

January 28, 2026 Regular Council Budget Meeting
Agenda Item C.1 - Handout 1

Jan. 27/26

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

Want to carry on with my observation of yesterdays Budget meeting at City Hall. There again presentations were very well received. What I found is that in most presentations the fancier graphs and charts used usually demonstrate incompetence. Smoke and mirrors so to speak, especially when it comes to finances. Most people (councilors included) don't understand the true reality of the presentation. They are overcome by colorful lines, circles and bars, presented by incompetent people who know they can dazzle enough councilors to have the budget pass. Now a good example would be the Fire Chief's presentation over the bureaucrats. Fire Chief was direct and precise on what is needed to maintain the fire department at the highest level. Two paragraphs one for additional 12-man recruitment and contingency plan of 7-man recruitment at a projected cost of aprox. \$9k-\$1.2m, no need for fancy graphs or charts, well done.

I have no illusion; the budget will probably pass as well as the fourth reading of the rain tax (6-3). The rain tax is going to be passed even though there is no dollar value leveed. Nor is there certainty about who pays the tax and who doesn't and will the people paying have to make up the shortfall. One thing is known, there will be a fee charge to be assessed, but no one knows what that will be.

This council should send their bureaucrats back to the drawing board as Vancouver did and do better. Quit comparing PG vs other cities and if you must, compare to Vancouver. It is just more of a mirror elusion, deflecting the true intent. No one cares what other cities are doing. Now the bureaucrats want an additional \$10m to maintain. This figure would probably be in the \$5m-\$7m range. Sitting having a coffee I roughly went over Brian's post concerning the budget. It doesn't take a genius to realize where wasteful spending is and what can be put over to the wish list A minor example the Kin Hut, why are we even entertaining an expenditure for Wi-Fi. Most cellphones have this capability on their own. Civic Center sound system, use what was

removed from CN Center. If you look at the budget as was presented from Brian, you will realize that aprox. \$5m can be cut from budget with common sense, and my coffee isn't cold. With a little digging, there could be a 0% increase in taxes.

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