

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Cc: [Mayor Goodmanson](#); [Kimberley Guiry](#); [Colby Harder](#); [Mark Morley](#); [Lillian Szpak](#); [Mary Wagner](#); [Keith Yacucha](#)
Subject: Budget: 15.63%? - NO
Date: March 1, 2024 9:24:45 AM

Mayor, and City Council:

This is to express my concern over the proposed 15.63% tax increase that council is considering. - First there should be no consideration of such a high tax increase. To suddenly not use the amenity fund at all to offset some of the tax increase is just plain ludicrous in this economic environment.

If the council has not noticed, inflation has eaten away at people's incomes. Many residents are having to renew their mortgages at double the rate. I don't think anyone has received an equivalent pay increase to cover these costs.

People are hurting. Families are hurting. Seniors are hurting. Yet I have seen no real desire from this council at all to keep taxes in check. In fact, I see the council actually adding to the budget. Get back to basic priorities. The reasonable and logical thing to do is to use the amenity fund to offset the financial impact and wean the city off it over time.

To not use the amenity fund at all at this time is ignoring the reality of what such a massive increase means to the majority of residents. To say taxes will be lower later, does not help a family put food on the table now, or help seniors decide whether to eat, take their meds, or pay your proposed massive tax increase.

Come on council - think, open your eyes, and do the right thing. Vote AGAINST such an unprecedented, and unwarranted tax increase, and use the amenity fund to help residents.

Sue Harper
1210 Clearwater Place
Langford, BC V9B0J2

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Subject: Budget 2024 feedback
Date: March 3, 2024 8:48:18 PM

Dear Mayor Goodmanson and Langford Council

[REDACTED] support all of the 2024 budget recommendations as presented to Mayor and Council and the public at the Budget Presentation on February 8, 2024. [REDACTED] believe that this budget is in line with what was expected following last year's increase and recommend that you stay the course.

[REDACTED] also support Langford Council's motion to stop using its General Amentity Reserve Fund to subsidize property taxes beginning in 2024. It does not make sense to delay this any longer. It will great to see the General Amenity Reserve Fund being used for its intended purpose... general amenities.

Sincerely
Penny Henzig

[REDACTED]
3308 Radiant Way
Langford

Good evening, thank you for letting me speak.

March 2, 2024

With all due respect.

To the Mayor, I believe you all were voted in to run the city in a responsible fiscal way and to protect Langford taxpayers.

Trying to correct (if true) the way Langford was run before, in one year is not financially fiscal. The Langford taxpayer will be hurt if forced to come up with the increase you have proposed.

Mayor you have 1/7 of the old council that contributed to us being in this position.

I suggest to you that Langford put the increases over multiple years and STOP development till the infrastructure is caught up.

Why the councilors and staff didn't put up a battle to save this increase from happening years ago baffles me. Should have gone public.

Through the Mayor, It upsets me every time I hear (Oh the money comes from grants, provincial government etc). Contrary to popular belief the money comes from you and us the taxpayers. So please stop spending our money.

If we are to believe that the reason Langford has no amenities, was the use of amenity funds to soften taxes then this should be corrected over a number of years as it took years to get here.

Langford seems to be put in a position of getting only what is required now, not spending on frivolous needs. Infrastructure is critical to Langford; we are a through fare for traffic from Sooke, Metchosin, Highlands, Saanich, Victoria and the Malahat. Start by pressuring the provincial government to update roads that they control.

Langford needs to be put on a financial diet as you hopefully wouldn't run your household this way.

It doesn't matter to a Langford taxpayer what other municipalities are paying.

Langford should NOT be in expansion mode and now has been placed into a restraint situation.

As your hired consultant stated at the OCP meeting, (Growth should be paid for by the growth).If you're unable to figure out how to get all growth paid for by the growth then STOP till you can.

Feel free to contact me to discuss

Scott Costello



From: [Michael Dillabaugh](#)
To: [Budget2024](#)
Subject: FW: 20240301 - Wormald Deborah - Proposed Budget concerns
Date: March 4, 2024 11:52:20 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Michael Dillabaugh, CPA, CA

Director of Finance

250.478.7882

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From: Rochelle Andrews <randrews@langford.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 8:48 AM
To: Michael Dillabaugh <mdillabaugh@langford.ca>
Subject: FW: 20240301 - Wormald Deborah - Proposed Budget concerns

Hi Mike,

The following email came into the Council inbox and has been acknowledged. If a response is provided to this resident, please cc me so I can update SharePoint.

Thanks,

Rochelle Andrews

HR Assistant

City of Langford

t 250.478.7882

2nd Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue | Langford, BC V9B 2X8

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From: dev@eclipse3sixty.com <dev@eclipse3sixty.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 4:13 PM
To: Langford Council <council@langford.ca>
Subject: 20240301 - Wormald Deborah - Proposed Budget concerns

First Name

Deborah

Last Name

Wormald

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Phone

[REDACTED]

Address

694 Goldie Ave
Langford V9b6h3
Canada
[Map It](#)

Message

I would like to express my concerns with proposed budget and spending. Many folks are expecting huge mortgage increases with interest rates.
Cost of the majority of food products has doubled taking unnecessary funds from residents at this time is not in Langfords best interest as it will have a negative effect on local economy.
Please consider an essentials only budget no fluff. I realize many people want this want that perhaps the extra bills taxes, corex etc doesn't have an impact on them.
Folks are struggling, its my opinion your trying to satisfy everyone in the first year or two it's not feasible.
The fund should have been balanced a bit to keep taxes reasonable and some for a piece of sidewalk her or there. Christmas times are tough work with what's there already. Don't spend what we don't have.
Sincerely
Deborah Wormald

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Subject: RE: Breakdown of Revenue Item
Date: March 4, 2024 12:01:39 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi there,

I am following up on my question (below). I would appreciate a response before 2pm today as tonight will likely be the last chance for the public participation on the 2024 – 2028 financial plan.

Regards,
Steven Rossander

From: Steven Rossander [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 9:53 AM
To: 'budget2024@langford.ca' <budget2024@langford.ca>
Subject: Breakdown of Revenue Item

Hi there,

Can you please provide me with a breakdown for following revenue line that is in the proposed 2024-2028 Financial Plan:

Taxes For Municipal Purposes - 101 - Property Taxes and Grants In Lieu - 0006 - General - Debt - YMCA / Asset Management



City of Langford
Department Proposed 5-yr Plan - Revenues
Proposed 2024-2028 Five Year Financial Plan

Division	Department	Object	Budget 2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Taxes For Municipal Purposes	101 - Property Taxes and Grants In Lieu	0002 - General & Police	38,782,705	42,155,497	47,656,988	51,822,407	56,000,426	60,605,431
Taxes For Municipal Purposes	101 - Property Taxes and Grants In Lieu	0003 - General - West Shore Parks & Rec	1,137,471	3,276,205	3,393,489	3,529,228	3,670,397	3,700,000
Taxes For Municipal Purposes	101 - Property Taxes and Grants In Lieu	0004 - General - Library	2,404,009	2,640,819	2,746,452	2,856,310	2,970,562	3,089,385
Taxes For Municipal Purposes	101 - Property Taxes and Grants In Lieu	0005 - General - Debt	300,000	1,050,000	2,000,000	2,900,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Taxes For Municipal Purposes	101 - Property Taxes and Grants In Lieu	0006 - General - Debt - YMCA / Asset Management	384,818	3,071,523	3,739,523	4,611,787	5,581,690	5,607,572

Specifically, I would like to know how much is for the potential purchase of the YMCA building and how much is for Asset management. Please provide this breakdown for each year in the Financial plan.

Regards,
Steven Rossander

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mayor Goodmanson](#); [Mary Wagner](#); [Kimberley Guiry](#); [Lillian Szpak](#); [Mark Morley](#); [Keith Yacucha](#); [Colby Harder](#)
Cc: [Budget2024](#)
Subject: Budget and March 4 Meeting
Date: March 4, 2024 1:35:01 PM

Hello Mayor and Council,

Please find below my input for the Budget process as well as comments for the March 4 meeting.

8 Committee Resolutions:

8.1.1 New Budget Items for Council Discussion

RR & City Centre Crosswalk - defer this year and until University opens in 2025 but in favour for both scholarship and innovation studio over all and the city centre crosswalk.

E-Bike - defer until inflation and interest rates are back on track or you can get a grant from somewhere to help offset the costs. I very much support the City offering further incentives for people to be able to afford an e-bike on top of rebate programs from provincial funding, every bit counts.

Community Mural Funds & Home Composting - these are such wonderful ideas and I love them, but they might be something to hold off on until inflation and interest rates are stabilized. And the composting has more investigation done to see if it is the best option for residents over all. Community murals are unique to every town or city and it's what makes them stand out and can become a tourist feature. As well as, promote community pride and enjoyment.

Community Gardens - absolutely in favour and think it's great to fund out of amenity funds instead of taxation.

Pedestrian Plaza/Walkway Project (Pilot) - this one could be a great idea but should be deferred until taxes are back on track

Trolley Library - although a neat idea, I'm not a fan of this one. I'd rather see it stationary and be a place marker/icon and a place for shade at Station Ave or VM Park. The other two should be sold and PLEASE DO NOT SELL THE LAND they have been stored at. Please don't sell any usable city land. (Except maybe do sell the property at 3680 Trans Canada Hwy that hasn't been able to be used since purchasing and money is being sunk into it to make it more viable?)

8.1.2. 2024 Funding Requests

It's not on the agenda, this is more a comment: Please consider addressing the in-kind donation to the Sarah Beckett Run for clarification and also consider having a standing donation whether in-kind or being a Tier 1 sponsor so there are no misunderstandings where the City of Langford stands on their show of support for this recurring community event.

10 Reports

10.2 Public Hearing Policy

I appreciate the staff's ideas to bring more community awareness when developments are being proposed and during those early stages. I think this is vital and a really great way to engage the community and receive valuable input and feedback from residents. It allows the City to have another way to have a finger on the pulse of its residents.

- like the idea of layman signage early on to explain development on the property itself
- like the idea to still announce in print and provide notice to the surrounding neighbours and

businesses

- if possible, would prefer instead of doing signage and announcements at 1st Reading to Council that they are done before Committee meeting? Committee level is ground zero and where the resident has the biggest impact and ability to share their feedback/ideas/concerns.
- if possible, can Committee meetings have a less structured time limit to public comments? I'm not sure there even is a 3 min time limit at the Committee level for public comments?
- Suggestions would be to allow no time limit like Public Hearings had or a 5 min limit or a 3 min limit, but you can speak multiple times to ensure everyone gets a chance to speak a first time?
- could staff encourage developers to have open houses early on as well?

10.2 2024 - 2028 Five-Year Financial Plan

- please sell 3680 Trans Canada Hwy
- having said that, please consider buying more usable land to own. City owned property is one of the greatest investments a municipality can make. Various reasons why that I'm sure you're all aware of already (one I can think of top of mind is to have a say over land use).
- having said that, please consider buying the property on the corner of Peatt and Goldstream. No idea if it's back for sale after recent events, but if it is, it would make a great public square or urban park or community hall, or public housing, the ideas are endless.
- if you decide to rip the bandaid off and use no amenity funds anymore and taxes go to 15%, which I will say, I am in favour of - please consider making small monetary, but large gestures to the community - and cut back on other areas like travel? Last year was an important year for all of the Council to understand and experience all the vital conferences, maybe a different approach for the next couple of years? I'm not sure if the amount that has been allocated means everyone is attending all the conferences again, or if you have already decided to send a couple to one and another couple to others etc, but even though it's not necessarily going to save lots of money, it shows a level of commitment to tightening belts when you're also asking everyone else to.
- I'm not sure what else would be seen as the same community gesture in the budget this year?
- Agree with bringing staffing levels up
- Assuming the Y is in negotiations and the \$16M is earmarked for that? How is the Y doing now, are you receiving reports with good progress?
- Agree with using surplus for all the plans within the Strategic Plan. I like how you tied/linked all the new proposed budget items to the Strategic Plan.
- Agree with all the funding for Fire and RCMP
- Was disappointed to find out there was internal borrowing, good to pay that off
- Further to the 15% tax option: what else is the City considering for amenities besides sidewalks?

It would have been a nice idea to show the public what a budget with a 7% tax increase would look like? Sometimes just seeing what wouldn't be funded and what the consequences would be in future years is enough for people to really understand why you're going the route you are.

Thank you for having an open process and multiple deliberations in public. It is obvious how much work has gone into the Budget Process thus far by staff and it's very appreciated. And huge kudos to Mr Dillabaugh for so skillfully and patiently explaining a complex process to such a diverse and wide audience.

10.4 Nolan Riding Lease Agreement

- in favour!! This will likely also help them with the Mountain Biking Academy that is now offered at both high schools, what a fantastic opportunity for the students.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the City of Langford. I think you're all doing a fantastic job under very challenging circumstances.

Warm regards,
Tanya Sunshine
Langvista Drive

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Subject: Thoughts on budget
Date: March 4, 2024 3:27:23 PM

Dear Council,

I am writing in support of the motion to reduce the use of the amenity fund to subsidize property taxes.

I realize the difficult position you are in. It is not an easy or popular time to be raising taxes. But unfortunately, our financial strategy in the last few years has left us with very little choice. We were borrowing money from the future to keep taxes low, and now the future is here.

I know a significant portion of the complaints have been coming from citizens with high property values, who can realistically make the tax increase work in their budgets.

But I do ask council to also consider citizens who are struggling to make ends meet.

With that in mind, I think the best course of action is to wean off the amenities fund gradually.

I think this will also have the benefit of demonstrating that council is willing to meet citizens in the middle.

Thank you so much.

Brittany

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget2024](#)
Subject: 5 year proposed financial plan
Date: March 4, 2024 5:22:40 PM
Importance: High

Hello,

I hope I am not too late to provide my input to the council for the 5 year financial plan. I am a resident of Langford and have a vested interest in the outcome of this discussion. First, I have questions: What is the Centre Mountain and why are the capital expenditures for the LSA so enormous (\$40 million)? Why is the administration planning to spend over \$40 million on property? That seems exorbitantly high and I sincerely hope that Langford administration is not planning to grow to the size requiring \$40 million more property. The tax increase is somewhere between 10-12% this year depending on whether the council decides to purchase the YMCA, which by the way I disagree with (as an aside, there's a reason it's not profitable on its own and purchasing it for the public won't change that). Does that tax increase mean that every single person/family with property will have their taxes increased by that percentage?

Regardless of the nuances in the tax implementation, I want to make it clear that I am in favour of lower taxes and higher efficiency. I think the last council did a good job in this regard and while this council likely has its own strengths, I would strongly recommend it maintain that particular legacy of the old council.

Sincerely,

Brendan Haws
Bear Mountain, Langford