

Molly Harris

From: David Slobodan [REDACTED]
Sent: March-16-26 10:09 AM
To: Corporate Services
Subject: 2026 Budget

Categories: Agenda Item, Inputted in to Mail Log

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Good morning Council

We believe Council and staff have done an excellent job of attracting good development, and as 10 year residents we are encouraged by the direction the city is going, congratulations. However we wish to provide the following:

- those same developers have benefited significantly from your lack of approving a DCC Bylaw (understand the Mayor stated you have been thinking about it since 2011) whereas as taxpayers, we will be paying for the construction/repair of infrastructure that should have been paid for by those developments, why?
- when will the Traffic Engineers report be coming to Council providing an update on how vehicle and cycling traffic is working on Tillicum and Lampston after removing two lanes and installing concrete barriers? And how does that work into your long term traffic plan when the military base will be adding personnel over the next number of years, we need to know?
- how much did the bike lane curbs installation cost and are they working as the Traffic Engineers had designed

The public needs to understand why those funds haven't been collected from the Developer and how much money you will be spending to support their projects, now and in the future? We understand the cost of everything is substantially higher, however you are probably the last municipality in BC that does not require the developer to pay DCC's and build the infrastructure in front of their development as required under provincial statues, that certainly impacts your budget and tax increases you now require, please considered the above.

Regards, David & Wanda Slobodan
758 Matheson Place,
Esquimalt, BC

Victoria McKean

From: Anne Dickinson
Sent: March-12-26 3:25 PM
To: Ian Irvine; Dan Horan; Victoria McKean
Subject: FW: Property Taxes

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

From: Brenda Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: March-11-26 2:52 PM
To: Council <Council@esquimalt.ca>
Subject: Property Taxes

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mayor and Council,

My wife, Brenda, and I are both seniors in our eighties. Our property taxes have increased from the year 2022 to 2023 by 11.16%, from 2023 to 2024 by 11.49%, and from 2024 to 2025 by 11.26%. Yes, I know that transit fees, CRD increases, and so on are included in the total property tax amount. However, the bottom line for us is what we have to pay and how distressing it is that every year our expenses are dramatically more than any increase in our income. My two basic government pensions increased in total by about 2.4% for this year.

We bought our house in 1985, struggled to make mortgage payments for years, lived frugal lives, poured thousands of dollars into this old house at 850 Carrie Street, that was built around 1905 to 1910. We don't think about it as being an investment, only as a residence, a home that we hope to pass on to our son.

I would like to point out that our property assessment has decreased by about \$20,000 over the last two years, but we are paying much more in property taxes as indicated above.

We're dreading receiving our property taxes for this year!

We've deferred our property taxes for the past five or six years. However, with the provincial changes to this plan, our fear of eventually losing the one precious asset we have increases.

I expected with all the building development in our municipality that the growing tax base would help reduce taxes, not increase them. Some people have made a lot of money at the expense of all the rest of us.

My question to you: When will all levels of government start living within their means like the rest of us are forced to do? Our pockets are not bottomless. I think that it's about time that governments focus on frugality and the bottom line when it comes to spending.

We sincerely hope that any increase in our property taxes this year will be reasonable.

Sincerely,

Donald B Cook
[REDACTED]

Victoria McKean

From: Anne Dickinson
Sent: March-12-26 3:20 PM
To: Ian Irvine; Dan Horan; Victoria McKean
Subject: FW: PROPERTY TAXES

From: lorjan [REDACTED]
Sent: March-11-26 1:03 PM
To: Council <Council@esquimalt.ca>
Subject: PROPERTY TAXES

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council,

Our property taxes are becoming unaffordable. Please don't forget that the cost of everything is going up. I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of a letter submitted to the Times Colonist which expresses my feelings very well.

What is even more annoying than the cost of the taxes is the fact that Esquimalt is making it more and more difficult for seniors like myself to use the facilities in downtown Esquimalt. I live up near the Gorge and can't walk to get one bus which will take me to Esquimalt Road (I have to transfer at Craigflower and Tillicum). This is because Esquimalt is making it almost impossible for seniors to park their vehicles. I am physically unable to ride a bike. I would love to come down to the shopping centre, restaurants, and concerts in the park. That way I would feel I'm getting some value from my property taxes. I might as well live in Saanich, as it is easier to get there.

Can you provide me with your solutions to getting these property taxes to a more reasonable level?

With thanks,

Lorraine Mainwaring
853 Selkirk Ave.

Out of control property taxes in Esquimalt

There are many articles as municipalities decide on annual property tax increases. We never hear about a decrease.

Councils start with large percentage increases and reduce them under the guise of “oh look, we’re saving you money.”

I live in Esquimalt where the projected tax increase started at 13%. I recently read that it has been reduced to 11.97%. Well, hallelujah! That increase is ridiculous given the economic environment.

This happened last year as well. Council planned a 14% increase and reduced it to 9.9%. For the past four years, the property taxes in Esquimalt have increased by a total of about 28.84%. Enough already!

Councillors were elected to keep the citizens best interests in mind when managing the municipalities they represent. I don’t see that happening.

Many people in this region are seniors on fixed incomes or young people trying to build a life.

My suggestions for council:

Firstly, council approves development, as seen in the numerous condo buildings rising in the area. This creates the need for infrastructure. I know that developers pay fees, however shouldn’t they also bear some or all of the cost of the infrastructure supporting their development?

Secondly, it’s time for the provincial government to impose a limit on the annual percentage increase for property taxes, like the limit on rental increases. And this limit should be based on the cost of living.

Property tax hikes are becoming unaffordable!

Catherine Hodgins

Esquimalt

Victoria McKean

From: David Hodgins [REDACTED]
Sent: March-16-26 8:04 AM
To: Council
Cc: Rotchford.MLA, Darlene; McLean, Stephanie - M.P.
Subject: Take Heed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Esquimalt Mayor and Council, stop using taxpayers as a bottomless money pit!