

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Brynn Harris-Hamm - Various Concerns - CK 150-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 8:57 AM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Brynn Harris-Hamm - Various Concerns - CK 150-1

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

Submitted on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 - 08:56

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.: No

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

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Brynn

Last Name: Harris-Hamm

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Brin

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Coldspring Crescent

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

Comments:

Hi everyone,

I feel exhausted and sad at this point, having written to you all countless times about the mismanagement that's been happening in Saskatoon for years and years, and at every turn, it just feels like none of you ever TRULY care about trying to get the city back on track.

As always, pet projects are taking priority over core services in Saskatoon, and it's just disgraceful. The state we're in now is a disaster, and things will only get worse and worse because we are on the wrong path and have been for a long time.

A \$54 million budget shortfall in one year? Possible 18-22% property tax increase? Or even 9 or 10? Hearing some of you speak as though 9% is acceptable is infuriating beyond words. It's just offensive at this point and you've lost touch with your constituents. You guys are like the proverbial boiled frog. You are in such hot water now and somehow didn't seem to realize the temperature was rising even though the citizens of this city were expressing alarm at the top of their lungs, over and over. You always thought you knew better and were smarter than everyone else. I wish that you'd been willing, at any point, to maybe just stop and listen to your constituents who were telling you mistakes were being made. Don't any of you have the humility to stop and consider that maybe you don't always know best?

Now, to hear Harry Bailey pool may never reopen, while you WASTE our money on things like a bike lane to the North industrial district, a new library that was not necessary now, and the \$19 billion climate plan that ultimately won't do anything for our planet, is just maddening. Harry Bailey is an essential facility! Its diving boards are a rite of passage for every Saskatonians. How did we get here??

It's not that I don't care about our planet. Of course I do. We all do. But the city needs to get its priorities straight and remember its primary responsibility is providing core services to the people of this city. That means garbage pickup, street maintenance and SNOW removal, and ensuring the survival of our leisure centres. Those are the things that matter most to the vast majority of people in this city. You need to stop making decisions that cater to a small gov's minority, like cyclists who want to be able to bike up to the farmer's market! Their wants, or the wants of a few activists in the city administration, have to come after the needs of everyone else. Bike lanes are used by few, and are a luxury project for years when we have extra money to spend. I cannot even express to you how frustrating it is going downtown and seeing those stupid white poles all laying down on the asphalt all over the place, having been driven over. It's such a mess!! And then, cars don't know if they should park next to the curb, or out beside the poles. In the winter, it's even worse. You can go to 23rd street one day and see all the cars parked along the curb because the white poles are all down, and then a few days later, they are parked out in the middle of the street again. There are going to be accidents because of this mess. It's so frustrating that we have these unused bike lanes at all, but it's even worse that their execution is such a disaster. Anyway... I digress. But every time I see those poles flat as a pancake, I make a mental note to write to you all. How much blooming money are we wasting replacing the poles countless times?? Imagine if we spent that money on snow removal or Harry Bailey instead? Every dollar matters!

How is it our reality that we never budget to expect tons of snow each year, even though it always comes, and are now unable to maintain our pools??? That's absolutely insane, when you think about the things the city IS spending money on.

I'm pretty disgusted at the comments I'm seeing from council. There seems to be a lack of accountability and this "it is what it is.. we can't do anything to fix it" mindset. Of course you can! Get down to business and get real about which services and projects are TRULY essential for everyone and which are based on activist agendas. It's an easy distinction to make. Lay offs are required. Cuts need to happen in other areas too, like why do dirt employees have their darn parking paid for downtown?? No one else does! Other people spend hundreds of dollars a month to park and only get a spot if they win a lottery. Why should taxpayers have to foot the bill for extra for city employees? There needs to be a mentality of frugality implemented ASAP.

How dare you all close our leisure centres, and charge us for snow removal and garbage when you won't REALLY try to make any real cuts?? There ARE things that can be done. Why have you all been so disrespectful to Councillor Donauer, for example, at every turn, whenever he has tried to implement fiscal responsibility?? You've all been so irresponsibly with our money, spending on things like renaming streets and changing speed limits, when you should've had your eye on the ball (core services).

Reality check. People are suffering. Your constant property tax increases are unacceptable and now this train is WAY off the tracks.

How dare you speak of 9-18% property tax increases as families go to renew their mortgages up around 7%? It's a slap in the face! How can you all be so truly out of touch with people?

Homelessness is already such a huge problem in this city, and your reckless spending means more and more people in this city are being driven into poverty, and for what? Bike lanes? Can you REALLY look the ppl of this city in the face and tell us spending \$19 BILLION of our dollars is going to do ANYTHING at all for the planet? I really believe that if you did, you'd 100% be lying.

Please. Wake up.. and realize how serious this situation is and how far off track you've gone. Changes are needed in the city administration immediately. The mantra from the top needs to be fiscal responsibility and smart decision making, always having Saskatoon families in mind, first and foremost. Questions like, what's more important, a new bike lane, or Harry Bailey? Should be a NO BRAINER. Please shut down these activist projects, and we cannot afford this ridiculousness any longer.

And to those like Councillor Gough who have publicly said they "don't want to spend their summer talking about this" .. I'm just stunned. What kind of attitude is that?! You signed up for this.. and at every turn have made decisions to get us into this mess. Seriously, again I say, how DARE you? (I feel like Greta Thunberg repeating that so often). Ironic.

You're darn right you'll spend your summer talking about this, and every day of the foreseeable future, because this is your job and you have a responsibility to clean up the huge mess you've made.

I really have tried to just keep myself calm and not inundate you all with messages over the past number of months as things spiralled out of control, and I do hate to say this and truly don't want to be rude, but I think you should all be absolutely ashamed of yourselves. Making mistakes is understandable and perhaps excusable sometimes, but not when residents tell you over and over that we're on the wrong path. It's time to listen. Please. It's time to FINALLY listen. This is the time to start making smart choices, to get us back on the right path, rather than stubbornly continuing to go even further down the wrong one.

I know that leading up to the next election, a lot of us plan to mobilize and ensure the citizens of this city know each and every decision that's been made in recent years to get us to this point, and which councillor has said what on various issues. It's time for accountability to return to this city. Please remember we ARE watching, not because we want to make your lives difficult, but because you are directly impacting our lives in such substantial ways, and it's our responsibility.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Brynn Harris-Hamm

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