

To the Sumas City Council,

I am writing to advocate for the immediate implementation of a digital broadcasting solution (such as Zoom) for all Sumas City Council meetings.

As the Council is aware, many Sumas residents are currently residing outside city limits after being displaced by the devastating flooding in December 2025. While meeting attendance may have been lower in the past, it is now more vital than ever that our community has access to the discussions and proposals that will shape the future of our town. Given that the Council recently added a dedicated "Flood and Flood Prevention" segment to each meeting, it is essential that the very people most affected by these disasters have the ability to observe these proceedings in real time.

To withhold remote access from residents who remain displaced by a disaster is a significant barrier to civic engagement. My request is supported by the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), codified in Chapter 42.30 RCW, which mandates that council meetings be open and accessible to the public.

Furthermore, the OPMA specifies that if a declared emergency prevents in-person attendance, agencies must provide a free, real-time remote option—such as a telephone or internet link—to allow the public to listen. I believe that residents being relocated (some over an hour away) due to a flood recognized as both a State and County Emergency squarely meets the criteria of a "declared emergency" necessitating remote access.

Additionally, RCW 42.30.220 explicitly encourages public agencies to provide online streaming options for all regular meetings and to maintain those recordings online for at least six months.

I am formally requesting that all future City Council meetings be made accessible via a remote streaming platform to ensure every Sumas resident, regardless of their current temporary housing, can remain informed and engaged.

Thank you for your time, your service to our community, and your swift action on this matter.

Sincerely,
Nicole Sandoval Postma
Sumas Resident & Business Owner