

**From:** [Web NoReply](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Peter and Verna Gallen - Budget Submission - File CK 1700-1  
**Date:** Friday, November 10, 2023 10:18:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [BudgetSubmission\\_Peter&Verna.docx](#)

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

Submitted on Friday, November 10, 2023 - 10:15

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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:** Friday, November 10, 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:** Saskatoon

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Postal Code:** S7H [REDACTED]

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** First day of Council's Budget deliberations, presumably November 28

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** Chief Financial Officer Hack's opening remarks or budget overview

**Comments:**

By submitting our submission this early, we assume that our letter will be included in the First Published Agenda (which typically is published about a week before a meeting). We have also assumed that CFO Hack will speak very early in the 3-day budget deliberations, and would like to see our submission attached to his agenda item.

**Attachments:**

- [BudgetSubmission\\_Peter&Verna.docx](#) 16.23 KB

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

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[https://www.saskatoon.ca/admin/structure/webform/manage/webform\\_398/submission/63098](https://www.saskatoon.ca/admin/structure/webform/manage/webform_398/submission/63098)

Dear Mayor and Councillors

The current budget deliberations are being conducted in a pressured atmosphere that has prompted us to put forward yet one more perspective for your consideration. As long-time residents and tax-payers in Saskatoon, we are concerned that Council remain focussed on what is important for our city – *not* what is expedient, popular, or even urgent in the short term. We urge you to concentrate on what truly matters in positioning our city for the future.

In this budget, please do not lose sight of those plans and priorities that aim to make Saskatoon vibrant, equitable, safe, healthy and sustainable in every sense of the word. Particular areas that come to mind include:

- *Low Emissions Community (LEC) plan* – This plan outlines ways for Saskatoon to reach the ambitious but correct goal of zero carbon emissions; to date its use has been limited and selective.
- *The Transit Plan and Active Transportation Plan* – Both plans counter the growing health, economic and environmental problems posed by excessive car traffic by promoting more viable modes of transportation.
- *Vision Zero* – This way of viewing the city would make it more livable but has only been accepted in principle, never been funded or implemented.
- *The Green Plan and Urban Forest Management Plan* – These plans envision a pleasant, healthy environment but receive too few resources to meet their goals.
- *Corridor planning* – The plans to densify residences around BRT routes would counteract the ongoing urban sprawl that is economically and environmentally unsustainable. Such careful planning is essential in implementing significant change.
- *Collaboration mechanisms to deal with social problems such as affordable housing, homelessness, addictions and poverty* – Since not all problems can be solved by the City alone, work with other agencies and levels of government is vital in making sure these problems are not neglected.

All of these are easy targets when cash is short because they can be underfunded without immediate evidence of harm and in the belief (usually mistaken) that more funding will be available as times improve. Over and over again such short-sightedness has resulted in a gradual decline in the quality of life in Saskatoon that is increasingly difficult to turn around.

While no one likes higher taxes, we must remind Council that most reasonable people are willing to pay taxes when the money is used in the right way for the right things. In your search for cost savings, we urge you *not* to undermine the work on plans and programs that are necessary underpinnings of well-being but act as wise stewards of the city in strengthening and preparing it for the future.

We wish you well in your deliberations.