

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Taxes 2023

Categories:

From: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Sent: February 14, 2023 11:54 AM
To: Mivi >
Subject: Re: Taxes 2023


Dear Mavis,

Thank you for your email, it has been shared with Mayor and Council.

The City's annual budget looks to adapt to change and balance competing priorities, while continuing to provide the high-quality services our residents have come to expect. For more information, please see our website: [City Budget | Victoria](#)

With respect to the budget and projected property taxes, please note that later this month the community will be invited to share their feedback on the Draft 2023 Budget. All community input will be summarized and shared with Council to help inform budget decision making and will be made available on the City's website and engagement platform at: [Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](#)

Sincerely,


Correspondence Coordinator
Mayor's Office
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

From: Mivi < >
Sent: February 13, 2023 2:10 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

Subject: Taxes 2023

Dear Mayor Alto and Counselors,

I am writing with an appeal to keep the city increase in taxes to the lowest level you can possibly manage. I am sure you are well aware that many of your residents are facing financial hardship in the light of inflation and other factors . The Times Colonist reported a proposed 10% tax increase. Of course, this is an increase on all the other increases we've had over the years, so it gets compounded. It also skirts the issue of the sewer tax, and all of the utility bills that we get throughout the year which also increase.

I suggest that the city trims the bureaucracy that is in place at present. A heavy bureaucracy is inefficient, cumbersome, and too expensive.

A 10% tax increase, or anything like that, is simply unaffordable and unacceptable for your residents.

You were recently elected to office with a promise of change, and a better way of doing things. I am looking forward to seeing this in action, especially with respect to the taxes.

Your sincerely.

Mavis Jansen
427 Government Street

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: In keeping with suggestion for change
Attachments: Improving our community in 2023 and beyond - Mayor and council Feb 14 2023.pdf

Categories:

From: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 9:08 AM
To: James <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: In keeping with suggestion for change

Dear James,

Thank you for your email, it has been shared with Mayor and Council.

Mayor and Council are currently in the process of determining strategic priorities through the budgeting process. Later this month, the community will be invited to share their feedback on the Draft 2023 Budget - this is a great opportunity to provide feedback like you have done below.

By registering for the City of Victoria's *Have Your Say* program, you can stay informed on current and upcoming engagement opportunities whenever they are made available: [Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](https://www.victoria.ca/haveyoursay)

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with Mayor, Council and the City of Victoria. Please take care.

Sincerely,

Lucas de Amaral
Correspondence Coordinator
Mayor's Office
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

From: James [REDACTED]
Sent: February 14, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

Cc: Chris Coleman (Councillor) <ccoleman@victoria.ca>

Subject: In keeping with suggestion for change

Mayor and Council
Corporation of the City of Victoria,
British Columbia,
Canada

Dear Mayor and Council.

I attach a letter with I kindly request the Mayor and council read and appropriately consider respective of improving our city in 2023 and beyond.

I ask that the Mayor and Council kindly consider, debate and where value is considered implement appropriate changes from within, I suggest that in the interest of improving safety and performance that outside industry stakeholders not be included in considerations as they only have interests in their gross profits, only discussions with surrounding community councils and provincial governance should be included where the city sees fit.

Attached: Improving our community in 2023 and beyond - Mayor and council Feb 14 2023.pdf

Respectfully

James Cooper

Victoria, BC, Canada

Email / E-mail : [REDACTED]

Cellular / Cellulaire : [REDACTED]

"You can't fix stupid" but one can most certainly improve upon it.

Typographical errors and or omissions in this message or attachments are notwithstanding the intended content of the message or accompanied attachments.

This transmission may contain confidential or privileged communications which does not reflect any official position of local or federal authorities unless specifically quoted. The sender does not waive any related copyright and or accept liability for any content ownership obligations. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this in error you must immediately destroy it.

Data protection laws apply!

Mr. James Cooper
c/o Rm 28, 490 Gorge Road E. Victoria, BC, V8T 2W4
Cell: +1 [REDACTED] - Email: [REDACTED]

February 14, 2023

Mayor and Council
Corporation of the City of Victoria
City Hall
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC,
V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor and Council elect,

Victoria British Columbia – Community concerns and improvements 2023 and beyond...

It is correct that the City of Victoria is one of the oldest chartered cities, incorporated as a City on August 2, 1862, under the Dominion of Canada and has the ability to introduce its own legislation. However, it is important to note that any city's ability to introduce legislation is subject to the Constitution Act, which outlines the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments, and any laws passed by a city must be consistent with these constitutional limits.

Regarding the specific issues raised in your statement, it is true that many cities face challenges related to aging populations, rising crime rates, and affordability concerns. While some of these issues may be addressed through infrastructure improvements, it may also be necessary for the city to consider changes to municipal legislation.

It is important to have open and transparent debate on these issues, and to consider the potential impact of any proposed legislation on different segments of the community. It is also important to consider how proposed legislation fits within the overall framework of laws and regulations in Canada, including those related to immigration, housing, and crime.

It is worth noting that issues related to affordability and access to transportation are often complex, and may require solutions that involve multiple levels of government and the private sector. While it may be possible for a city to introduce legislation to address some of these issues, it may also be necessary to work collaboratively with other stakeholders to find comprehensive solutions.

In summary, while the City of Victoria has the ability to introduce its own legislation, any proposed changes must be consistent with the Constitution Act and other relevant laws and regulations. It is important to have open and transparent debate on these issues, and to consider the potential impact of any proposed legislation on the community as a whole. Finding solutions to complex challenges such as aging populations, rising crime rates, and affordability concerns may require collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including other levels of government and the private sector.

My suggestion on improving transportation services for the aging community in the City of Victoria is to prioritize the safety and well-being of passengers, IE. those using taxis and chartered bus services, especially those whom may require special assistance and care.

Requiring taxi and motor coach drivers to have a valid basic certificate of first aid training is a sensible measure to ensure that they can respond appropriately in case of a medical emergency. Equipping all taxis with a basic level 2 first aid kit or better and an instruction guide is also a helpful addition to support drivers in administering first aid.

The suggestion to require level 2 first aid certification or higher for accessible taxi drivers and equipping their vehicles with Automatic Electronic Defibrillators and oxygen bottles is a more comprehensive measure aimed at accessible taxis. It ensures that passengers with disabilities or mobility issues are provided with the necessary support and care while being transported.

My proposal for drivers to pull to a safe location, come to a full stop, apply the vehicle's brakes, and assist the injured or incapacitated passenger with applicable first aid within the scope of their training before initiating a 911 call for emergency responders is also practical and shows concern for passengers' welfare.

It is important to note that implementing these measures may involve additional costs and administrative efforts. The costs would be best transferred to the carriers business license requirements should they desire to provide transportation services for profit within the corporations boundaries. Therefore, the City of Victoria would need to carefully assess the feasibility and impact of these proposals and explore ways to implement them in the most effective and efficient manner.

Overall, my suggestion demonstrates a proactive and community-focused approach to addressing the challenges faced by the aging population in the City of Victoria. It is a thoughtful contribution to creating a more inclusive and supportive transportation system.

Provincially operated services such as BC Transit would not fall into this suggestion giving they already have strict standards in place and measures to deal directly with passenger emergencies.

Respectfully



James Cooper

Resident of the City of Victoria, BC

Semi-retired Independent transportation and communications adviser

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Budget property tax increase

Categories:

From: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2023 2:09 PM
To: Robin Ley
Subject: Re: Budget property tax increase

Dear Robin,

Thank you for your email, it has been shared with Mayor and Council.

The City's annual budget looks to adapt to change and balance competing priorities, while continuing to provide the high-quality services our residents have come to expect. For more information, please see our website: [City Budget | Victoria](#)

With respect to the budget and projected property taxes, please note that later this month the community will be invited to share their feedback on the Draft 2023 Budget. All community input will be summarized and shared with Council to help inform budget decision making and will be made available on the City's website and engagement platform at: [Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](#)

Sincerely,

Lucas de Amaral
Correspondence Coordinator
Mayor's Office
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

From: Robin Ley
Sent: February 15, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Budget property tax increase

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

As you move forward with budgeting and consideration for property taxes, I want you to consider limiting property tax increases in line with the allowed rent increase for 2023 of 2%. As a property owner in Victoria with a first floor suite, I want you to know that there is no more money. As public service employees in post secondary, salaries have not increased in two years nor are increases planned anywhere near inflation. Increasing property taxes will negatively effect us and our future renters. We have intentionally kept the rent in our suite well below average rents for Victoria to keep it affordable with the modest allowable rent increase. We have no choice but to increase the rent substantially to keep in line with inflation, cost of financing, and utilities increases the next time we have new tenants.

Where do you think property owners will find the money for a 9% or even 6% increase in property taxes? We are all making cuts and making sacrifices. What cuts will the city make?

Please realize property owners and renters are not enemies. Policies pit people against each other. As a property owner, I too am struggling to put food on my table and I want to keep rents low for our tenants.

Regards,
Robin Ley
141 Robertson St.

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Victoria tax increase will deliver another blow to affordability - Vancouver Island Free Daily

Categories:

From: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Sent: February 16, 2023 8:57 AM
To: stan bartlett <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Victoria tax increase will deliver another blow to affordability - Vancouver Island Free Daily

Dear Stan,

Thank you for your email, it has been shared with Mayor and Council.

The City's annual budget looks to adapt to change and balance competing priorities, while continuing to provide the high-quality services our residents have come to expect. For more information, please see our website: [City Budget | Victoria](#)

With respect to the budget and projected property taxes, please note that later this month the community will be invited to share their feedback on the Draft 2023 Budget. All community input will be summarized and shared with Council to help inform budget decision making and will be made available on the City's website and engagement platform at: [Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](#)

Sincerely,

Lucas de Amaral
Correspondence Coordinator
Mayor's Office
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

From: stan bartlett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: February 16, 2023 7:57 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Victoria tax increase will deliver another blow to affordability - Vancouver Island Free Daily

<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vancouverislandfreedaily.com%2Fopinion%2Fvictoria-tax-increase-will-deliver-another-blow-to-affordability%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cmayorandcouncil%40victoria.ca%7C6a509f4645a049716f0508db10368c3c%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C638121598690401445%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Dv3XlvZwvjvFYqWItWbCp4gTYrJCuQPULzvoR1RkPD8%3D&reserved=0>

Stan Bartlett, vice chair

Grumpy Taxpayer\$ of Greater Victoria

<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.grumpytaxpayers.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cmayorandcouncil%40victoria.ca%7C6a509f4645a049716f0508db10368c3c%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C638121598690401445%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yxn8K4k2F%2F%2B6jMBJxRPf15%2BpZUpFtOdG0WCg7Uovmns%3D&reserved=0>



[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Parking fees and times

From: Bernie Keppler [REDACTED]
Sent: February 17, 2023 3:42 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Parking fees and times

Hello to Mayor and Council Members,

PLEASE do not raise the parking rates to decrease the property taxes! This council and the previous council have had an undeclared war on cars and parking downtown. Dozens of spots have been dedicated to “passenger zones” which are rarely, if ever, used. Allowing parking in the areas dedicated to commercial loading after 5 or 6 pm is very reasonable, and taking this away has really hurt people who need to take a car downtown. Raising parking rates along with the crime downtown will kill off the downtown businesses and the downtown will lose its vibrancy. The malls will benefit and the downtown will suffer. This is also a regressive tax as lower income people will pay proportionally more. It’s almost as though if you don’t bicycle, you should have to pay more, like a “sin tax” on tobacco and alcohol. The downtown needs to ENCOURAGE people to come and spend time, not DISCOURAGE them by making coming downtown more difficult and costly! You’re going in the wrong direction!

I don’t expect the majority of council to listen, as they have a particular political agenda, but I’m trying my best to articulate what I believe to be the view of the majority of Victoria residents.

Thanks, Bernie Keppler

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

Please update my contact info!

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:38 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: [New post] City budget unaffordable

Categories:

From: elisabeth rowe
Sent: February 17, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Fwd: [New post] City budget unaffordable

Please read all their well written articles.

Elisabeth Rowe
1039 Linden Ave.
Victoria BC

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Grumpy Taxpayer\$ of Greater Victoria <donotreply@wordpress.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2023, 8:05 a.m.
Subject: [New post] City budget unaffordable
To:



City budget unaffordable



Team Grumpy Taxpayers
Feb 17

Tax-and-spend budget rejected

The city's current tax-and-spend 2023 budget proposal of almost seven percent demonstrates a stunning situational awareness, says municipal watchdog Grumpy Taxpayer\$.

After council capped any increase to 6.96 percent, staff proposed a mere \$402,000 decrease in expenditures of \$298,173,730 virtually untouched.

On top of that, parking fee revenue will be substantially hiked by \$1.8 million. Increased parking fees will hit on the already struggling downtown business community.

"Time for taxpayers to send suggestions to council on bringing in a budget based on the current economic conditions. Treleaven.

"As other councils are discovering, there's only one chance to make a first impression that meets the needs of the community. If not it.

"The current 6.96 percent budget ask is unaffordable for far too many city residents and businesses."

- Instead of increasing parking fees, why doesn't the council turn their attention to collect thousands of dollars annually in **unpaid fines**?
- Isn't there in-house expertise among the 1,000 or so employees to look at **new off-lease** \$400,000 on a consultant?
- 'People and Culture', whatever that is, is wanting a **38 per cent budget increase**?
- Considering the current staffing level and current budget, doesn't a **20 percent increase** communications and engagement department seems a little rich?
- How can a **\$2 million increase** to 'business and communications', this after an initial trim?
- Why are there **large increases year-over-year in bylaw, legal, and corporate expenses**?
- In a capital budget of \$65.3 million, surely some projects can be **scaled back or delayed**?
- Will the city's share of the one billion dollars in new grants going to local governments in infrastructure and amenities **decrease the capital budget ask**?
- Given that annual surpluses have been **escalating dramatically** the past decade, can some moderate the tax rate?

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:38 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Stop Increasing Taxes

Categories: [REDACTED]

From: C Meagher [REDACTED]
Sent: February 17, 2023 8:53 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Stop Increasing Taxes

The questions below are very valid and deserve more consideration regarding the budget review . Most importantly at this time Mayor and Council should set a guideline of not more than 3% property tax increases for 2023 and 2024. That figure should than be used to start reducing expenses, every person is currently faced with the same issue, we all have to cut expenses to operate within our own ability to pay our rent, mortgage, food and other essentials, trips are cancelled, going out for lunch or dinner is off the table. The same is expected of Mayor and Council. Cut the expenses at City Hall, stop hiring consultants, freeze any project that has not started and no more new projects for 2 years unless they fit withing the 3% ceiling. Be leaders and show that Victoria can operate within the ability of its residents to pay. The thought of increasing parking fees in Downtown Victoria is just bad policy, if anything parking fees should be reduced and eliminated Friday to Sunday, the downtown is dying and that has been happening prior to COVID. Please take another approach to this budget now. Thank you Richard Meagher Victoria BC

Tax-and-spend budget rejected

The city's current tax-and-spend 2023 budget proposal of almost seven percent demonstrates a stunning lack of fiscal discipline and situational awareness, says municipal watchdog Grumpy Taxpayer\$.

After council capped any increase to 6.96 percent, [staff proposed](#) a mere \$402,000 decrease in expenditures, leaving the operating budget of \$298,173,730 virtually untouched.

On top of that, parking fee revenue will be substantially hiked by \$1.8 million. Increased parking fees will likely result in a negative impact on the already struggling downtown business community.

"Time for taxpayers to send suggestions to council on bringing in a budget based on the current economic reality," says chair John Treleven.

"As other councils are discovering, there's only one chance to make a first impression that meets the seriousness of the moment - this is not it.

"The current 6.96 percent budget ask is unaffordable for far too many city residents and businesses."

- Instead of increasing parking fees, why doesn't the council turn their attention to collecting more of the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in **unpaid fines**?
- Isn't there in-house expertise among the 1,000 or so employees to look at **new off-lease dog parks** instead of spending \$400,000 on a consultant?
- 'People and Culture', whatever that is, is wanting a **38 per cent budget increase**?
- Considering the current staffing level and current budget, doesn't a **20 percent increase** to \$1.8 million for the communications and engagement department seems a little rich?
- How can a **\$2 million increase** to 'business and communications', this after an initial trim, be justified?
- Why are there **large increases year-over-year in bylaw, legal, and corporate expenses** which far in excess of inflation?
- In a capital budget of \$65.3 million, surely some projects can be **scaled back or delayed** for another year or two?
- Will the city's share of the one billion dollars in new grants going to local governments in B.C. to help build community infrastructure and amenities **decrease the capital budget** ask?
- Given that annual surpluses have been **escalating dramatically** the past decade, can some of that money be used to moderate the tax rate?

Why won't council recognize that city residents have the **lowest median after-tax household income in the region** (2021 Census), and because of that they are especially impacted by high tax rate hikes.

Does council actually believe residents and business can afford a seven per cent percent tax hike?

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:38 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Increase in parking costs and extended hours

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: Terri Foster [REDACTED]
Sent: February 17, 2023 11:12 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Increase in parking costs and extended hours

To: The Mayor and Council, City of Victoria:

WITHOUT PREJUDICE:

Although I realize that none of you were either on council or in your current positions on the previous council, I still hold you to account for our current state of affairs.

To consider raising the parking rates and extending the hours, when the downtown business are being so badly abused and business is down is like another kick in the head. What are you doing to assist the businesses....are you keeping the streets clean and safe? It's time to take a stand not just more money!!

Many shoppers aren't interested in coming downtown and dealing with the issues that the businesses are dealing with constantly.

Also, when inflation is up, many shoppers pull back and don't shop as often, so when you decide to increase the costs of parking and extend the hours to 7pm that doesn't help.

Perhaps, if you were capable of running a more efficient City Hall you could find the additional funds to keep the taxes where they currently are. As a homeowner, living in Victoria, I don't have any sense of my level service being better in the past few years.

If an employee asks for a raise due to inflation, but their performance doesn't warrant the raise, they are either denied the raise, fired, or put on probation.....you are accountable!!

I encourage you to be creative, accountable and courageous.....you are looking a lot like the previous Mayor and Council.

Thank you for reading my email.

Terri Foster

Terri Foster
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Proposed Parking Fee increase

From: Aaron Ransome [REDACTED]
Sent: February 18, 2023 7:09 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Re: Proposed Parking Fee increase

I believe that an increase in parking fees in the downtown area is a bad idea. Parking fees are already too high for many Victoria residents to want go downtown to shop like they used to in past years. Gone are the days where one could casually stroll around, get a coffee and browse through several stores. Now we just quickly go to somewhere specific and then go right back to the car to avoid paying too much at the parking meters (and parking tickets too). Downtown culture is certainly not the vibrant place it used to be, and increasing parking fees will undoubtedly make this worse for the average person.

- Aaron Ransome
Victoria, BC V8V 1K7

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Raising Parking rates.

From: Dennis Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: February 20, 2023 6:42 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Cc: Pat Hannah [REDACTED]
Subject: Raising Parking rates.

To the Dictator Mayor and council,

Kick em while they are down. Downtown Business already hurting with broken windows, insurance rates and homeless drug addicts causing shoppers a great reluctance to venture into town. So, let's raise parking rates and really kill every chance of the survival of downtown business. Mayor MaryAnn following in Mayor Helps footsteps. Apparently original thought no longer exists in the mayor and most of council. Anyone against this group gets censured by Robert's rules and the vote of the sheep councillors. You will eventually reach your goal of destroying downtown Victoria. Hopefully the karma you are earning will be eternally painful.

Thank You Again for ruining My city.

Dennis Jones,
207,1090 Johnson St.
250-216-5554

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: General - City of Victoria Feedback Form

From: Public Service Centre - Internet email <publicservice@victoria.ca>
Sent: February 21, 2023 9:11 AM
To: Parking Services <ParkingServices@victoria.ca>; Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: FW: General - City of Victoria Feedback Form

From: webforms@victoria.ca <webforms@victoria.ca>
Sent: February 20, 2023 5:10 PM
To: Public Service Centre - Internet email <publicservice@victoria.ca>
Subject: General - City of Victoria Feedback Form

You have received an email from Blair Humphrey via the City of Victoria website feedback form

Name: Blair Humphrey

Email: [REDACTED]

Topic: General

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: 1325 May St

Message: I think increasing parking fees is going in the wrong direction.
Making it easier to shop downtown should be your goal.

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 1:10:10 AM

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:40 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: From the Globe's Rob Carrick (re housing affordability)

From: Bill Johnstone [REDACTED]
Sent: February 21, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: From the Globe's Rob Carrick (re housing affordability)

Sure wish Victoria wasn't at the top of *this* list.
— wmj

From: "The Globe and Mail" <noreply@globeandmailnewsletters.com>
Date: February 21, 2023 at 4:06:12 PM PST
To: [REDACTED]
...

IF HOUSE PRICES ARE DOWN, WHY ISN'T AFFORDABILITY IMPROVING?

High mortgages rates are more than offsetting the benefit of falling prices on **housing affordability** in nine of 10 big cities across the country.

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Do you know what I think?

[REDACTED]

From: Bree C [REDACTED]
Sent: February 19, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Do you know what I think?

When you tell the chief of police to return with a lower budget amount ...you disrespect and show absolutely no care for the well being of every Victoria police officer and their loved ones. No matter what you may think.

They put their uniform on and go to work to take care of us putting their lives at risk. You have no feeling towards the officers shot recently at the Bank of Montreal. No you don't!

Everyone knows the crime constantly daily and the wrong walking down city streets. It's evident and we going to avoid it.

I am ashamed of this city I was born and raised in. Not long ago, it was nice to go downtown. Not now.

Due to Helps inviting everyone including the worst not yet locked up to come and live in our parks free for her own agenda. She is the one I blame for the dirty crime infested city we have. All of you are no better than her right now.

The police require their budget they have figured out to protect this city properly so this city doesn't become any worse.

Get compassion for others instead of yourself losers. You are disappointing.

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Downtown parking availability

From: Allan & Donna Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: February 21, 2023 7:43 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Downtown parking availability

The reduction in spaces and increase in cost is causing us to defer any downtown shopping in favour of the shopping malls.

We miss our downtown and are concerned for the viability of the many businesses there.

Please reconsider the anti-car approach of the Mayor and Council and committees.

Respectfully,
Donna and Allan Bell
2115 Marne St
Victoria

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: KEEP MUNICIPAL TAXES IN CHECK

From: Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: February 20, 2023 9:15 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: KEEP MUNICIPAL TAXES IN CHECK

Mayor Alto and Councilors;

A friend and I have been walking on week days for nearly 25 years. We walk in a variety of areas in Victoria. We have consistently seen wasteful practices by members of Victoria's Public Works. It is quite usual to see "workers" at job sites just standing around talking and/or drinking coffee. Sometimes there will be one person with, say, a shovel while 5 or 6 others do nothing. Even when we return past the work site some time later, the situation is the same. It is a usual sight to see heavy equipment, sometimes many pieces, sitting idle at a job site while the operator plays with his cell phone. You get the idea.

Victoria Council seems to have no control over the working conditions and requirements for Public Works. The members seem to feel completely protected in their idleness by their union.

This lack of productive work must cost Victoria taxpayers countless thousands of dollars.

It is your job to see that waste like this is minimized so that our municipal taxes stay as low as possible. This does not seem to be the case in this area.

Respectfully,

Paul Sullivan,
Victoria.

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:40 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Parking Issues

From: WINSTON JACKSON [REDACTED]
Sent: February 21, 2023 1:26 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Parking Issues

Dear Mayor Alto and Council:

This is the second email to council in a relatively short time. Consecutive council decisions have created situations we feel need to be addressed.

First, we strongly disapprove of your decision to increase parking fees. This may drive people away from downtown. Merchants will suffer. There enough parking problems now, such as lack of accessibility and machines that will not easily read credit cards.

Second, we are alarmed at council's apparent reluctance to follow city staff's recommendations. Why seek advice from staff with a background of professional expertise if you "have different priorities now"? It seems as if members were elected with already formed personal agendas.

A case in point is the decision to cut in half the parking spaces for the Harris Green development.

Severe limitations on parking can only be effective if there is an efficient and cost-effective regional transportation system. Cars will always exist in some form and roads will not cease to exist. It seems previous council's antipathy to the automobile is being continued by this council.

We urge you to address these issues.

Yours truly,
Winston and Claire Jackson
1137 May St.
Fairfield
Feb. 21, 2023

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:40 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: charging fees for residential parking permits

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: Dianne Flood [REDACTED]
Sent: February 22, 2023 11:03 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: charging fees for residential parking permits

Dear Mayor and Council, I understand the very difficult task ahead of you in setting the budget. Has council explored the potential to charge for residential street parking permits, like Vancouver does? This would not only raise revenue for the City, it would potentially address other issues as well by potentially reducing reliance on motor vehicles, addressing broader residential parking issues, and bring a more balanced approach between downtown residents (who are not entitled to residential street parking) and other residents who are granted this privilege.

Respectfully yours,
Dianne Flood

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:40 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Fw: Raising Parking fees and length of time

Categories: [REDACTED]

From: Irene Harrison [REDACTED]
Sent: February 22, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Re: Raising Parking fees and length of time

I was born in Victoria 85 years ago. I love my city. It used to be such a pleasure to go downtown and wander around checking out all the various shops and then stopping for lunch in one of our local eateries.

Those days are long gone for several reasons:

- 1) Parking
- 2) Not feeling as safe

If I need to park in a parkade for longer than one hour, I have to use one of those machines now and then worry about not being back in time. When we could pay on our way out for the amount of time used, it was so much easier.

Parking at a meter is the same and expensive for those on small pensions.

Therefore, I rarely go into downtown anymore. I do, however, enjoy going around the Inner Harbour area and James Bay. I live on Hillside Avenue but I do love to go to that area and support some of the local businesses including the summer market.,

I cannot do as far a walk as I used to do so I do like to park in the near vicinity of what I want to do.

One of the things my husband and I enjoy is going to the Public Service Legion #127 on Government Street on Fridays. (This is the only day they are open except for once a month dinners or a meeting)
My husband is President of Britannia Legion and I am Recording Secretary. As you are probably aware, we no longer have our own building. We support Trafalgar/Pro Patria branch #292 for an occasional lunch and also we hold our card draws there on Sundays to raise money for our Gaming account. We like to support the other legions that still have a brick and mortar.

Back to Parking downtown:

When we go to Branch #127 on Government Street on Fridays, they open at 4 p.m. and close around 7:00 p.m. Because of limited parking (one hour on Government Street and 90 minutes, if you can find a spot, on Michigan Street,) we try to arrive just after 4:30 pm so we can stay and visit with our other legion friends. 99% of the people that attend are seniors. If we want to attend one of their monthly dinners, everyone attending will be getting a ticket as doors open at 4 pm and the dinners go until 7:30 or 8:00 pm then everyone goes home. As I said, we are all SENIORS! Where can we park within short walking distance without getting a ticket if the time is extended to 7 pm? Do not suggest the closest parkade as it is too far for most to walk).

Since COVID, our legion friends do very little except stay close to those who they see on a regular basis. We do not

attend large crowd events such as movies, hockey games etc. You will be taking this away from a lot of seniors who attend any event in the downtown core. The cost of living is skyrocketing and everyone is cutting back on entertainment and going out to restaurants.

If Council agrees to extend parking to 7 pm, where does that leave us? We are bound to get a ticket when we want to support the Public Service Branch or decide to take in another event being held downtown in the summer weather.

Please think of all aspects of raising the cost of parking and extending the hours until 7 p.m.

Irene Harrison
1525 Hillside Avenue
Victoria - (Yes, I am a City Taxpayer)

From: Legislative Services email
Subject: FW: Council meeting Feb 23 - registering to speak
Attachments: image002.png

From: Lori Roter [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:40 PM
To: Legislative Services email <LegislativeServices@victoria.ca>
Subject: Council meeting Feb 23 - registering to speak

Good evening

I would like to register to address council at the next Council meeting by conference call, regarding the budget and proposed and/or other necessary activities within the downtown city boundaries.

My name is Lori Roter and my address is 201-689 Bay St.

The topic I would like to discuss relates to the attached letter sent to the former council, to which we never received a response.

Thank you.

I look forward to obtaining further details regarding timing when I can be expected to address council.

Sincerely,

City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square,
Victoria, BC
Attention: Mayor Helps

September 17, 2021

Dear Mayor Helps:

We are the strata council for the 100-unit condo complex that stretches between Douglas and Government located at 649 and 689 Bay Street. We are a large component of the neighbourhood's residential community. A commercial enterprise in the complex employs an additional 40 people or more. We write in support of recent communications you have received from businesses in the area with respect to security issues.

As you know, with the recent initiative to provide proper shelter and accommodation for the homeless or hard-to-house community, several hotels have been purchased and converted into housing. Two of the hotels (Gorge Road and Blanshard Street hotels) are approximate 1.5 kilometers to the north of our building and two of the hotels (Paul's Motor Inn and Capital City Centre) are 1 kilometer to the south of our building.

In addition to these four hotels, we are across the street from the Queens Travelodge, a few blocks from social housing in the 2900 block of Douglas Street, around the corner from the Mustard Seed Food Bank and Queen Street Bottle Depot and less than a kilometer from the Rock Bay Landing.

Our neighbourhood is at the epicentre of all these residences and services and, as such, we are bearing the brunt of the security issues related to these communities.

Our strata over the last couple of years has incurred thousands, if not tens of thousands, in costs associated with repairing damage done to our fencing, break-and-enters and vandalism. We've spent additional money upgrading cameras and installing extra security features on our doors and gates. In addition, individual homeowners personally incur the costs of the break-and-enters when their vehicles are damaged, and possessions stolen. Our parking garage has been broken into in the last several years at least a dozen times.

Daily, we experience people using our courtyard and sounding area as a place to sleep, use drugs, dispose of garbage and discard used needles. They also use our pathways as public bathrooms. It has become enough of an issue that some of the entrances (and fire exits) to our buildings are no longer usable, particularly at night, due to personal safety issues.

We do not take issue with providing housing and we agree that everyone should have a roof over their head. However, it appears that the current solution has unfairly put the cost of the safety and security surrounding these facilities on a very small area. While we are aware that housing is only the first step in dealing with the issue of the homeless and the hard-to-house community, while waiting for the next steps to happen, our neighbourhood is suffering. Many residents no longer feel safe walking outside during the day, let alone after dark and we cannot

continue to incur the repeated expense of repairing damage caused by break-ins and trespassing.

It's not just our own safety that concerns us. Members of the local community sometimes sleep in the driveways leading up to our parking garages. When this occurs, serious accidents are bound to happen if drivers aren't alert enough or the light is low. As well, because there are many hidden spots and hard-to-reach areas in and around our property, people who may be overdosing are at risk of not be seen or found.

This is the neighbourhood that the City has designated to bear the burden of housing the hard-to-house population. The City must also step up and provide security for those who live and own businesses in the neighbourhood. It is unfair for this small neighbourhood to be solely burdened with the increased financial and personal safety costs.

The police are unable to patrol this area as much as it needs to be patrolled and the current mandate of "catch and release" leaves no deterrent for criminal activity or causing public safety issues. The City, in conjunction with other levels of government, must provide a solution.

Yours truly,

Lexington Park