

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Glen Wright - 2024-2025 Budget Information Update August 2023 - CK 430-72 x 1700-1

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

Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 8:59 AM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Glen Wright - 2024-2025 Budget Information Update August 2023 - CK 430-72 x 1700-1

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

Submitted on Saturday, August 12, 2023 - 08:58

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: Saturday, August 12, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Glenn

Last Name: Wright

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Arlington Ave

Neighbourhood: [Nutana Suburban Centre](#)

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):: Council meeting Aug 15, 2023

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 2024-2025 Budget

Comments:

I understand the City of Saskatoon is facing difficult decisions with respect to budgeting. I can appreciate that we are facing a deficit due to inflation, lower than expected revenues, and growing service requirements.

However, I strongly urge the Council to not cut spending for items that strengthen the public commons and advance the objectives of the low emissions community plan.

We need to recognize that climate change is upon us. It is critical that we budget to harden our infrastructure and become more resilient to adapt. But it is also critical that we reduce emissions and achieve net-zero as soon as possible. That is why we must strengthen public transportation, develop active personal transport corridors for walkers/runners/and cyclists. We should also continue to fund building retrofits and renewable energy. All decisions should be guided by #1 reducing our impact on the environment and #2 replacing fossil energy with clean energy.

I also think we do not recognize the importance of the public commons and infrastructure available to all. Only wealthy folks can afford to attend expensive events and sports functions at the proposed new arena. In contrast, everyone benefits from the public library. So when making budget decisions, funding public commons projects (that should be universally accessible) like the library should be a much greater priority than the new arena/entertainment district.

I also think that raising revenue through taxation is not out of question. This should especially be applied to land development and wealthy businesses. Inequality is widening in our society, so increasing taxation, particularly for the wealthy, is important to stem the widening inequality.

I appreciate these decisions are difficult, but we must remember that we are judged by our actions, not intentions. In less than a generation, people will be looking to all governments to see who acted early and with true resolve to address our environmental and social polycrises. I urge you to lead rather than follow the bluster of the "no more taxes" wealthy business community, particularly for luxury items like the new arena. If the business community cannot step up to fund the new arena, so that residents with properties valued at less than \$250,000 on the tax rolls see no property tax increases, than it likely should be deferred.

The climate crisis is a crisis of culture, and thus imagination. We must inspire our community to recognize that decarbonizing is in our collective best interests for health, transportation, lower costs, and a cleaner environment.

Thanks

These areas are transportation, the fire department, environmental health, community supports, taxation, land development, and arts and culture. These budget meetings will inform what will be in the budget, which will be finalized in late November.

In early November, the City will also present a climate budget, which will spell out what funding will be allocated for the Low Emissions Community plan and other climate plans in 2024 and 2025.

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