

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Peter and Verna Gallen - 2024-2025 Budget Information Update August 2023 - CK 430-72 x 1700-1
Attachments: GPC-budget_Peter&Verna-CORRECTED.pdf

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

Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 9:01 AM

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

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

Submitted on Monday, August 14, 2023 - 08:57

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: Monday, August 14, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Peter & Verna

Last Name: Gallen

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Haight Crescent

Neighbourhood: [Wildwood](#)

City: Saskaroon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: GPC Special Meeting on Aug 15, 2023

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 4.1: 2024/2025 Budget Info Update

Comments:

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

Your Worship, Councillors:

We are adding our voices to that of the Saskatoon Climate Hub in requesting Council to continue providing the resources needed to support the City of Saskatoon's efforts to fight the **Climate Crisis** in all ways possible. Even though the City is facing significant fiscal difficulties, the Climate Crisis remains the most serious threat faced by this city, its citizens and the world as we know it.

More specifically, we would like to comment on the presentation made by Keith Moen, CEO of the North Saskatoon Business Association (NSBA), to the previous GPC budget meeting on July 25.

On behalf of the NSBA membership, Mr. Moen asked the City to substantially reduce the budget and staff in five major areas, namely *Environmental Sustainability & the Green Initiative*, *Human Resources & Labour Relations*, *Communications*, and *Planning & Development*. Mr. Moen's request is deeply concerning because it would, in effect, gut important work being done in these areas. He claimed that NSBA's requests had been compiled by a series of 'experts'. That may be so, but it is quite obvious that these people are *not* experts in mitigating and eliminating the Climate Crisis or the role that Civic Government has to play in the vital work of future-proofing our city.

Just look carefully at what this influential business association wants to eliminate:

- *Planning & Development*, which in the 21st Century is largely concerned with guiding change that will adapt Saskatoon to meet the emerging demands of the future, demands of which the NSBA seems to be totally unaware or unconcerned. For example, among the challenges with which our City is currently grappling are:
 - The fact that the traditional pattern of ever-expanding, low-density suburbs we continue to build is *not* economically sustainable; and
 - The fact that our current transportation systems, which continue to generate at least one-third of our Greenhouse Gas Emissions, are environmentally unsustainable.
- *Environmental Sustainability & the Green Initiative* are directly concerned with developing strategies to respond to fundamental environmental demands. Moreover, these important efforts also evaluate viable ways for the city to pro-actively minimize the Climate Crisis.
- The City's *Communications* efforts, which seem to irk the NSBA, are needed to keep citizens informed of the facts and focused on why the City is involved in these worthwhile endeavours.

In short, the work areas of the City targeted by the NSBA are precisely those that provide much needed leadership and expertise in finding viable solutions to our City's toughest, most pressing challenges.

We trust that City Administration and Council are much better informed than NSBA in these matters of crucial importance and will take a longer view of what is important.

Good luck in your thoughtful deliberations on the city budget and the delicate balancing acts required in these trying fiscal times. We appreciate your time in reading and contemplating our submission.

Sincerely,

Peter and Verna Gallén, Ward 8