

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Sherry Tarasoff - 2020 Public Accounts - CK 1895-3

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 8:35 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Sherry Tarasoff - 2020 Public Accounts - CK 1895-3

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Monday, June 28, 2021 - 08:35

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Monday, June 28, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Sherry

Last Name Tarasoff

Phone Number

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Peterson Cres

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7L [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)

Subject Item 10.5.2 - 2020 Public Accounts [File No. CK. 1895-3]

Meeting (if known) REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL - June 28, 2021

Comments

Please accept the attached document for submission to the Regular Business Meeting of City Council on June 28th, regarding item 10.5.2. I have little expectation of responses to my questions during the meeting. I will also be emailing my questions to the writers (Kari Smith, Darlene Biggins), the reviewer (Kerry Tarasoff) and the approver (Jeff Jorgenson) of the Admin Report with the hope of a response from them. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS TO THE INFORMATION REPORT

2020 Public Accounts

ISSUE

I have follow-up questions relating to the 2020 Public Accounts report. As noted, the Public Accounts report provides information regarding remuneration to civic employees and elected officials, as well as various other payments made by the City of Saskatoon.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

1. How is the audited financial statement of the City incorporated in the 2020 Public Accounts report, as required by *The Cities Act*? Is the comment “The City of Saskatoon Annual Financial Report also forms part of the Public Accounts” sufficient? I cannot reconcile the reported total salaries paid in 2019 of \$329.8 million to the [2019 Annual Report Wages and Benefits](#) of \$323.7 million or the reported total salaries paid in 2018 of \$319.2 million to the [2018 Annual Report Wages and Benefits](#) of \$331.3 million. Will the 2020 numbers reconcile?
2. Why is the list of remuneration paid to each employee limited by a \$50,000 threshold? *The Cities Act* does not stipulate a threshold. Is it a Ministry decision?
3. Why was a historical analysis not provided in the Discussion/Analysis section of the Admin Report for the total salaries paid to civic employees year over year? I have provided this (see page 3).
4. The total remuneration for civic employees and elected officials, as per my calculations from the 2020 Public Accounts report, is \$306,714,646. As reported in the Admin Report, the total salaries paid to civic employees in 2020 was \$343.6 million. The difference must be made up of the employees that are under the \$50,000 threshold. How many civic employees contributed to that difference of almost \$36.8 million?
5. Why does the historical analysis provided in the Discussion/Analysis section of the Admin Report only consider remuneration over \$100,000? The Public Accounts report includes remuneration over \$50,000. I have updated the historical analysis to consider the available information, including additional years (see page 4-6).
6. A comparison was provided in the Discussion/Analysis section of the Admin Report for 4 senior level positions for 2020. Why was a comparison to the previous year not provided for those employees with earnings over \$200,000? I have provided this (see page 4-6).
7. Why is the list of expenditures pursuant to any contract limited by a \$50,000 threshold? *The Cities Act* does not stipulate a threshold. Is it a Ministry decision?
8. The Discussion/Analysis section of the Admin Report did not address the third party payments. Why was that not discussed/analyzed? I have provided some analysis (see page 7).

BACKGROUND

The Public Accounts document is legislated by [The Cities Act](#) to be generated each year by municipalities (see below).

Public accounts

156(1) On or before September 1 in each year, a city shall cause to be prepared and presented to the council the city's public accounts for the preceding financial year.

(2) Subject to the regulations, the public accounts prepared pursuant to subsection (1) must:

- (a) incorporate the audited financial statement of the city; and
- (b) show clearly and fully:
 - (i) the remuneration paid to each employee and member of council;
 - (ii) the remuneration paid to each employee and member of any committee or other body established by council;
 - (iii) the remuneration paid to each employee and member of any other body established by council that receives the majority of its funds from the city;
 - (iv) the remuneration paid to each employee and board member of a controlled corporation;
 - (v) expenditures for travel and other expenses incurred by the employees, council members and board members described in subclauses (i) to (iv);
 - (vi) expenditures pursuant to any contract; and
 - (vii) grants and contributions of goods and services.

(3) The city shall cause all public accounts of the city:

- (a) to be open for inspection by any person at all reasonable hours; and
- (b) to be printed in sufficient quantity and distributed in a manner that will satisfy any reasonable requests for copies.

(4) The minister may make regulations respecting requirements for or limitations on public accounts.

2002, c.C-11.1, s.156; 2006, c.4, s.12; 2015, c.30, s.2-20.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Employee Remuneration

A historical analysis provided in the following table illustrates the changes to total salaries paid to civic employees, as reported each year to City Council in the Admin Reports.

Total Salaries Paid to Civic Employees (\$million)				
<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
301	312.1	319.2	329.8	343.6

Per the 2020 Public Accounts document (remuneration over \$50,000):

Category	Total Earnings
City Council Members	837,427
Civic Employees (excluding SPS & SFD)	185,674,421
SPS	76,490,706
SFD	43,466,877
Business Improvement District Employees	222,095
Board Members	23,120
Total	306,714,646

There is a difference of \$36,885,354 between the reported \$343.6 million total salaries and my calculated total of \$306.7 million from the 2020 Public Accounts document. I assume that this is the total for the employees with remuneration under \$50,000.

2020 Public Accounts

A historical analysis provided in the following table illustrates the changes in employee remuneration categories from 2014 to 2020 for civic employees, excluding Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) and Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD).

Civic Employees (excluding SPS & SFD) Remuneration Trending							
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017*</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
More than \$200,000	2	6	6	7	6	7	10
\$175,000 - \$199,999	4	4	5	6	8	8	5
\$150,000 - \$174,999	23	15	15	15	15	14	28
\$125,000 - \$149,999	41	37	40	48	38	51	48
\$100,000 - \$124,999	149	160	190	205	193	205	215
Total	219	222	256	281	260	285	306
\$75,000 - \$99,999				720	772	811	924
\$50,000 - \$74,999				1,142	1,156	1,181	1,075
Updated Total				2,143	2,188	2,277	2,305

*NOTE: 2017 numbers have been updated as they did not originally include employees of Remai Modern, TCU Place, SaskTel Centre and Saskatoon Public Library.

Further analysis was not done for 2015-2016 as the SFD was not reported separately from the civic employees in the Annual Reports.

Further analysis was not done for 2014 as the SPS and SFD were not reported separately from the civic employees in the Annual Report.

The Public Accounts offers the following comparison to the previous year for the 10 civic employees that earned over \$200,000 in 2020:

Name (Title)	<u>2019 Total Earnings</u>	<u>2020 Total Earnings</u>
Jorgenson, Jeff A (City Manager)	278,095	305,830
Tarasoff, Kerry C (CFO and General Manager)	282,280	286,399
Lacroix, Lynne (General Manager, Community Services)	208,285	233,749
Gardiner, Angela M E (General Manager, Utilities and Environment)	213,871	233,104
Schmidt, Terence D (General Manager, Transportation and Construction)	131,149	225,215
Yelland, Cindy L (City Solicitor)	183,218	223,856
Warwick, Patricia J (City Solicitor)	217,618	221,842
Cooley, Carol A (Director of Libraries and CEO, Saskatoon Public Library)	194,539	217,955
Sproule, Joanne (City Clerk)	169,373	211,190
Korol, Robert M (Chief Executive Officer, TCU Place)	184,641	210,764

The similar analysis for SPS is shown below.

Saskatoon Police Service Remuneration Trending							
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
More than \$200,000	2	3	3	3	5	7	7
\$175,000 - \$199,999	2	11	10	10	10	9	11
\$150,000 - \$174,999	10	6	10	8	9	20	46
\$125,000 - \$149,999	15	102	75	95	132	162	205
\$100,000 - \$124,999	171	253	272	284	273	248	197
Total	200	375	370	400	429	446	466
\$75,000 - \$99,999		113	141	122	112	102	92
\$50,000 - \$74,999		100	99	108	95	96	107
Updated Total		588	610	630	636	644	665

Further analysis was not done for 2014 as the Saskatoon Police Service was not reported separately from the civic employees in the Annual Report.

The Public Accounts offers the following comparison to the previous year for the 7 SPS employees that earned over \$200,000 in 2020:

Name (Title)	<u>2019 Total Earnings</u>	<u>2020 Total Earnings</u>
Chatterbok, Mark S (Deputy Police Chief)	247,915	342,895
Cooper, Troy C (Police Chief)	244,833	248,727
Yuzdepski, Mitchell K (Deputy Police Chief)	243,898	237,555
Pellerin, Blair P (Inspector)	201,773	224,382
Huisman, Randal A (Deputy Police Chief)	195,662	211,962
Nelson, Steven L (Constable (10th Year))	124,525	202,772
Haye, David L (Superintendent)	202,548	202,316

The similar analysis for SFD is shown below.

Saskatoon Fire Department Remuneration Trending							
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
More than \$200,000	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
\$175,000 - \$199,999	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
\$150,000 - \$174,999	2	1	6	1	4	4	47
\$125,000 - \$149,999	74	24	48	57	50	64	190
\$100,000 - \$124,999	211	194	232	221	231	220	65
Total	287	219	286	280	286	289	305
\$75,000 - \$99,999				31	32	31	22
\$50,000 - \$74,999				19	14	9	9
Updated Total				330	332	329	336

Further analysis was not done for 2014-2016 as the SFD was not reported separately from the civic employees in the Annual Reports.

The Public Accounts offers the following comparison to the previous year for the 2 SFD employees that earned over \$200,000 in 2020:

Name (Title)	<u>2019 Total Earnings</u>	<u>2020 Total Earnings</u>
Hackl, Morgan L (Fire Chief, Saskatoon Fire Department)	199,500	224,999
Riley, William T (Battalion Chief)	146,845	200,096

2020 Public Accounts

Third Party Payments

This section of the Public Account report lists the total of all payments (other than salaries) exceeding \$50,000 to any individual, corporation or government.

The Public Accounts offers the following comparison to the previous year for third party payments over \$10,000,000 in 2020:

Vendor	<u>2019 Total Payments</u>	<u>2020 Total Payments</u>
Saskatchewan Power Corporation	102,920,646	101,055,987
Hamm Construction Ltd	22,073,454	44,503,167
Graham Construction & Engineering	7,360,060	27,449,375
Receiver General for Canada	22,837,618	15,819,676
McDougall Gauley LLP	0	14,563,645
PCL Construction Management Inc	2,884,907	14,024,147
Integrated Team Solutions	11,582,216	11,898,496
Graham Commuter Partners General	12,326,477	10,628,794
Allan Construction Co Ltd	8,188,992	10,070,162

NEXT STEPS

Use these follow-up questions as a guide and provide more transparency of the information when preparing next year's Admin Report and the 2021 Public Accounts report.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

Written by: Sherry Tarasoff, Saskatoon Taxpayer