

Jan.21,2026

To: Mayor Simon Yu, Council Members, Ramsay, Sampson, Polillo, Bennett, Skakum, Klassen, Frizzel and Scott

Does this council really care about the people of PG, or just themselves?

Letters sent to Mayor and Council for submission on any given topic are not read to the public by a councilor in chamber. Nor is an individual aloud to speak on the submission presented. But the submission is attached to the agenda. Therefore, the public is not informed unless they pick up an agenda, and how many know that. The city council meetings agenda has no space for the public to voice their concerns (**in the past there was a time slot for public input**). The school district allows five minutes for an individual to address the board. But the city only permits a delegation to speak in council chambers. What constitutes a delegation, one person or thousands of individuals. There are four very important topics on the budget agenda, all to do **with tax increases**. But how is the public going to have input. Some can converse with writing, while others are better at voice communication. All Public opinions are important and if their input is not acknowledged in chambers they are at a loss. This council who ran for office primarily on transparency, it appears now, they are falling back to seclusion and secrecy.

Property tax, just property tax, have risen 25.67% since 2021. There is an additional 5.98% increase for 2026 and a projected tax increase of 10.84% through to 2028. These tax increases 42.49% do not include water, garbage, regional (4.3% increase – mill rate \$43.55 per \$100k), or storm drainage tax not disclosed. This council must send senior management (the bureaucrats) back to bring in a 0% budget which is not that difficult. The bureaucrats can't keep raising taxes because it is the easiest route, and council must stop giving their approval because this is the norm. We are not in normal times. If this city was run as a corporation we wouldn't be in this dilemma.

This is going to be a very controversial budget. A budget that many cannot afford. Also, a budget that will determine who will retain their seat as councilor comes October.

At the very least this council should implement time for public hearing, as they did for community planning. If a delegation is recognized as one, I would very much like to address council.

*M J Mahoney*

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