

I've emailed Cam and councillors before about continually rising costs, and it's disheartening when it feels like it continues to fall on deaf ears.

First, the property tax increase of 7.66% is outrageous. Say what you want and compare it to other areas to justify it, but when inflation is 2.4% I cannot for the life of me understand how property tax can go up triple that rate. When Cam says "I didn't want [the boards] to feel like they were under the gun,"... YES! You do! Put pressure on them.

The answers are always "we're doing our best" or "it's out of our control". If my son were doing his best in school and that only got him a C+, I'd be looking for a tutor. If Cam and the council love this city as much as they say they do, they will find a way to make an impact on the things they can't control. Lobby, beg, plead... I don't know, I'm not a politician. But "My hands are tied" is a weak answer for anyone in a leadership position.

Second, I don't have to tell you costs are rising, the economy is slowing, and people are feeling the squeeze. I don't know what else to say here other than it appears nobody at the city seems to see anything outside their bubble.

Lastly, and the most disheartening part. I pay almost \$10k/yr in property tax for an early 1970s bungalow plus property tax for my TMI fees for the small business I own. We're fortunate we can afford it, so this isn't a "poor me" play.

It's about the apparent lack of impact. As much as I can look up the breakdown of where property tax goes, it doesn't actually feel like the property tax makes any difference whatsoever. Our roads are either under permanent construction or riddled with potholes. My son's school bus is chronically 45 minutes late, and we have to pick him up from school. We're spending a bazillion dollars on a Library. Council can give themselves raises.

I grew up in Guelph and it had a wonderful small-town vibe despite being a bigger city.

Now, Guelph makes the same claims, but spends like it wants to be a big city. My wife and I are thinking about leaving the city we both grew up in because of the direction it's going.

I don't claim to know what to do to lower property taxes, and it sounds like it's time to make some hard decisions.

Ben

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