

## Walter, Penny

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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Ari Avivi - Operating Deficit - CK 430-72

**From:** Ari Avivi <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2023 4:00 PM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@Saskatoon.ca)>

**Cc:** Loewen, Mairin (City Councillor)

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Good day,

There is no doubt that the city is in some financial trouble. As the representatives of the residents of the city we look to you for prudent and responsible leadership. Now is the time for you as a council and individual representatives to demonstrate that. There is no doubt that there have been significant external pressures that have contributed to this situation so some tough choices are in front of you.

As a taxpayer I have quite a few questions.

1. How when a shortfall was identified over a year ago in a financial update were plans not put in place to address it. The inflationary pressures were obvious, but it seems like no actions were taken to mitigate city hall spending.
2. What projects, that may in fact have future value, can be shelved right now to avoid placing a greater burden on the taxpayers. This is not a judgement on the value of the project but a reflection of the need to focus on the immediate basic needs of all residents of the city. Of the top of my head I can think of a few.
  - a. Pause all work on the renaming of John A. Macdonald road.
  - b. Pause work / expenditures on the BRT, specifically the purchase of assets (busses, BRT rapid transit pilot station) as the actual development of BRT is well off into the future.
  - c. Pause work on the cycling initiatives. How can we afford to build new roads, for a limited segment of the population, when we can't afford to maintain the current infrastructure we have.
  - d. Pause the application of arts grants. Art is valuable, and is an enhancement, but it is also a nice to have vs a need to have (and I'm an arts supporter, but when times are tough, times are tough)
  - e. Aggressively review the city accounts receivables and make enhanced efforts to recover outstanding revenue owed.
    - i. As a side note, no company should get another city contract if they are in arrears for a previous one.
  - f. Perform a work force wide review of positions and determine what projects can be paused, and which positions can be amalgamated, or declared redundant to reduce the HR staffing costs to the city.

I hope to hear back from some of you on these suggestions / questions.

Ari Avivi

Producer

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