

LATE ITEM: Additional public comments received regarding the Proposed 2013 Budget

Name: Artur Gryz

Comments: Good morning, I have a few concerns that I would like to bring to your attention.

1) NEED FOR MORE POLICING. Since we live in one of the highest marijuana producing towns in the province, I do not feel safe in my town knowing that there are only 4-6 R.C.M.P cruisers on @ most times and response time is not very good @ all living in one of the highest .

2) REDUCTIONS INTO OUR TAXBASE? I'm a little surprised @ the numbers being disclosed that there is a reduction of \$152,838 of taxes coming into the town to operate?? The Walmart project was supposed to add 700k into our tax base plus all the cheaply built spec homes were supposed to increase our taxes support by another 300k this year?

RESPONSE: *The \$152,838 reduction of revenue you noted above does NOT include taxes. This revenue is from fees and charges, Administrative cost recovery amounts, development fees, and investment income. The total new construction revenue that the District received in 2012 was \$363,800, with \$202,521 being attributable directly to the Walmart store.*

3)RUNNING THE TOWN LIKE A BUSINESS: I understand that council and mayor are trying to run the town like a business, but you have to spend money to make money like anyone knows. If you put cheap toppings and cut corners on a pizza, one of two things will happen. Either people will soon stop eating it or only one cheap people that dont care about much will eat it as its a good price.

It seems like Mission is trying to SAVE as much money as we can and its starting to show and its almost @ the point of no return in my opinion, Rather than building a town like a BMW, Mission is cutting its costs as much as possible and will be a Kia Rio.

If the focus is shifted to attracting the right businesses, and the right residents to the community, that debt will get paid off in no time. If you will build it, they will come.

4) 7TH LOWEST PROPERTY TAXES IN THE LOWER MAINLAND???? One thing that really grinds my gears in to say that page 5 of the Community Budget Consultation Proposed 2013 Budget www.mission.ca/wp-content/uploads/Proposed-2013-Budget-Overview.pdf in regards to property taxes is VERY misleading. It mentioned that Mission is 7th lowest in terms of the cost of property taxes and utilities on an average assessed home.

The stat that is most important is property taxes/\$ of Real Estate. Mission is dead last when it comes to the statistic. Average home prices in a town have NOTHING to do with where a town sits in regards to property taxes. Missions home prices are the second lowest in your attached study, but 6th in property taxes per household. I have used the data from the Vancouver Real Estate Board and the Fraser Valley Real Estate board in my own study and it clearly shows that Missions property taxes are not the 7th lowest, but the highest out of all the areas in the study. This is nothing to be proud of and I believe that the real information should be made available to the people of Mission.

We pay 15% more than the closest town in this study, and pay 145% more than Vancouver for property taxes/\$ of Real Estate

I would love to hear your take on this

RESPONSE: *We appreciate your comments regarding the study on the cost of property taxes and utilities on an average assessed home. We received our information through the Provincial Government and are not familiar with the study from the Vancouver and Fraser Valley Real Estate boards. We would appreciate receiving a link to this data in order for us to review this information before responding to your comments.*

5) BYLAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUE : if we had 1 additional bylaw enforcement officer that just drove around looking for illegal suites that aren't paying double utilities (\$1000 per year extra), I'm certain this wage of 60k would easily be paid off with the hundreds of illegal suites that aren't being double billed and would add funds into the tax base.

RESPONSE: *Council has started an initiative looking at the myriad of issues associated with secondary suites and staff hopes to have direction from Council soon. A public consultation component will be a part of this process. Please check the newspaper and/or the District's website for further information on this subject.*

MY SUGGESTIONS: parks with courts (basketball, lacrosse, tennis courts, outdoor gyms/cross-training, fix the sports park so its actually playable, 1st ave PROPER revitalization to be proud of, zoning from 2nd ave - 7th ave all high density as was originally the case up to build up the taxbase, til 1990 (all successful towns have a high density core). Zoning past Tunbridge 10,000sf lots. FOCUS ON BRINGING THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO THE TOWN, RATHER THAN RENTERS OR PEOPLE LOOKING FOR A CHEAP HOUSE AS THEY CANT AFFORD TO BUY ANYWHERE ELSE AND MISSION WILL PROSPER. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX NOT JUST HOW TO SAVE MONEY AND TO ACT SAFELY

All towns around us seem to be prospering, even in these tough economic times are growing quickly, and business vacancies are being filled, but Mission seems to be heading the other direction.

Answer: The District is currently in the process of developing a Downtown Planning Study. We are attaching emails regarding this process for your review. Interested parties are asked to email downtown@mission.ca to be included on a mailing list to be kept up to date regarding all matters on the downtown planning.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Artur

Name: Unknown

Comments: mission needs 24/7 fire cover there is no question just wait till you the one trapped in a burning building do you want out in 4 minutes or 15

Response from Resident after receiving District's reply to her first set of comments submitted:

Thank-you so much for your cookie cutter reply. I really feel as though the council has taken time to look at my input :)

As for transit, do you even realize the sw mission district t has none? We used to at least have a greyhound stop at silverdale gas station, now we don't even have that. Leaving the residents of this area stranded. So your working on that with the city of Abbotsford? When can we as residents and taxpayers then expect some news on this progress?

As for the programs and leisure guide, do you realize that over 50 percent of the families I know and friends go else where? Yes, that's right, they are spending their money in other communities and supporting other communities, such as maple ridge and Pitt meadows. Why? Because their programs are better. So I guess my friends, other families and myself will continue to spend outside of mission for better programs. Oh and thank you so much for pointing out the leisure guide, As a longtime resident I really had no clue what it was about. I personally thought it was just another notebook I was sent as a courtesy by the district :)

Where can I find a schedule for council meetings? I really want to be prepared and informed as a voter next time.

Thank-you in advance
Mrs.D Leifsson

District's Response:

Dear Mrs. Leifsson,

Thank you for your comments, and these too will be forwarded to Council for their consideration.

I understand that Maureen Sinclair, our Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture has emailed you requesting to speak with you personally regarding the program availability at the Leisure Centre. We trust this outcome will be satisfactory to you.

We have forwarded your comments regarding the transit situation in SW Mission to Rick Bomhof, our Director of Engineering and Public Works, who advises:

The District of Mission has no say over Greyhound services and they can be contacted directly in regards to adding services in your area.

With regards to local transit, there needs to be a certain level of ridership to warrant expansion of the service into an area. Unfortunately transit is not generally provided in outlying small communities or rural areas due to the distances involved and likely sporadic and low ridership. Transit service to the Silverdale area is anticipated when higher density development takes place (subject to developer timing) in the future.

Council meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the District's website, www.mission.ca under Municipal Hall.

You may be interested in the District's Council Meeting Highlights document, or view a previously recorded webcasted Council meeting. There are links on the home page to both of these features.

Thank you for your continued comments. Please do not hesitate to contact the District if you have any further comments or inquiries

For content purposes only, listed is Mrs. Leifsson's first set of comments received and the District's reply

Dear Danielle,

This is in response to your comments noted below.

Council appreciates receiving input from its residents regarding issues related to the District. Mission's transit system, Valley Max, is operated jointly between Mission and the City of Abbotsford with BC Transit. Our two communities are continuously looking for ways to efficiently operate, maintain, and fund the transit systems.

With regards to "family programs" - the Leisure Centre's Leisure Guide (accessible at: <http://www.mission.ca/leisureguide/>) lists a number of programs available for families and individuals of all ages.

Thank you for your comments, and your interest in the District of Mission.

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

Name: Danielle

Comments: I do not support hiring more firefighters full time, I don't believe we have had enough growth to warrant it have we? Especially when you have already cut fire prevention, which in turn has cancelled some school and community programs. How about better family programs? Transit !



The Mission Arts Council
33529 First Avenue
Mission, BC V2V 1H1

November 14, 2012

District of Mission
Municipal Hall
8645 Stave Lake Street
Mission, BC V2V 4L9

Dear Mayor and Council,

In response to your request for community input into the current budget process, I invite you to consider the benefits provided to our municipality through the Mission Arts Centre located in the heritage building on the edge of downtown Mission.

A powerful resource for both artists and the public, the Mission Arts Council (MAC) is an organization of volunteer members which provide support for the arts community, as well as opportunities for the public to connect with the arts. The Rock Family Gallery is the primary location for individual and group art exhibits, as well as small music concerts; the Doris Patterson Tea Room allows visitors to gather over a cup of tea and peruse artwork on display; the Weavers and Spinners gift shop provides a venue for artisans to share their traditional craft; and small studios in the building allow artists to teach.

In addition to involving children, youth, and seniors in specialized arts programs designed with their interests in mind, the MAC has also created connections between the business community and the arts by facilitating programs such as the Envision Concert Series and Art in the Park.

Despite our own fundraising efforts throughout the year, including the Christmas Craft Market and Haunted House, it is essential that the Arts Council continuously seek support from various government agencies for much-needed grant funding. Without such funding, many programs facilitated by the Arts Centre, such as the Camp MAC summer art camp for children and the Children's Festival, would struggle to continue. The loss of such programs and events would severely reduce the vibrancy and quality of life for the entire community; artistically, economically and socially, now and in the future.

We appreciate the past and current support of the District of Mission through permissive tax exemptions and fee for service, which has allowed the arts community in Mission to flourish, enriching the lives of our district's residents, businesses and visitors. The members and volunteers of the Mission Arts Centre would like to continue providing the opportunity to connect artists and the public in meaningful ways.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ania Kyte', written over a faint, illegible background.

Ania Kyte
President, Mission Arts Council