



City of Prince George Regular Council Budget Meeting January 25, 2021

Handout List

Regarding the 2021 – 2025 Operational Financial and Capital Plan

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Subject: FW: 2021 budget deliberation

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

From: Dearth D <*Redacted*>

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 11:59 AM

To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>

Subject: 2021 budget deliberation

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I have been very disappointed in recent years in how the city and council have handled the budget and projects. Add to that taxes keep going up and the city keeps spending money on projects that make little sense especially in a time when we are told to exercise fiscal prudence which apparently the city has trouble following.

As far as the 2021 budget is concerned I feel that the city should make the water and sewer infrastructure a priority this year. I would suggest selling some city property and assets to help with this cost.

I have been a big supporter of the garbage collection system since it's implementation but the city has done a less than sterling job of dealing with costs associated with garbage collection. Every year since it's implementation costs have gone up every year I suggest a comprehensive review to see why costs are continually rising and find ways to save money or at least maintain stable levels. I'm tired of seeing the utility fees going up and nothing to really show for it.

As far as the 5 year outlook on the budget I would suggest a freeze on any upcoming capitol Building projects (except for required upkeep) for a period of 1 year until all current projects are assessed and/or finished and make sure all current projects are within budget. Also I would like to see the city make water and sewer a top priority in the 5 year plan.

Thank You
Dean Soiland

From: Redacted
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Saturday, January 23, 2021 12:58:30 AM

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding the 2021 budget for the City of Prince George, I propose that there is no tax increase to the residents.

We are still in the midst of a global pandemic where individuals continue to lose their jobs. For some families in the City, both adults have permanently lost income and any increase to the taxes would be detrimental to their financial situation.

Raising taxes even by a percentage could cause some residents to lose their homes and/or be forced to drastic measures.

In addition, I believe that taxes should not be raised nor should other services have their budgets reduced due to the mismanagement/lack of communication around major projects. If anything, Council, senior administration, staff needs to see a reduction in wages and/or staffing to partially make up the shortfall and lack of oversight.

From: [Donna Bornholdt](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: 2021 Budget Input
Date: Saturday, January 23, 2021 12:40:00 PM

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Mayor Hall and City Council,

I took part in the virtual Town Hall meeting and completed the Budget Survey. After consideration of the extreme over-expenditures of the Parkade and the Firehall I would like to make the recommendation/suggestion that ALL extra expenses considered through the Town Hall meeting and Public Budget Survey be put on hold and reviewed at later dates.

The confidence of the people of Prince George has been eroded to the point that spending on anything other than general maintenance and upkeep of our current infrastructures, buildings and parks is not only the most economical course of action, but the one that would perhaps allow residents to reconsider their answers and input on both the Town Hall and Budget Survey exercises.

I think we all need to step back and take a breath before we forge ahead with even more expenses when the people of Prince George are already faced with a depressing debt from these outrages cost overruns.

You, Mayor Hall and City Council, have a lot to answer for and asking for the public to trust the decision making process on their behalf, at this point, is asking too much.

Respectfully,

Donna Bornholdt

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Richard Hough](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Council to consider 2% tax hike for 2021 - Public invited to comment on city's 2021 budget
Date: Saturday, January 23, 2021 11:24:27 AM

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City of Prince George.

I am opposed to this every year continued tax increase. How about undertaking some sound fiscal management for a change.

I support no tax increase for 2021 and further I would support a 10% tax reduction this year.

I am also a 37 year resident of the City.

Thank you.

Richard Hough

From: [Trudy Klassen](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: 2021 Budget comment
Date: Sunday, January 24, 2021 12:17:40 PM

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, Mr. Mayor and City Council,

I am asking for a 0% tax rate increase for 2021. The yearly rate increases need to stop out of respect for the citizens of Prince George. This council has lost the moral authority to ask for an increase.

kind regards

Trudy Klassen

Redacted

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

From: [Shanna Martin](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: City Budget 2021
Date: Sunday, January 24, 2021 4:22:50 PM

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Attention Mayor & City Council:

Please do NOT increase the City 2021 tax rate. Keep the tax rate as it was for 2020. Until the city can keep projects on budget and not had out raises, it's not fair to have the tax payers fund these errors.

Thank you,
Shanna Martin
2095 Churchill Pl
PG,BC

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dave Plaxton](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: City Budget 2021
Date: Sunday, January 24, 2021 5:00:49 PM

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council:

Please do not increase the City 2021 tax rate.

Keep the tax rate as it was for 2020.

kind regards,

Dave Plaxton

5960 Simon Fraser Ave

Prince George, BC

From: [Samantha Galan](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:14:56 AM

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council:

Please do not increase the City 2021 tax rate. Keep the tax rate as it was for 2020.

kind regards,
Samantha Sabatino

2630 ridgeview
1575 Irwin street
9370 inglewood road Prince George, BC

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Marco Sabatino](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Re: City budget 2021
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 6:38:47 AM

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council:
Please do not increase the City 2021 tax rate. Keep the tax rate as it was for 2020.
kind regards,
Marco Sabatino
2630 ridgeview, 1575 Irwin street, 9370 inglewood road Prince George, BC

On Mon., Jan. 25, 2021, 6:35 a.m. Marco Sabatino, Redacted wrote:

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council:
Please do not increase the City 2021 tax rate. Keep the tax rate as it was for 2020.
kind regards,
Marco sabatino
2630 ridgeview drive, 1575 irwin street, 9370 Inglewood drive
Prince George, BC

Subject: FW: City garbage services

From: [tony](#) Redacted
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 3:12 PM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: City garbage services

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I have a question on why has the City never looked at garbage services every 2nd week? There are many big cities in BC with that service, but here we are weekly with one bag in a medium garage can. Have we not enough information and rules on recycling that we must collect garbage every week. Try looking at the City of Victoria and Saanich and get some saving ideas from a city of similar size.

Subject: RE: 2021 Budget Deliberations Written Submission

From: Phil Beaulieu [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:22 AM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: 2021 Budget Deliberations Written Submission

This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Mayor and Council

Re: 2021 Budget Deliberations - 0% Tax Increase and Freeze on Capital Projects

The most recent capital project overruns compounded with the changes to the cost over run approval process in 2019 that was, at the time, heralded as a mechanism to provide better spending oversight in the wake of previous capital project cost overruns clearly shows that no new Capital Projects should be approved in the current budget deliberations for 2021. Only existing projects underway as part of the 2020 budget should move forward and the entire capital program should be frozen at this time. The Condo Parkade fiasco clearly indicates that at best Mayor and Council have no clue on the spending taking place within the capital projects file and at worst some or all of Mayor and Council were complicit in working with staff to push through a project against the policies at the time. Before any additional capital projects are approved a complete and thorough independent public investigation must take place in regards to the irregularities around the Condo Parkade project and the entire capital spending and approval process. In addition the City currently does not have a permanent City Manager and the involvement of the acting City Manager and senior leadership team in the Condo Parkade Project is unknown pending the results of the aforementioned independent public investigation. I recognize a freeze of this nature may create some challenges, however, without pressure to get to the bottom of the Condo Parkade Project there is little faith from myself and many citizens you have been elected to represent that any concrete results to hold those responsible to task and implement effective change will take place. Furthermore, it should be the responsibility of the new City Manager to enact the changes that are recommended by an independent public investigation.

As the decisions of the Mayor and Council since the last election have created an enormous financial sink hole through capital project cost overruns and the short, medium and long term effects of Covid 19 on revenues and expenditures within the operating budget and the impacts on the citizens that pay the bills are largely unknown (and based on the Condo Parkade project any information coming out of the Finance and Audit Committee should be considered questionable at this time). The only prudent course of action is for the Mayor and Council to set a 0% tax increase for 2021. 2021 can be used to undertake an independent public review of city operating and capital budgets and a five year plan can be developed to create the means for the city to dig itself out of the tsunami of cost overruns we are currently facing without requiring significant compounding annual tax increases or by hampering future citizens by simply taking on additional debt. The city has a train load of unfunded infrastructure that needs replacement over the next 15 years and the impacts of the cost overruns from the last 5 years need to be reviewed and planned for in conjunction with operating budgets and a 0% tax increase should be mandated until a plan is in place.

Sincerely,
Phil Beaulieu
787 Selwyn Crescent