



PUBLIC MINUTES

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall

PRESENT:

- Deputy Mayor H. Kelleher, Chair
- Mayor C. Block
- Councillor T. Davies, via teleconference
- Councillor R. Donauer
- Councillor B. Dubois
- Councillor S. Ford
- Councillor Z. Jeffries
- Councillor K. MacDonald
- Councillor J. Parker
- Councillor R. Pearce
- Councillor S. Timon

ALSO PRESENT:

- City Manager J. Jorgenson
- City Solicitor C. Yelland
- City Clerk A. Tittermore
- Deputy City Clerk S. Bryant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order on Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homeland of the Métis People and confirmed roll call.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved By: Councillor MacDonald

1. That the following letters submitting comments be added to Item 6.1.1:
 - Sherry Tarasoff, dated June 9, 2025
 - Jason Aebig, Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, dated June 9, 2025;
2. That the following letters be added to Item 6.3.1:

- Request to Speak
 - Shawna Nelson, Executive Director, Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District, dated June 6, 2025
 - Daryl Brown, Phoenix Starter Alternator Repair, dated June 6, 2025
 - Dr. Ephthymia (Effie) Kutsogiannis, Pleasant Hill Dental, dated June 8, 2025
 - Joy Friesen, Etceteras Ladies Boutique, dated June 9, 2025
 - Cindy Harrison, dated June 9, 2025;
 - Submitting Comments
 - Rhonda Ciona, dated June 6, 2025
 - Steven Squier, Cohen's Beer Republic/Taste Hospitality Group, dated June 7, 2025
 - Carmen Hamm, Taste Hospitality Group, dated June 7, 2025
 - Gillie Chartier, Taste Hospitality Group, dated June 9, 2025
 - Dr. Parviz Yazdani, Neesh Dental, BLOK Dental Studio and Botté Persian Café and Kitchen, dated June 9, 2025;
3. That the following letters be added to Item 6.3.2:
- Requests to speak:
 - Tyrell Harder, dated June 6, 2025 (withdrawn)
 - Jennifer Barrett, dated June 9, 2025
 - Submitting Comments
 - Cary Tarasoff, dated June 9, 2025;
4. That the following letters be added to Item 6.3.4:
- Request to Speak
 - Raeanne Kurtz, Parks Canada, dated June 5, 2025
 - Mike Velonas, Meewasin Valley Authority, dated June 6, 2025
 - Lenore Swystun, Saskatoon Heritage Society, dated June 9, 2025

- Submitting Comments
 - Candace Savage, Wild About Saskatoon, dated June 8, 2025
 - Meghan Mickelson, Swale Watchers, dated June 8, 2025
 - Stewart Coles, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, dated June 9, 2025;
- 5. That report items with speakers be considered immediately following unfinished business:
 - 6.3.1
 - Paul Hemsing
 - Shawna Nelson
 - Daryl Brown
 - Dr. Ephthymia (Effie) Kutsogiannis
 - Joy Friesen
 - Cindy Harrison
 - 6.3.2
 - Jennifer Barrett
 - 6.3.4
 - Raeanne Kurtz
 - Mike Velonas
 - Lenore Swystun; and
- 6. That the agenda be confirmed as amended.

In Favour (11): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By: Councillor MacDonald

That the minutes of meetings of the Governance and Priorities Committee, dated April 9, 2025 (revised) and May 13, 2025, be adopted.

In Favour (11): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 6.3.1 was considered next.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

6.1 Decision Reports

6.1.1 Preliminary 2026 and 2027 Financial Forecast [GPC2025-0602]

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided along with the following letters submitting comments:

- Sherry Tarasoff, dated June 9, 2025; and
- Jason Aebig, Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, dated June 9, 2025

Chief Financial Officer Hack presented the report with a PowerPoint and responded to questions of Committee.

Councillor Davies excused himself from the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 12:58 p.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m., with all members in attendance with the exception of Councillor Davies.

City Clerk Titemore provided an overview of the proposed motion wording for clarity and alignment with Committee's original intent.

Discussion followed.

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

The Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council that:

1. The requirement for City Council to approve an indicative rate, as outlined in Council Policy No. C03-036, be waived for the 2026 and 2027 Budget;

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

That the Governance and Priorities committee recommend to City Council that:

2. Administration be directed to continue to refine the budget to reduce the proposed property tax rate increases by 1 percentage point in each of 2026 and 2027 which will be the budget presented at the November 25, 2025, Budget Deliberation meeting; and

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council that:

3. Administration be directed to present a report with two additional scenarios to the November 25, 2025, Budget Deliberation meeting that detail how a 2 percentage point

total reduction (to 7.9% in 2026 and 5.34% in 2027) and a 3 point total reduction (to 6.9% in 2026 and 4.34% in 2027) could be achieved including implications of those scenarios.

IN AMENDMENT

Moved By: Councillor Donauer

3. Administration be directed to present a report with two additional scenarios to the November 25, 2025, Budget Deliberation meeting that detail how a 2 percentage point total reduction (to 7.9% in 2026 and 5.34% in 2027) and a 5 point total reduction (to 4.9% in 2026 and 2.34% in 2027) could be achieved including implications of those scenarios.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION #3 AS AMENDED.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By: Councillor Donauer

That all departments, controlled corporations, City funded agencies and external organizations be directed to find cost savings prior to budget.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

That Administration report back with a summary report of the City's cost recovery targets for the city's major user fee revenue sources.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council that the Board of Police Commissioners be requested to report on potential budget reductions that would reduce their total funding ask by up to 4%.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Parker declared a conflict of interest on the following motion as her spouse is a Director on the Saskatoon Public Library

Board. She excused herself from discussion and voting on the matter and left the Council Chamber.

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council that Saskatoon Public Library be requested to report on potential budget reductions that would reduce their total funding ask by up to 4%.

In Favour (9): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Conflict (1): Councillor Parker

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Parker re-entered the Council Chamber.

The final resolution is as follows:

The Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council that:

- 1. The requirement for City Council to approve an indicative rate, as outlined in Council Policy No. C03-036, be waived for the 2026 and 2027 Budget;*
- 2. Administration be directed to continue to refine the budget to reduce the proposed property tax rate increases by 1 percentage point in each of 2026 and 2027 which will be the budget presented at the November 25, 2025, Budget Deliberation meeting;*
- 3. Administration be directed to present a report with two additional scenarios to the November 25, 2025, Budget Deliberation meeting that detail how a 2 percentage point total reduction (to 7.9% in 2026 and 5.34% in 2027) and a 5 point total reduction (to 4.9% in 2026 and 2.34% in 2027) could be achieved including implications of those scenarios;*

4. *All departments, controlled corporations, City funded agencies and external organizations be directed to find cost savings prior to budget;*
5. *Administration report back with a summary report of the City's cost recovery targets for the city's major user fee revenue sources;*
6. *The Board of Police Commissioners be requested to report on potential budget reductions that would reduce their total funding ask by up to 4%; and*
7. *The Saskatoon Public Library be requested to report on potential budget reductions that would reduce their total funding ask by up to 4%.*

Item 6.3.3 was considered next.

6.2 Approval Reports

6.3 Information Reports

Moved By: Councillor Pearce

That the reports submitted as Items 6.3.1 to 6.3.7 be received as information.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3.1 City of Saskatoon's Response to Homelessness [CC2025-0105]

A report of the Community Services Division was provided along with the following letters:

Requests to Speak

- Paul Hemsing, dated May 29, 2025

- Shawna Nelson, Executive Director, Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District, dated June 6, 2025
- Daryl Brown, Phoenix Starter Alternator Repair, dated June 6, 2025
- Dr. Ephthymia (Effie) Kutsogiannis, Pleasant Hill Dental, dated June 8, 2025
- Joy Friesen, Etceteras Ladies Boutique, dated June 9, 2025
- Cindy Harrison, dated June 9, 2025

Submitting Comments

- Rhonda Ciona, dated June 6, 2025
- Steven Squier, Cohen's Beer Republic/Taste Hospitality Group, dated June 7, 2025
- Carmen Hamm, Taste Hospitality Group, dated June 7, 2025
- Gillie Chartier, Taste Hospitality Group, dated June 9, 2025
- Dr. Parviz Yazdani, Neesh Dental, BLOK Dental Studio and Botté Persian Café and Kitchen, dated June 9, 2025

Director of Planning and Development Anderson presented the report.

Committee heard from the following speakers:

- Paul Hemsing - He provided a stack of letters to the City Clerk and responded to questions.
- Shawna Nelson - responded to questions
- Daryl Brown - responded to questions
- Dr. Effie Kutsogiannis, via teleconference
- Joy Friesen
- Cindy Harrison

City Manager Jorgenson, Deputy Chief Raymer, Director of Planning and Development Anderson, and General Manager,

Utilities and Environment Gardiner responded to questions of Committee.

Discussion followed.

Item 6.3.2 was considered next.

6.3.2 Access to Public Washrooms and Drinking Water - Summer 2025 [CC2025-0104, PDCS2023-0612]

A report of the Community Services Division was provided along with the following letters

Request to Speak

- Tyrell Harder, dated June 6, 2025 (withdrawn)
- Jennifer Barrett, dated June 9, 2025

Submitting Comments

- Chief McBride, Saskatoon Police Service, dated May 26, 2025
- Cary Tarasoff, dated June 9, 2025

Director of Planning and Development Anderson presented the report and responded to questions of Committee along with City Manager Jorgenson.

It was noted that Tyrell Harder had withdrawn his request to speak.

Jennifer Barrett spoke to this matter.

The meeting recessed at 11:17 a.m. and reconvened at 11:36 a.m. with all members in attendance (Councillor Davies via teleconference). Deputy City Solicitor Manastyrski sat in for City Solicitor Yelland until 1:00 p.m.

Discussion followed.

Item 6.3.4 was considered next.

6.3.3 Research Junction Program Update 2025 [GPC2023-1102]

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division was provided, along with a letter from Meaghan Risling, University of Saskatchewan, dated May 27, 2025.

Director of Technical Services Willems presented the report and responded to questions of Committee.

Items 6.3.5, 6.3.6, and 6.3.7 were considered next.

6.3.4 National Urban Park Exploration 2024 – 2025 Update [GPC2024-0603]

A report of the Utilities and Environment Division was provided along with the following letters:

Request to Speak

- Raeanne Kurtz, Parks Canada, dated June 5, 2025
- Mike Velonas, Meewasin Valley Authority, dated June 6, 2025
- Lenore Swystun, Saskatoon Heritage Society, dated June 9, 2025

Submitting Comments

- Candace Savage, Wild About Saskatoon, dated June 8, 2025
- Meghan Mickelson, Swale Watchers, dated June 8, 2025
- Stewart Coles, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, dated June 9, 2025

General Manager, Community Services Anger presented the report.

Raeanne Kurtz spoke to the matter along with Scott Back with a PowerPoint. They responded to questions of Committee.

Mike Velonas spoke to the matter with a PowerPoint.

It was noted that Lenore Swystun was not in attendance.

Discussion followed.

Item 6.1.1 was considered next.

6.3.5 Referral List – Governance and Priorities Committee – June 2025 GPC2025-0604]

A report of the City Clerk's Office was provided.

City Clerk Tittermore presented items 6.3.5, 6.3.6, and 6.3.7 together.

6.3.6 Referral List – City Council – June 2025 [GPC2025-0603]

A report of the City Clerk's Office was provided.

6.3.7 Inquiries and Notice of Motions – June 2025 [GPC2025-0605]

A report of the City Clerk's Office was provided.

7. MOTIONS (notice previously given)

8. URGENT BUSINESS

9. GIVING NOTICE

10. VERBAL UPDATES

10.1 Council Members - Her Worship the Mayor, FCM/SUMA, Boards, Committees and Commissions

Mayor Block

Mayor Block expressed gratitude to all frontline staff and partners supporting over 8,000 wildfire evacuees in Saskatoon, highlighting the City's coordination efforts and community generosity. She noted that many evacuees are now returning home. She also reported on recent advocacy at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Big City Mayors caucus, focusing on housing, infrastructure needs, and the call for a new fiscal framework for municipalities. Lastly, she spoke about welcoming national leaders at the First Ministers' Meeting in Saskatoon.

Councillor Jeffries

Councillor Jeffries corrected a misstatement he made at the April 9, 2025 GPC meeting a previous meeting regarding the election expense formula, clarifying the correct rate is \$0.75 per capita, rather than \$0.85 per voter. Additionally, he announced his recent election to the FCM National Board of Directors.

Councillor Timon excused himself from the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Councillor Dubois

Councillor Dubois announced her recent election to the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) Board of Directors, highlighting their ongoing commitment to transit advocacy and intent to represent Saskatoon's interests at the national level.

10.2 Administration

11. REQUESTS TO SPEAK (new matters)

12. COMMUNICATIONS (requiring the direction of the Committee)

13. IN CAMERA SESSION

Moved By: Councillor Donauer

That the Committee move *In Camera* to consider the following items.

In Favour (9): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, and Councillor Pearce

Absent (2): Councillor Davies, and Councillor Timon

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.1 Proposed Amendments to The Cities Act

[In Camera - Information from Other Governments - Section 13 of LAFOIP]

13.2 Verbal Updates

**13.2.1 Council Members - Her Worship the Mayor; FCM/SUMA;
Boards, Committees & Commissions; Personnel
Subcommittee (if required)**

13.2.2 Administration

13.2.2.1 City Manager Updates

*[In Camera - Sections 13, 14(1), 15(1), 16(1), 17(1),
18(1), 19, 20 and 21 of LAFOIP]*

13.3 Appointments - Boards, Commissions and Committees [CK 225-4-3]

In Camera - Consultations/Deliberations; Personal Information - Sections 16(1)(b) and (d) and 28 of LAFOIP]

13.3.1 Code of Conduct - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

13.3.2 Appointment and Resignation - Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee

13.3.3 Appointment - Development Appeals Board

13.3.4 Appointment - Saskatoon Appeals Board

13.3.5 Resignation - Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee

13.4 Corporate Accommodation Planning

[In Camera - Policy Options/Advice - Section 16(1)(a) LAFOIP]

13.5 Strategic Planning

[In Camera - Section 94(4) of The Cities Act]

14. RISE AND REPORT

The Committee convened In Camera at 2:55 p.m. The following were in attendance as noted:

- All Committee members, with the exception of Councillors Davies and Timon
- City Manager Jorgenson
- General Manager, Community Services Anger
- General Manager, Environment and Utilities Gardiner
- General Manager, Transportation and Construction Schmidt
- Public Policy and Government Relations Officer Jordan
- Chief Financial Officer Hack
- Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer Phillips (virtual)
- Chief of Staff Cormack
- City Solicitor Yelland
- City Clerk Titemore
- Deputy City Clerk Bryant
- Director of Facilities Hamoline, for item 13.4
- Project Services Manager Yong-Hing, for item 13.4

All Administration, with the exception of the City Solicitor, City Manager, City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk excused themselves from the meeting prior to consideration of 13.3.

The Committee moved to rise and report. The *In Camera* portion of the meeting recessed at 4:05 p.m.

Councillor Timon re-entered the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Committee reconvened publicly, and reported as follows:

13.1 Proposed Amendments to The Cities Act

[In Camera – Information from Other Governments – Section 13 of LAFOIP]

Moved By: Councillor MacDonald

That the information and the discussion remain In Camera under Section 13 of LAFOIP.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.2 Verbal Updates

13.2.1 Council Members - Her Worship the Mayor; FCM/SUMA; Boards, Committees & Commissions; Personnel Subcommittee

Moved By: Councillor MacDonald

That the information and the discussion remain In Camera under Sections 13, 14(1), 15(1), 16(1), 17(1), 18(1), 19, 20 and 21 of LAFOIP.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.2.2 Administration

13.2.2.1 City Manager Updates

[In Camera - Sections 13, 14(1), 15(1), 16(1), 17(1), 18(1), 19, 20 and 21 of LAFOIP]

Moved By: Councillor MacDonald

That the information and the discussion remain In Camera under Sections 13, 14(1), 15(1), 16(1), 17(1), 18(1), 19, 20 and 21 of LAFOIP.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.3 Appointments - Boards, Commissions and Committees

[In Camera - Consultations/Deliberations; Personal Information - Sections 16(1)(b) and (d) and 28 of LAFOIP]

Moved By: Councillor MacDonald

That the recommended appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees and any further direction, as noted by the City Clerk, be reported to the June 25, 2025 Regular Business meeting.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.4 Corporate Accommodation Planning

[In Camera - Policy Options/Advice - Section 16(1)(a) LAFOIP]

Moved By: Councillor MacDonald

That the information and discussion remain In Camera under Section 16(1)(a) of LAFOIP.

In Favour (10): Councillor Kelleher, Mayor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Ford, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor MacDonald, Councillor Parker, Councillor Pearce, and Councillor Timon

Absent (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.5 Strategic Planning

[In Camera – Section 94(4) of The Cities Act]

This matter was withdrawn.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Deputy Mayor H. Kelleher

City Clerk A. Tittlemore