th St.  
612-874-8550  
[mail@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:mail@EdinaMN.gov)

### JONI BENNETT COUNCIL MEMBER

Elected November 2006  
Current Term Expires January 2015  
4003 Lynn Ave.  
952-927-0661  
[jonibennett12@comcast.net](mailto:jonibennett12@comcast.net)

### MARY BRINDLE COUNCIL MEMBER

Elected November 2008  
Current Term Expires January 2013  
6901 Pauite Drive  
952-941-7746  
[mbrindle@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:mbrindle@EdinaMN.gov)

### JOSH SPRAGUE COUNCIL MEMBER

Elected November 2010  
Current Term Expires January 2015  
4720 W.70th St.  
612-501-0252  
[joshsprague@edinarealty.com](mailto:joshsprague@edinarealty.com)

### ANN SWENSON COUNCIL MEMBER

Elected November 2004  
Current Term Expires January 2013  
6021 Concord Ave.  
952-927-7524  
[swensonann1@gmail.com](mailto:swensonann1@gmail.com)

[mail@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:mail@EdinaMN.gov)



*Welcome  
to a  
Meeting of the*

**EDINA  
CITY  
COUNCIL**



# WHAT IS THE EDINA CITY COUNCIL?

The Council comprises a Mayor and four Council members who serve four-year staggered terms with elections in even-numbered years.

The Mayor and Council are responsible for setting policy and establishing ordinances that ensure the efficient operation of city government.

Specifically, the Council is responsible for budgeting, taxation, management of City property and land-use matters. The Council is accountable to the residents of the City.

## ***When and Where does the Council Meet?***

THE EDINA CITY COUNCIL typically meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St., in the Council Chambers.

The Council holds other special meetings from time to time. The dates and times of special meetings are posted at City Hall and online. Regular Council meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Regular meetings of the City Council are broadcast on Edina Community Channel 16 throughout the week and are also available for viewing on the internet.

## ***What Happens at City Council Meetings?***

AGENDAS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS are available before each meeting. The agenda includes time for public hearings on subjects such as proposed ordinances, planning and zoning matters, assessments and public improvements.

Routine business is placed on a “consent agenda,” which is considered and approved by one motion at the beginning of each meeting. Any member of the Council may remove an item from the consent agenda for consideration in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Other agenda items include bid awards, recommendations and reports, and a special segment devoted to comments from residents.

## ***How Does the Council Vote?***

TO CONDUCT BUSINESS, the Council must have a quorum. Three Council members constitute a quorum. A majority vote of the Council members present is needed to approve most motions, ordinances and general resolutions.

**Improvement Hearings** for which petitions meeting statutory requirements have been presented require three affirmative votes. When there is not a petition, four affirmative votes are required.

**Street or easement vacations** for which petitions have been filed require three affirmative votes. However, vacations originated by the Council require four affirmative votes for approval, as do some **zoning ordinance actions**.

The second reading of any ordinance may be waived with four affirmative votes.

## ***How Can Citizens Participate in Council Meetings?***

THE COUNCIL ENCOURAGES residents to participate in Edina’s policy-making process.

Please turn off cellular telephones and pagers when entering the Council Chambers. The Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please contact the City’s Communications & Technology Services Staff if you would like a receiver.

If you would like to address the Council during a public hearing, please do so when the Mayor asks for public testimony. If you would like to raise an issue not on the agenda, you may do so during the “Community Comment” portion of the meeting.

## ***If You Would Like to Speak***

DURING “PUBLIC HEARINGS,” the Mayor will ask for public testimony after City staff members and project applicants make their presentations. You are welcome to speak on the topic – as long as your comments are relevant to the discussion.

The Council wishes to create a positive environment for all public hearings. Your cooperation will help create the best possible environment for effective public discourse. To ensure fairness to all speakers and allow for efficient conduct of a public hearing, speakers should observe the following guidelines:

- Present any petitions, letters or printed materials to the City Clerk before presentation to the Council.
- When addressing the Council, please stand at one of the two podiums in front of the dais and begin your presentation by stating your name and address including apartment or unit number if applicable. Do not stand at the document table unless you have audio or visual materials to present.
- Individuals must limit their presentations to three minutes. The Mayor may modify presentation times, as deemed necessary.
- Direct your presentation to the entire Council and not to an individual Council member, City staff member or the audience.
- Try not to repeat remarks or points made by prior speakers, and limit comments to the matter under consideration.
- In order to maintain a respectful environment for all those in attendance, the use of signs, clapping, cheering or booing or any other form of verbal or nonverbal communication is not allowed.
- Do not make comments during Council deliberations unless the Mayor asks for more information from you.

DURING “COMMUNITY COMMENT,” the Mayor will invite comments from those in attendance who would like to speak about something **not on the agenda**. Individuals must limit their presentations to three minutes and cannot speak to an issue for which a public hearing was held during the preceding

30 days or a matter which the Council will consider at a future public hearing. The Council may also limit the number of speakers who address the same topic. Individuals should not expect the Mayor or Council to respond to their comments. Instead, the Council might direct the matter to staff for consideration at a future meeting.

## ***About the City***

THE IRISH AND SCOT FAMILIES who settled Edina in the mid-1800s would not recognize the city that 100 years ago boasted a profitable Minnehaha Creek gristmill and a Grange Hall.

Today, Edina – named for that gristmill – boasts a population of more than 47,000 residents, a nationally renowned school district, a thriving business community with several major shopping centers, more than a dozen financial institutions and about 30 award-winning public parks.

Edina’s 16 square miles are dotted with glacial ponds, streams and wetlands that add to the oasis-like atmosphere of this first-ring suburb. Most of the City is within minutes of other “hot spots” in the Twin Cities and outlying suburbs.

Though there are still signs of the Irish and Scot heritage of Edina’s founders, today’s residents come from a variety of backgrounds. Volunteerism thrives in Edina and most of the community’s success is due to its extraordinary volunteers. On the financial side, residents of Edina are well

