

From:

To:

[REDACTED]
[Keith Yacucha; Budget2024](#)

Subject:

Looking for public feedback on the draft five-year financial plan

Date:

February 16, 2024 10:09:08 PM

Let's see.... From 2023-2028 ~50% increase in property taxes. In essence, this is financially penalizing homeowners for all the over development and a money grab. Over development is why you got voted in. Thanks for the slap in the face. I expect the current council will be voted out by a landslide in the next election.

Biggest pile of [REDACTED] I have ever seen. I'm deferring my property tax, forever. If new residents want new shiny things, let them pay for it. Renters don't benefit, renters don't pay property tax either.

Why would you give money to RRU?!?! They MAKE money and get a government grant!

You mention "green spaces and parks", I've seen the OCP. Another big pile as there is no space left for those.

I should have stayed in Colwood.

[REDACTED]

Darrell Pettyjohn
3534 Desmond Dr

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Subject: 2024 Budget deliberations
Date: February 18, 2024 1:45:17 PM

Good afternoon,

I am writing to provide my input for the 2024 budget.

I strongly encourage that Council, wherever possible, approve the budget requests from departments to fund the hiring of additional staff members. During the budget presentations, I noticed that almost every department was requesting additional staffing. To me, this indicates that city staff are feeling the pressure of insufficient staff to meet the operational demands of their department. This can have negative effects on the work that is able to be done, but more importantly, on the health and wellbeing of our city staff.

I appreciate the inclusion of important items for building community in the proposed budget. I am strongly in favour of the community gardens. Such initiatives are important when looking at increasing resiliency and fostering a sense of togetherness.

I recognize that residents spoke strongly in favour of retaining the trolleys. However, I would suggest that the city look into alternatives for repurposing the trolley. The "largest free little library" is a great idea, however, the resources it would require would be too much and an unnecessary addition to our city, as we already are part of the Greater Victoria Public Library system, and have many existing free little libraries throughout our neighbourhoods. Could the trolley be repurposed as covered seating for patrons of Station Avenue, which currently lacks covered seating? Or perhaps turned into a play space for children, or integrated into the community gardens in some way, etc. I hope that the city is able to find a way to reuse these trolleys to fill an existing need within the city.

Thank you,

N. McNeely.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Cc: [Kimberley Guiry](#)
Subject: Support for budget 2024
Date: February 18, 2024 5:41:18 PM

Hi there,

After reading the 2024 budget and attending the presentation, I wanted to express my strong support for the proposed increase and plan. Building a more resilient city and investing in amenities for the long term is crucial, and this raise is in support of that future. More importantly, I think Langford needs to shift from a “low tax, low services” city to one that adequately taxes and delivers more amenities/services that residents love using.

My two pieces of feedback on the plan:

- 1) I strongly support councillor Guiry’s (cc’d) motion to fast track the five year sidewalk plan to be delivered within **one year**. It’s incumbent we build better, safer alternatives to driving to get around the city and I’m excited by how ambitious this is; we should enthusiastically move forward with it as soon as possible. I hope we continue to fund the plan to similar levels!
- 2) I do have a concern there is no specific budgeted item to specifically improve Latoria road sidewalk/cycling connections ahead of the completion of the Latoria South school project. It is concerning that this is not a specific item on the budget given the school is opening in the next 18 months. The Klahanie multi-use trail is a great improvement, however it is not where the majority of students live and as it stands there will be no way to safely access this school without driving unless something changes, which is a missed opportunity.

Thanks for your time and careful planning! I know how much effort goes into doing this and it’s great to see the work bearing fruit.

Best,
-Owen Williams
1127 Golden Spire Crescent

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mayor Goodmanson](#); [Mary Wagner](#); [Kimberley Guiry](#); [Keith Yacucha](#); [Mark Morley](#); [Lillian Szpak](#); [Colby Harder](#); [Budget2024](#)
Subject: Development Tracker - A Resource for Residents
Date: February 19, 2024 10:45:13 AM

Good Morning,

One of the suggestions that has been heard by M&C and perhaps the Planning Department is that residents have been asking for an online development tracker which will become most important when Public Participation regarding Sustainable Development in the City of Langford will change.

A Development Tracker can also provide information that over time will point us in the direction of what other types of development and housing needed in the City of Langford and open us up to different types of housing such as co-op housing, tiny homes, below market housing, subsidized housing.

As I previously stated I appreciate the effort the City is making with new amenities that will bring the community outdoors and together. I also feel that we must address what concerns us the most which is sustainable development and climate change and implement a more effective way to document the growth in our city.

Thank you
P.Hamilton
Langford Resident

“We are all walking each other home”

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Cc: [Mayor Goodmanson](#); [Keith Yacucha](#); [Mary Wagner](#); [Kimberley Guiry](#); [Mark Morley](#); [Colby Harder](#); [Lillian Szpak](#)
Subject: Budget 2024
Date: February 20, 2024 12:00:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mayor and Council,

I am concerned about the proposed tax increase for the 2024 budget. I've read through the materials and feel like I got lost in the details. What would be helpful is an executive summary that justifies the increase. The following page comes closest to it. Most people are going to focus on it when they try to figure out why their taxes might be going up another 12% this year. It doesn't make a compelling or coherent argument for that increase:

Summary of Key 2024 Budget Items:

Fire Department (Additional 9 firefighters per Master Plan)	2.31%
Debt payment (internal capital borrowing)	1.67%
Police (RCMP) for additional officers + one ME	1.47%
CPI on wages	1.37%
Maintenance Contracts (i.e. roads and parks maintenance)	1.16%
General Staffing	1.12%
Repairs and maintenance	0.87%
Community Safety and Municipal (Bylaw) Enforcement staffing	0.60%
Greater Victoria Regional Library	0.53%
Royal Roads University initiatives	0.50%
Utilities and insurance	0.50%
West Shore Parks and Recreation Society	0.30%
Miscellaneous (net effect of increases and decreases of revenues and expenses)	2.91%
Reduced contribution to Equipment Replacement Reserve	-1.10%
Non-market change (helping offset additional costs of growth)	-4.17%
Total net of debt servicing for potential purchase of Westhills owned YMCA building	10.04%
Debt servicing costs - Westhills owned YMCA building purchase	1.75%
Total Proposed 2024 Tax increase	11.79%

I would like some additional detail built into this summary, including:

- what the actual increase is for each of the line items above, year over year. (For example, the 0.53% in additional taxes going to the library represents a 10% increase for that item.)
- which costs are discretionary versus obligatory (due to contracts, etc.)
- a brief justification for any increases exceeding inflation. For 2023, the CPI looks to be just under 4% (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240116/cg-b001-eng.htm>).

I realize there are increased costs in the short term when it comes to the fire department, the police, and even the YMCA, but I'm having trouble bridging the gap between those costs (which are around 5.5%) plus a 4% CPI. That brings us to 9.5% compared to 12%.

I would also like to mention that the "New Budget Items" that are being considered look to be around 0.5% of Langford's total budget. Not huge, but still significant. Saying no to all those items

won't be enough to get the budget increase down to a more palatable number.

These are difficult times for many, and we must find ways of building a vibrant city/community, while keep taxes as low as reasonably possible. It could be that all these increases are needed, but it would not be reasonable for council to accept them without a more compelling argument being made that's acceptable to the public. And as it stands, I have not been convinced.

Thank you kindly.

Regards,
G. McClure
Bellamy Road
Langford

From: [Langford Finance General Mailbox](#)
To: [Michael Dillabaugh](#)
Cc: [Curtis Staniforth](#)
Subject: FW: New submission from Topic Contact Form
Date: February 20, 2024 8:05:40 AM

Jennifer Carnes

Accounting Technician

250.478.7882

Please review our email privacy policy at [Langford.ca/privacypolicy](https://langford.ca/privacypolicy)

From: dev@eclipse3sixty.com <dev@eclipse3sixty.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Langford Finance General Mailbox <finance@langford.ca>
Subject: New submission from Topic Contact Form

Topics

Taxes, Fees and Grants

Name

PETER MCCULLOCH

Phone

[REDACTED]

Address

2918 Pilatus Run
Langford, British Columbia V9B 0R4
Canada
[Map It](#)

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Firstly, I want to acknowledge that developing a budget that meets both Langford's current and future needs is a difficult and challenging process. Secondly, I understand that inflation is very real. Thirdly, I don't profess to have all the answers.

My wife and I are both pensioners and landlords. We receive limited increases to our pensions based on the so-called cost of living. Rental increases are also limited. However, it seems that property taxes do not have any limits. We can absorb "cost of living" increases to our property taxes, but for us, a 4-year average annual property tax increase of well over 9% that is compounded annually, at some point in time, becomes unsustainable. We are no longer employed, but I suspect that working people are not getting raises comparable to the hike in property taxes. It is also of little comfort to us that other local municipalities are also projecting similar increases.

It seems to me that Langford can either increase its revenue or cut its expenditures. Increasing property taxes by double digits two years in a row is crippling to those on a fixed income. Langford is in a growth mode, but somehow the growing number of taxpayers does not negate these substantial rate hikes. Affordable is a term that has different meanings for different people. In our case, rapid tax hikes are becoming unaffordable. I'm sure that every line in the proposed budget is important, but so is my ability to continue to live in Langford. Perhaps, the council needs to revisit their budget and make some cuts to its budget.

I understand that Langford council is proposing a referendum on the stadium expansion. This appears to be destined for defeat as even the most ardent sports fan is unlikely to support an additional increase to their taxes on top of already planned lofty property tax increases. Why has council decided to have a referendum on this issue, but not taken other issues, such as purchasing the YMCA aquatic facility, finishing the Jordie Lunn clubhouse, hiring 9 additional firefighters or hiring 3 bylaw officers, to referendum?

I do not want Langford council to think that I support the recent and proposed property tax increases without voicing my concerns. Increase your revenue by other means than property tax, amortize your spending over a longer period of time or trim the budget. Please do not raise my property taxes by these exorbitant rates.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Subject: 2024 Budget Information Request - Staff Service Levels
Date: February 20, 2024 10:04:57 AM

Hi there,

During the 2024 budget presentations to council, there as been a request for additional city staff to be hired. The justification indicated for these staff is to maintain the current service levels to the public. With this in mind, can you please provide me with the service levels for each department that are directly linked to City staffing for the City of Langford. More specifically, I would like to know the service level measurements/targets and the actual service levels provided/achieved for each department for the past 3 years.

Regards
Steven Rossander