

## Janzen, Heather

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**From:** City Council  
**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Jason Hanson - 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget Update - File CK 1700-1

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 24, 2023 8:36 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Jason Hanson - 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget Update - File CK 1700-1

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

Submitted on Friday, November 24, 2023 - 20:36

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:** Friday, November 24, 2023

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Jason

**Last Name:** Hanson

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED] Avenue H South

**Neighbourhood:** [King George](#)

**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)::** CITY COUNCIL AGENDA - BUDGET  
Tues, 28 November 2023 @ 9:30 AM

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget Update CCB2023-1120

**Comments:**

To City Council and City of Saskatoon staff,

As you address the city's finances for the next two years at the precise moment the world economic foundations appear to be crumbling, allow me to extend a moment of empathy; no amount of fiscal planning or frugal austerity measures would have avoided the reckoning we all face, and none of you deserve blame for being in a tough spot. Every level of government in every part of the world is dealing with the same issues of inflation, high interest rates, lack of funds, embattled taxpayers, and gross inequity. Everyone everywhere has hard decisions to make.

I hope you can all take a deep breath and think beyond the current crisis in our boom and bust economic system. This moment will pass, and what will matter in the coming years will not be a blip in tax increases or a temporary deficit, but the very livability of our city.

I ask the City of Saskatoon to stare in the face of the future and invest in what makes our city a beautiful, healthy place to be. Maintain funding to the Low Emission Community Plan to ensure we can do our part to face the biggest existential crisis to life on earth. Maintain funding to the Meewasin Valley Authority and all they do to make our riverside spaces and trails the envy of the country. Maintain funding to our Active Transportation and Transit so choosing to walk or bike is safer, more welcoming, and more accessible. I want well funded libraries, leisure centres, shelters and supports for those who need it, community policing, and park spaces. I want a safe and healthy community.

Robery Heinlein popularized the term TANSTAAFL (There ain't no such thing as a free lunch) in his 1966 novel "The Moon is a Harsh Mistress". I believe this to be true; in a world of finite resources, everything comes with a cost. Hopefully no one is asking you to conjure services and funding out of thin air.

I admittedly like it when efficiencies can be found to reduce costs and overhead, or "wasteful" programs can be axed (though I've yet to find those). But in the absence of savings through peak management, how do we get our "lunch"?

Tax me. Invite me to pay more for the things that make my community worth living in. What good are tax savings if I don't feel safe in my own neighborhood because people in poverty don't have the supports they need? What is worse, massive flooding in my street or some extra tax to build a dry pond? Is having more money better than replacing lead pipes, having green spaces, or places where I can safely ride a bike or cross a railway? I say no. This is what money should be for.

Tax me. Please don't save me a few hundred dollars a year just so I can live in a hellscape of pavement, pollution, and parking lots.

Keep funding things that make my city a great place to be.

Thank you,

Jason Hanson

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