

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Terry Neefs - Suggestions to Reduce Proposed 2024 Budget - CK 430-72
Attachments: Comments-suggestions for 2024 City Budget.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:43 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Terry Neefs - Suggestions to Reduce Proposed 2024 Budget - CK 430-72

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

Submitted on Monday, July 24, 2023 - 10:38

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: Yes

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, July 24, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Terry

Last Name: Neefs

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: [REDACTED]

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] La Ronge Road

Neighbourhood: [Lawson Heights](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Special Governance and Priorities Meeting to Consider Budget Matters

Comments:

See attached pdf document regarding comments and suggestions to reduce proposed 2024 budget

Attachments:

- [Comments-suggestions for 2024 City Budget.pdf](#) 265.45 KB

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

All Saskatoon residents are feeling the pain of inflation and higher interest rates, especially those on low and fixed incomes. There are many areas of discretionary spending that city council and administration can cut back or defer. Now is the time for strong wilful leadership to make the difficult and wise fiscal decisions that will still protect and provide residents and taxpayers with some reduced services without undue hardship. However there are core services which are critical and Saskatoon also has an aging and failing infrastructure which requires attention and focus.

When businesses and residents experience budget shortfalls the first thing they do is cut discretionary spending while using a basic strategy to determine their...

Musts vs Needs vs Wants

Those are also the three key criteria based on the Kepner-Tregoe system for problem solving and decision making. It is a science that has been taught for 60 years and well worth learning by leaders of any private or public organization. I spent 43 years working in big business for 6 different organizations two of which were Fortune 500 companies that used Kepner-Tregoe for critical problem solving and decision making related to operating costs or capital projects in the multi million \$\$\$. It is an objective system used to determine priorities in the order of Musts (1st), Needs (2nd) and Wants (3rd) especially when dealing with limited funds and resources. For example:

Musts (1st) -> Utilities, fire/police, and core services such as water, sewer, electrical, transit, waste removal, etc

Needs (2nd) -> Infrastructure, preventative road maintenance, etc

Wants (3rd) -> Projects such as new library, new arena, etc.

Opportunities to reduce expenses and future spending:

- City of Saskatoon has more 6 figure salaries now than ever before....time for a review and potential salary freeze
- There are more FTE employees now than ever before...time for a review and potential hiring freeze
- This past winter there was snow removal done across the city to clear and truck away all windrows at great expense to taxpayers..therefore as in previous years let mother nature do the job instead
- Review the plan and costs and defer the new library
- Defer a new arena
- Infrastructure is aging and failing...focus on repair and maintenance
- Contain recurring expenses...they are the death of many organizations
- There are likely many other services that can be reviewed for reduction or non critical projects that can be deferred without causing major grief or pain

Opportunities to increase revenue:

- Increase the price of services that are direct use or direct consumption (transit, leisure, parking, etc)
- Increase the price of utilities that are direct use or consumption (water/sewer, electricity, etc)

Note – clean fresh water is becoming a most precious resource as climate change is receding glaciers and mountain snow pack which are our primary sources of water on the prairies. Continue raising the rates but teach residents how to lower consumption and conserve while also charging over-usage penalties *such as escalating rates* (a tiered system where higher usage pays a higher rate). Low to middle income homeowners will be willing to conserve and stay in a low cost tier while the wealthy will pay the premium which will increase city revenue. Do the same for electrical. This strategy is used very effectively in other countries and cost conscious people are very deliberate to keep their usage at a lower rate level while the wealthy simply pay more without concern. Once a user enters a higher tier they must remain in that tier for a year until they prove consistent lower usage in order to return to a lower tier.

Taxpayers and residents in general are very concerned about high tax increases and will be paying close attention especially since 2024 is an election year.