

Committee of the Whole

Rules of committee's and information:

- Standing committees: are usually established in municipal code or by ordinance. In other words, they are of a permanent and fixed nature, and typically perform an ongoing role in municipal governance that's explicitly spelled out in code or ordinance. A budget, audit, and finance committee is a common example where the composition, appointment, duties, and operation would be spelled out in code or ordinance.
- Special committees: are usually established for temporary work like an annexation or apportionment issue. They are usually established by resolution.
- Work groups: are usually less formal and structured than a "committee," and often include a mix of elected officials and municipal employees. They are usually focused on a specific task or event. And they are usually formed on a less formal basis like directive from a mayor or city council.
- Task forces: typically address emergency management-related issues like a COVID-19 Task Force. They often include members of other governmental entities. For example, it may include borough, city, and tribal officials working together to address a common issue.
- Committee of the whole meetings: are a parliamentary tool to discuss matters during a work session with all members present (as opposed to a smaller number of a committee) without adhering to the normal parliamentary procedures. For example, if a city council or planning commission utilized a committee of the whole meeting for a portion of their regularly scheduled meeting to work through code changes prior to having an actual code ordinance that was up for formal consideration and adoption.

Each of these could still constitute a public meeting that would have to be noticed under the Open Meetings Act.