



City of Prince George Regular Council Budget Meeting January 24, 2022

Handout List

Regarding the 2022 – 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Expenditure Plans

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From: cityclerk
Subject: Tax increase

From: Fred Wilkinson <*REDACTED*>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:13 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: Tax increase

I'm writing in support of the tax increase for the RCMP on behalf of my wife Karen and myself.

Fred Wilkinson
5642 Bearspaw Cres

From: cityclerk
Subject: City Budget Deliberations

From: Brenda Black <*REDACTED*>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 12:01 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: City Budget Deliberations

Hello,

I would like to ask that the City of Prince George stop spending any tax dollars on financing fireworks displays. I know there haven't been as many since covid started, but I've always wondered just how much of my tax dollars, and how much of the City's annual budget, have gone to fireworks given the ridiculous number of loud, disturbing, and frequent fireworks displayed at community events. Maybe that money could instead go to helping house the homeless, providing citizens with discounted cleats for safely walking on the ice (which would reduce falls and subsequently ambulance calls and hospital trips), or just toward snow clean up...or maybe paying off the huge debt that the City incurred for the parkade? There are probably better places to spend the money and given the sheer amount of fireworks at City events this could be a real cost savings and an easy way to find a pile of money for something else.

My poor dogs were terrorized by the fireworks, which pre-covid seemed to go off at least once every month. Fireworks also negatively impact wildlife and they can sometimes cause fires so simply for wildfire suppression they shouldn't be allowed.

Thank you for considering my submission.
Brenda Black

From: cityclerk
Subject: City budget feedback

From: Tahnee Bulmer <*REDACTED*>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:47 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: City budget feedback

Good morning, please add the following items to the feedback list by citizens. Those of us in Blackburn are overlooked.

We really need to consider some sidewalks along north/south Blackburn, and Giscome roads. These are main routes with significant traffic (that speeds) We have many active community members that walk, and run who have to use the shoulder only. Not to mention the kids walking to and from school daily. In addition, the city spends money annually clearing ditches and dealing with blocked culverts that lead to flooding. Proper drainage and sidewalks would help this immensely.

Second we really need a normal play park out here for children and families. The school is our option for slides or swings and that must be done off school hours which isn't ideal. The All wheels park is great but vastly limited. We really need a family and young child friendly place to take our kids to play.

Thank you,

Tahnee Bulmer
1212 Blackburn North Road

January 21, 2022

**Mayor and Council
City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George BC V2L 3V9**

RE: Staff Report to Council on RCMP Contract Proposed Reduction of \$1 Million.

Downtown Prince George is the business improvement association for the Downtown C1 Zone representing over 200 properties and 500 businesses. Our vision is to support and grow the economic vitality and energy of Prince George's downtown. Our vision includes goals around beautification, promotions, events, business retention and safety. We have appreciated the opportunity to partner with the City of Prince George on many initiatives that are aimed at improving and promoting downtown. For all those opportunities we want to extend our appreciation and continued commitment to work together to keep our downtown prosperous and healthy.

Unfortunately, our downtown and community have been experiencing a noticeable increase in crime and vandalism during a time when our businesses also continue to struggle with the ever-changing world of living through a pandemic. On top of that, our businesses cannot continue to absorb the financial and emotional costs of fires, broken windows, theft, and other unfortunate criminal activities.

Therefore, seeing a report included in the upcoming 2022 Budget Meeting Agenda that discusses the reduction of the RCMP budget by \$1 million dollars has raised great concern for our board, our businesses, and our community. More specifically references to the reduction in the Downtown Safety Unit (DSU) and Car 60 are extremely troubling. Our organization has shared with Council, in the past, the importance of the DSU in keeping our downtown safe and the effectiveness of their team interacting with our businesses. We have also commended the City on supporting the CAR 60 program that is a unique, much needed and effective program in our community.

On behalf of Downtown Prince George, we wanted to take this opportunity ensure that the Downtown Safety Unit and the CAR 60 programs will not be considered as part of any discussion for budget reductions. We understand that community safety is a collective responsibility, and we appreciate all the opportunities that we have been given to be included in several City initiatives that are aimed at building a safer, more inclusive downtown. A dedicated team for policing in our downtown is critical, we trust you will agree with us and continue to provide the necessary funding.

Sincerely,



Colleen Van Mook
Executive Director

cc. Eoin Foley, President Downtown Prince George
Walter Babicz, City Manager
Superintendent Shaun Wright

Subject: Enough tax increases

From: Marco Sabatino <*REDACTED*>

Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:55 AM

To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>

Subject: Enough tax increases

I live on Inglewood road and I would like to know the process for Inglewood and pilot mountain road succeeding to the regional district. The city can't count jelly beans let alone another 6 percent in tax revenue.

Signed a Redacted tax payer.

9470 Ingelwood Road

From: cityclerk
Subject: Budget 2022 Decreasing RCMP Funding

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim Hayhurst <*REDACTED*>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 9:38 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: Budget 2022 Decreasing RCMP Funding

January 23, 2022

Dear Mayor and Council,

As the owner of a downtown business, The Makerie Craft and Coffee Bar, I have become familiar with the ongoing social issues happening in our downtown core.

I, like many other business owners, are putting our livelihoods on the line to help our community build a vibrant and attractive downtown.

Many customers and staff express concerns about feeling unsafe downtown. We business owners rely on both to remain feasible.

Building infrastructure such as downtown condos, pools, arts facilities and more are important parts of building an attractive city core; however, these are long term, slow burn solutions.

In addition to such infrastructure investments, business owners and downtown visitors need to feel safe. The Downtown Safety Unit has played an important part in helping with safety issues downtown and I sincerely request that Mayor and Council consider maintaining this service, if not expanding it, to help our community.

Help us maintain the safety of our community, our vulnerable population, our downtown businesses, their staff and patrons.

Sincerely,

Kim Hayhurst
Owner and Master of Creative Chaos
The Makerie Craft and Coffee Bar
1135 Fifth Avenue
Prince George BC V2L 4R8
REDACTED

From: cityclerk
Subject: City Budget comments

From: Andreas Krebs <*REDACTED*>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:40 AM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: City Budget comments

Hi there,

I was very optimistic about the city budget when I heard that the RCMP budget was being cut. However, I also see the bylaw budget has increased by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

This seems to be a shell game. And from what I have seen of bylaw's work downtown, they are ill equipped to actually help deal with the homelessness crisis. According to the city's own documents, they do not have any training on trauma informed intervention, no cultural awareness training on working with INdigenous peoples, and there is no guidance on the "education" they are supposed to be doing as part of the safe streets bylaw.

This massive leap is unacceptable, and just moves unaccountable policing inside the city instead of in the RCMP.

Thank you,

Andreas Krebs

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Res (Andreas) Krebs, PhD
Chief Strategist
Resonant Strategic
REDACTED

We are honoured to be living and doing business on the traditional territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

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From: cityclerk
Subject: Budget and Bylaw Enforcement

-----Original Message-----

From: Julian Legere <*REDACTED*>

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:22 PM

To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>; mayorandcouncil <mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca>

Subject: Budget and Bylaw Enforcement

Dear Mayor and Council,

I'm writing in response to the city's 2022 Budget Plan, and in particular the increase in funding for Bylaw Enforcement.

Three months ago, I watched as city Bylaw officers [Redacted] at the Lower Patricia Boulevard homeless encampment, which resulted in a number of people losing their homes and their possessions, included the cremated remains of one residents' mother. [Redacted]
[Redacted]

I would never be arrogant enough to demand or expect perfection from any system or department run by human beings, but that [Redacted] should give everyone at city hall pause.

It seems undeniable to me that there must be [Redacted]
[Redacted] and I am frankly offended by the City's apparent view that Bylaw Enforcement should be increased so soon after that event.

One of the most powerful statements a government can make is how you choose to spend public money, and a nearly 1-million dollar increase to a department that accidentally destroyed people's homes just months ago seems to be a clear statement that the city approves of the way Bylaw is operating. Given the events of last November, as well as other instances of mistreatment that I have heard my homeless neighbours and other witnesses describe, that support is an affront to the values of fairness and justice that I'm sure the City wants to be committed to.

Bylaw Enforcement must demonstrate, not just internally to the city, but to the public, that they have taken appropriately dramatic steps to prevent such dramatic harms from being done in the City's name. Without that, this funding increase is a slap in the face to every person who lost their home, and every person who has ever been [Redacted]
[Redacted] It is also a slap in the face to anyone like myself who, despite being confident that I am unlikely to be on the unfortunate end of such an interaction, believes that everyone in our city deserves to have the same confidence.

There is frankly no doubt in my mind that, without a major overhaul of the way bylaws are enforced in Prince George, this increase will lead to more rather than less harm being done to citizens.

Thank you,

Julian Legere
he/his
307-1501 Queensway Avenue
Prince George, BC
V2L 1L5