

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Shawn Smit - Idylwyld Medical Centre - Concerns Regarding the 2024-25 Municipal Budget for Saskatoon - CK 1700-1

From: Idylwyld Medical Centre <idylwyldmedicalcentre@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 1:24 PM

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

Subject: RE: Email - Communication - Shawn Smit - Idylwyld Medical Centre - Concerns Regarding the 2024-25 Municipal Budget for Saskatoon - CK 1700-1

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Hi Marlee,

Thank you for letting me know.

Our address is : 10B-502 Idylwyld Dr. N., Saskatoon, S7L 0Z2.

Shawn

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

Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 11:52 AM

To: Idylwyld Medical Centre <idylwyldmedicalcentre@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Email - Communication - Shawn Smit - Idylwyld Medical Centre - Concerns Regarding the 2024-25 Municipal Budget for Saskatoon - CK 1700-1

Hello Shawn,

Thank you for your email.

It is City Council's policy that in order for a communication to be seen by City Council, the communication must include the address of the writer. We have your email address and **require your mailing address** as well. Please send the information as soon as you can, and your email will then be processed.

Marlee Slaney | tel 306.975.3240

City Clerk's Office

City of Saskatoon | 222 3rd Avenue North | Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5 Treaty 6 Territory & Homeland of the Métis

Pronouns: she/her/hers

www.saskatoon.ca

From: Idylwyld Medical Centre <idylwyldmedicalcentre@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 2:23 PM

To: Web E-mail - City Clerks <City.Clerks@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Shawn Smit - Idylwyld Medical Centre - Concerns Regarding the 2024-25 Municipal Budget for Saskatoon - CK 1700-1

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Dear Mayor Clark and Council Members,

Please find the attached document for your consideration.

Dr. Shawn Smit
Renee Jansen
for
Idylwyld Medical Centre

Date: November 16, 2023

To: Mayor Charlie Clark and the City Council of Saskatoon

From: Dr. Shawn Smit and Renee Jansen, Owners of Idylwyld Medical Centre

Subject: Concerns Regarding the 2024-25 Municipal Budget for Saskatoon

Dear Mayor Clark and Esteemed Members of the City Council,

We write to you as the owners of Idylwyld Medical Centre, a small family practice in Saskatoon. This letter is intended to communicate our apprehensions concerning the projected municipal budget for 2024-25, specifically focusing on the anticipated increase in property taxes and its ramifications for the local business community.

The city's preliminary budget for 2024 initially indicated a substantial deficit, necessitating an 18% hike in property taxes. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the Council and Administration, which have effectively reduced the initial budget gap. As a result, the revised proposal suggests a 7.14% increase in property taxes for 2024.

However, it is imperative to consider the burden this places on the local business sector. Our clinic, along with other independent clinics, is already grappling with high operational costs. An additional increase in property taxes could potentially strain our financial resources beyond sustainability. As you are aware, there is a dire shortage of family physicians in Saskatoon, and several clinics have recently closed down. The reasons for these closures are multifaceted, but a significant factor is the economics of running a clinic: Overhead costs are simply too high, and a major contributor to that is property costs, including taxes.

By increasing property taxes in the proposed manner, the City risks more clinics closing down, with the subsequent significant burden on the health system as physicians may need to relocate – possibly out of town or even out of province. Saskatchewan already faces a major competitive disadvantage in recruiting and retaining physicians, as compensation is lower than in most other provinces. If the costs of running a clinic are also higher than in other locations, this will leave Saskatoon in a very undesirable position of having effectively no reasonable access to physicians for its citizens.

There's a widely held belief in the business circles that Saskatoon presents a challenging environment in terms of expenses, a reality we already experience daily in running our clinic. Property taxes represent a significant portion of these operational costs and have historically escalated at a rate considerably exceeding inflation. This trend of steep increases in property tax is a cause for serious concern.

In light of these considerations, we urge the Council to take decisive steps towards minimizing the budget. The focus should be on curtailing expenses rather than resorting to tax hikes to accommodate increased spending. It is vital for the city to prioritize essential services and foster an environment conducive to business survival and economic prosperity.

The purpose of this correspondence is to advocate for a final budget that necessitates a minimal, if any, increase in property taxes. We believe that responsible budgeting, which emphasizes the provision of critical city services without imposing undue financial burdens on businesses, is crucial for maintaining a vibrant and economically stable Saskatoon.

Thank you for considering our perspective as you work towards finalizing the budget. We trust that the Council will make decisions that support the growth and sustainability of the local business community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shawn Smit
Renee Jansen

idyldmedicalcentre@gmail.com