

Comments on the 2021-2025 Budget Consultation

Survey respondents could provide additional comments about the 2021–2025 Budget. Comments are presented verbatim, including typos and grammatical errors. Specific addresses/names have been removed to protect the privacy of individuals.

There are a total of 127 budget comments

Respondents shared their ideas on **development in the community** with varying perspectives on the following:

- Role of developers in contributing amenities and infrastructure to support population growth
- Impacts on the City from increased growth
- Potential opportunities from development including economic growth, walkability, and transit oriented city scapes

Respondents shared their ideas on **how to make the City more livable**:

- Putting a focus on parks and environment
- Attracting business growth in the City
- Focusing on natural landscaping for reduced maintenance costs and sustainability
- Improving walkability
- Ensuring a financially sustainable approach to amenity replacement and development

Some respondents provided their perspective on **how to reduce City costs**:

- Increasing bylaw enforcement
- Exploring regional shared services
- Introducing pay parking in high demand areas such as Brewer's Row/Rocky Point Park
- Reducing non-essential services provided to residents
- Adopting a more cost conscious approach when reviewing new projects or services that are unfunded and/or go beyond municipal core services

Some residents had questions around the **scope and extent of funding to areas** such as:

- Public Art
- Public Safety (Police and Fire)
- Glass recycling
- Projects falling outside municipal jurisdiction
- Non-essential services
- City administration

There are 90 general budget or service related comments

1. I would like Council to stop spending money on pet projects that would be better tackled by senior levels of government or do not benefit the broader community. For example, please stop spending thousands and thousands of taxpayers' dollars on removing the road right-of-way in Bert Flinn Park. The amount of money spent on that to date is outrageous and serves no real purpose, as the park was never in danger. Another example: please stop spending money on looking into the development of an urban farm. We simply don't have the land for something like that (the old fire hall site makes no sense) in this small city. If we're serious about food security, we should be working with Metro Van and the Province to support existing farms in the region, protect the Agricultural Land Reserve, and find ways to reduce the number of people living below the poverty line. I would also like Council to consider alternative sources of revenue, such as selling the old fire hall and current works yard land, which would bring much-needed money for amenities like a new library, a seniors' centre, or a replacement for Kyle Centre.
2. We need more community involvement and civic responsibility to spread the need over many. Kind of like mandatory participation in service to the wider community. It can't just be left up to paid services in a rising cost environment. Inflation is only going to get worse, way worse.
3. Not at this time
4. I believe that after 2020 and 2021, our citizens have suffered quite a bit and I think holding the fort on city expenses and taxes should be paramount in our thinking.
5. Consider temporarily reducing services due to COVID.
6. How about increased attention to traffic management? Why am I forced to stop at almost every traffic light in Port Moody? Why is Port Moody not proceeding on its own with the bypass?
7. Services paid by tax payers should be provided city wide, not just in select areas. I don't think I have ever seen my street cleaned and very rarely we get snow plowed. When we do it is half the street only. I have lived on this street, for the most part, since 1976. Parks and recreation activities should be planned city wide - not just at one park. Development needs to occur with keeping mind what the surrounding infrastructure can handle. Not based on the potential of tax dollars received.
8. The City ought to recover more costs by charging DEVELOPERS more to build high-density in PoMo. They should charge PENALTIES to developers when they want to amend/change previously approved permits (ie: Onni et etc.) City funding/support for the "Arts" is laughable compared to other jurisdictions. The City of the Arts.. is hardly that.

9. The increase of tax should be minimal and should be balanced to be in line with the rate of inflation. This can be achieved by:
1. Any increase in wages for City staff should never be above the rate of inflation.
 2. If there is no budget available a wage freeze for all City staff should occur rather than increases taxes above the the rate of inflation.
 3. If the City cannot run its budget successfully then the City should reduce the hours of members of staff to share the burden, rather than terminate staff.
 4. A review of each contract (and collective agreement), for each member of staff or department, should be completed by an independent person every three years. This should be completed to streamline their work process, bringing their role inline with the development of technology: reducing bureaucracy and creating efficiency.
 5. Over time, for emergency service staff, should be minimal, and in any case, limited and evaluated. If overtime is being used then an increase in the number of frontline staff may be more efficient. A consultant should be considered, along with volunteers and short term contracts.
 6. Overtime for non-emergency staff should not be available: unless, there is a vacant position is being carried and the budget for that position is being used for the overtime.
 7. Each police officer should be allocated a community beat to walk and to take care of, to get to know the people in their neighbourhood. Reducing the need for immediate response by educating the community and by building relationships in the neighbourhood.
 8. The City should have control of all parking facilities and all the profit for City land and roads, relating to parking, and should be feed any profit back into the city budget.
 9. An annual parking permit should be available to purchase for all Port Moody residents at a minimal cost (i.e. \$50). White Rock is a good example for this.

10. Place cut budges most of us have not had increse in salry for a long time

11. This is such a biased survey. Of course the listed areas are important and shiuld be maintained. What is completely missing is the cutting of other costs or the inability to comment on cost cutting within the listed categories. So here is what I would do.
1. Cancel glass recycling. We already have to visit a recycling depot to return wine and beer cans and bottles and plastics. It is no extra work to take glass containers.
 2. Freeze the police and fire budgets.
 3. Freeze the Engineering and Public Works budgets. Ban all Sunday and holiday overtime. Freeze all capital expenditure on vehicles.do not allow any new projects unless they are funded by existing DCC funds
 - 4 Cancel the annual St. Johns road closure, especially during these COVID times.
 5. Limit all non union salary increases to 2%
 6. Make some tough decisions about staffing levels and look at temporary layoffs for personnel in Parks and Recreation and Library.
 7. Complete a proper financial plan that looks at population increases over the next 5 years and resulting property tax revenues build in projections of lost revenue from future abandonment of industrial uses . Net result should guide future decisions with goal of future tax increases not to exceed inflation rate. If results say this cannot be achieved, then look at radical solutions such as merger of some civic services with Coquitlam

12. Labour rates for Police and Fire are out of line with private sector. The unions need to realize they are being compoensated with pensions and limited work week in a city like ours there is very little stress in these roles.

13. Stop the cycle of developers making money by building towers and then putting the burden of providing amenities for the new residents on the taxpayers! Either stop adding people (my preference), or make the developers pay FULLY for the amenities the new residents require.

Do NOT consider selling off city lands to make money or fund projects. Look instead at adding parkland, or turning existing city lands into parks. The existing natural resources are already oversubscribed.

I'm not saying decrease police and fire services, but it seems to me that there has to be a more efficient way of delivering emergency response services than sending out a couple of expensive fire engines to every fender-bender.

I do not think we need a new or expanded library.

Finally, I agree with the comment on your site about making the landscaping on city lands more natural and low-maintenance. Coquitlam has done a great job putting wildflowers in the medians along the Lougheed Highway. There is no need for grass in many such areas.

14. If I remember correctly, a portion of a budget is devoted to certain studies/evaluations. Since Covid negatively influenced many households' budget, and while the same households' expenditures against the current households' budgets grew due to as same factors as the city's budget, and while income has been stagnant for years already, I think the city needs to drop some projects that have nothing to do with maintenance of infrastructure and basic services for at least a couple of years so that the residents don't have to worry about another additional expenses. I have also just learned from your description that subsidies for some user fees are subsidized by taxes I pay so people from all income levels can participate: I come from a lower income household which has not been allowing me/my child for using the rec centre programs due to cost. I find it unfair that if I cannot use them anyway, my tax money go to subsidies for programs I don't use. Also, I am finding that due to geography (many hills) and due to the fact that there is hardly any meaningful employment in Port Moody, the bike lanes that ate part of the city's budget to build, are severely underused. I would stop building them at least, for, at least a couple of years. Instead please re-invest that money into making our streets brighter after dark so we safely walk more instead of driving cars a couple of blocks away due to the streets being unsafely under-lit.

15. I don't understand how you think it's reasonable to increase taxes by nearly triple CPI or the average economic growth rate for 2020. I've managed my budget to reduce expenses to accommodate for decreased income due to a global pandemic, but I'm disappointed that our Mayor and Council's (and CFO's) legacy will largely be one of massive tax hikes with little visible improvements to services or capital.

16. Give some consideration to the benefits of development initiatives in terms of developer investments in community amenities. I'm not a fan of Council's obvious and overwhelming reluctance to allow anything to be developed in Port Moody without a massive fight. We all benefit from good development and from bringing new people and fresh ideas into the City. Stop being so scared of development - do it intelligently, and make sure you get good trade-offs in terms of amenities such as park space and investments in recreation centres and libraries, etc.

<p>17. New sources of revenue. Electronic billboards are a great idea. What about pay parking (Rec Centre, Westhill, Rocky Point, Bert Flynn, St. John's, Ungless)? Cannot believe there is NO business case in today's day and age given technology to implement. If it's a political decision to have no pay parking please state this. If there is no business case, please state that. Why do tax payers provide free parking at Rocky Point for brewery customers? Why free parking on Ungless for ERH? No one expects to park for free anymore. No tax increases until all alternative sources of revenue have been exhausted. If people won't pay for it, means they do not want it.</p>
<p>18. Basic vital services need to come first. Water, sewer, road maintenance, facilities maintenance, planning and development, environment. After that, things are optional. Pet projects need to be put aside and a holistic approach to the city's finances should be taken. Even if its only \$100k for one study, several studies for each councillor adds up to several million dollars very quickly.</p>
<p>19. As with most other governments there is an obvious need to do far more with far less. You constantly seek to dive further into our pockets with reckless abandon. The productivity rate demonstrated vs money spent keeps dropping and there is no acceptance of responsibility on council's or managements part. Please, you are there to serve us not us to serve you</p>
<p>20. Please take genuine action at defunding the police. The Port Moody police department is grossly overfunded and unnecessarily large for a city of our size. Force them to stretch their budget. Also - tell council to stop being so divisive and develop these stagnating neighbourhoods</p>
<p>21. Increase service fees or levies to Anmore residents Do not add parking fees for recreational areas Don't sell property as it is a one time revenue stream. Develop and lease the property We expect to see revenue from those unsightly billboards translated into tax benefits for residents</p>
<p>22. Please start reducing the costs associated with arts groups and public arts and focus on the well being of residents. More money to parks and recreation, playing fields or outdoor programming to allow people to be outdoors more in order to exercise in this pandemic.</p>
<p>23. Port Moody's facilities and park spaces have come under extreme pressure from non resident users. There should be a user pay system for such areas as Rocky Point. Port Moody residents should be able to buy an annual pass for a nominal fee. Revenues raised can be put towards parks and facilities upkeep. White Rock has a similar system that is fair and works well</p>
<p>24. It is important to live within our means. A tax increase impacts many households that are already stretched thin, particularly during a recession/pandemic. The city should be doing exactly what Port Moody residents and businesses are having to do, which is cutting nonessential items from our household budgets to make ends meet. There are many nonessential services and development/improvement projects that can be put on hold in order to accomplish that.</p>

25. City's Master Plans for Parks/Rec and Transportation are insufficient to forecast capital needs - they are high-level strategies that lack hard estimates and scope. Capital plans also lack integration. All the plans are getting out-of-date and will be of little use after the OCP is updated.

These need to be made a priority, along with other planning documents with a goal of actually forecasting capital needs. The Engineering dept does not have sufficient resources to run a proper asset management program while delivering on capital/maintenance projects and therefore the City has little chance of reaching a sustainable financial position. Hence a concerted asset management planning process should be considered.

In the short term it will cost the City more to make updates to these plans, but a properly-costed set of master plans will ensure adequate DCC money is collected and that decisions about capital projects are fact-based and properly understood in terms of cost and levels of service.

26. Services like Port Moody Library have proved themselves invaluable during the pandemic. Please don't reduce their spending because of a perceived lack of "value" this past year - they have truly kept many of us sane and are as essential as Fire and Police in my eyes

27. This past year has been difficult for so many families, whether it be their mental health, financial status, physical health, etc., to increase taxes this year could be detrimental to many. Some families are barely getting by, please don't make it harder for them.

28. City should pursue other revenue sources so that a large tax increase isn't required every year (large meaning greater than inflation/cost of living)
Why can't the city pursue further development opportunities to increase revenue course?
The parcel of land for the fire station for example, should be redeveloped, and further density increases could be pursued to achieve greater city revenue.

29. New developments in the city should pay for all new infrastructure needed for the development (new or expanded utilities, road improvements, schools, improvements to rec centre, parks, etc.) Our taxes keep going up with all these new developments, slow down so infrastructure can keep up. Developers seem to negotiate great deals for themselves with regards to density. With new pandemics coming (as per scientists) shouldn't we slow down and think of social distancing for the future. Parks and rec facilities are already crowded.

30. Could council bring opportunities to the budget process? By council actively playing a role in recruiting companies, developers, and industry to open shop in Port Moody we could help justify, and offset the tax rate increases. I feel like council is collecting a paycheck to attend meetings, and provide their opinion on how things should be. Very rarely do I see value added to the city by the people elected to lead. Perhaps council could explain what initiatives they have actually searched out and implemented that is helping reduce taxes in our city.

<p>31. There should be access to a washroom at any/all baseball fields (currently that is not the case). Create some sort of log boom at Rocky Point so the seals return (it was a fun attraction for anyone who sails, kayaks, SUP, etc.).</p>
<p>32. it would be great if accompanying this survey was documentation on the actual costs of things. there is not enough information here to provide an informed opinion.</p>
<p>33. Pay for use for utilities.. why does one person in a 900 sqft condo pay the same as 6 ppl in a 3000 sqft detached house ????</p>
<p>34. Remove subsidies for Anmore and Belcarra residents. Put pressure on developers to contribute green space and city solutions.</p>
<p>35. Is there a plan to upgrade Moody Elementary in the future?? Moody Centre is growing rapidly and that school is getting old and under-sized. A lot of tax payer money streaming out of that area more and more with every project being built.</p>
<p>36. Please cut out "events" such as golden spike days, bands in the park, beer gardens, maintenance days, mayor day etc. Please cut out all food orders such as; volunteer awards, or any such events, coffee breaks, meetings, lunches and dinners for ALL. No pay raises for the next 2 years ACROSS THE BOARD. Keep budget under control. Spend on core systems we need: ie police, city hall, maintenance, utility services, infrastructure</p>
<p>37. Some of the questions are worded so that it is difficult to answer eg.parks, sports fields, green spaces. More grass fields and sports fields are not needed... planting, and recreating natural areas , such as native plants, flowers and hedgerows is ultimately most important for this Climate Emergency. The time is now for bringing back biodiversity of flora & fauna....massive areas have been lost. If urban & rural areas make this a priority, we have a chance to save so much of what we are constantly losing world wide. Please spend money on this in Port Moody. Re: #17 about taxes...it is late now to think about this , instead of filling our city with 40 or more new condo/townhouse developments, the effort could have been put into encouraging businesses to move in!!!!!!</p>
<p>38. Kids sports (recreation centre) is the lifeblood of the community- definitely feels like it's being ignored and should be much more of a priority! Feels like other tri city communities get that better than us.</p>
<p>39. Do not increase housing densities to gain property tax revenue. Loss of business tax revenue from the closure of the saw mill, for example, is temporary until the area is redeveloped. Please plan for the long term. Resist the urge for taller high rise towers to increase property tax revenue. High density residential development will take away from Port Moody's charm and will cause a lot of traffic issues.</p>
<p>40. Bring in more revenue such as enforcing parking bylaws, ie not complaint driven; selling city lands like unused road allowances or lots; increasing service fees.</p>

41. This survey is terrible. There is more nuance than just Very Important, Somewhat or Not Important. I'm not sure how this can be called consultation. A better exercise would be to present sliding scales for all the topic areas and ask participants to rank against each area. This survey is pretty much useless and does not reflect any realistic choices. If you are going to consult with the public, don't waste our time with poorly thought out and worded surveys.
42. This survey is very subjective. It is not so much an issue as to what services you offer but how they are offered. Based on this survey you will proceed with "satisficing" decisions to appease the majority of residents .. Why not drill down to understand how you can implement change most efficiently ?
43. The city needs to improve recreation area with larger skatepark, improve Inlet Field for all weather.
44. Since these crazy times with Covid, I had to accept my financial losses. As so many of us did but this can make us concentrate on what is important. We do need community events but do we really need public art everywhere... no. I have some inside info that the crime in Port Moody hasn't increased at all! So there is no way they should be getting a \$50000 increase. All City staff should have no increases to their wages until the City gets back on their feet. Specially in Covid times there needs to be a hold on raises now. Our parks are already beautiful, so we shouldn't need that much maintenance. The City needs to concentrate on what will bring people together, safe healthy environment and City maintenance to run smoothly without giving staff huge pay checks.
45. Increase bylaw officers in parks ensure dogs are on leashes where they should be.
46. Look for balance and don't aim for perfection. I think the increase in tax will not be well received in a year where Covid has ravaged the economy for a lot of people. I would look at implementing a possible tax on higher-income earners instead of trying to one size fits all distribute it to the entire town. Let's say earners above 175k CDN could cover more of the fees and this does not have to be proportionate to property size. Lots of high earners don't own massive properties. You have a lot of folks working in Tech leaving Vancouver coming to PoMO and own maybe only a condo but then you have families here own a big plot of land but only moderate income right?
47. Please keep development of St. John's Street moving so developers can cover the cost of civil upgrades and new taxpayers can help pay for the library, hockey rinks operating costs. We don't need expensive public art. It's too controversial and unappreciated. Places to make art and music are far more valuable.
48. Should cancel the city grants program, if tax payers wish to support groups and charities they should do it themselves and not have the city choose who to give their money to. In this difficult time the city should focus on the basics and stop spending resources on non jurisdictional things.

<p>49. On #18 where I selected items for reduction, I actually don't suggest reducing or taking these services away, they are all very important however, they are areas I feel the departments or services could be provided at lower costs than what we are currently paying for or putting into them. Instead of raising taxes, or reducing services, city staff, administration and council and these departments (fire, police, library, arts) should work on implementing change and making smart choices to be more efficient by adopting the tools and processes that reduce time, materials, costs and unnecessary expenditures that generate better and more efficient results.</p>
<p>50. It is difficult to estimate the cost of future debt servicing. We are currently paying ~ \$2M/yr to service the debt (4% x 46.6M). This should be made clear. 4% is a small number. \$2M is a big number.</p> <p>The LTSFF was created 7 years ago and doesn't include debt servicing as a cost element. It should be updated.</p> <p>The budget comparison to the average household is not as useful as it being compared to other municipalities. How much does Surrey pay the police per capita? How much does Coquitlam pay for libraries? How much are we saving by sharing dog compounding services with Coquitlam? Can we save more by sharing more? What can we offer other communities to create a revenue source?</p> <p>Has Council investigated a tax on the breweries? Even during COVID there are many people frequenting Murray street and Fraser Mills and willing to pay a premium per can. This is no longer a new industry. This approach should be discussed with the neighboring communities to get their take. Ideally, a consensus with the other communities would be established, or a really small tax per can should be implemented.</p>
<p>51. With COVID, nobody wants to go to rec centers so lets lower the amount of tax dollars allocated to them.</p>
<p>52. The council needs to decide what the core services the city needs to provide and cut other areas that don't fall into these core services. Raising taxes can't be the first solution to budget problems. Raising taxes need to be the last solution.</p>
<p>53. I would like it if Council invested in infrastructure so that more of the burden for running the city can be placed on more people.</p> <p>The growth of our city is unacceptable.. we should be developing much more.</p>
<p>54. Continue to seek new revenue sources. I support the billboards and would also support new advertising opportunities - eg corporate naming of city facilities</p>
<p>55. I agree with the climate action plan and we need to adopt it over a longer period of time. We can't spend the 4.2 million in one year we need to look at ways to maximize the plan without breaking the bank. I would like to see Kate and Laura come back with a new budget that more accurately reflects our financial situation right now.</p>
<p>56. Very disappointed Port Moody succumbed to distasteful electronic billboards as a source of revenue.</p> <p>We are better than that.</p>

<p>57. I found this survey limited. Aren't there other options? How about offer services at an increase price and leave the ones for the children subsidized? If city is not able to cover the expenses with the taxpayers money, aren't we then to revive and restructure expenses, looks for other sources of revenue and invest on amenities that can create such revenue from visitors.</p>
<p>58. You need to trim the budget. I have noticed that the municipal vehicles are all quite new, maybe suggest holding on to vehicles a little longer as they depreciate much quicker in their early years. There is a balance to when vehicles require more maintenance at a certain age due to reliability, it is at this point the vehicle should be replaced. I know it is nice to drive newer vehicles, but it is not cost effective.</p>
<p>59. Try to reduce the amount of people you have working in administration in favour of increasing the number of people in front line positions ("boots on the ground") helping the residents of Port Moody (i.e. more bylaw enforcement officers, facility and recreation staff).</p>
<p>60. I feel there are certain activities that we can charge more or less for, more frequently, for example, business permits. Let's say work from home permits could be economical and then more people would sign up and the city could generate more. Also we can create new activities to generate revenue, i.e. with people with illegal renovations, have an amnesty program that people could pay for a city inspector to review (for a fee), and instead of fining people (scare tactics), that inspector would generate a list and then encourage people to complete permits to get those items resolved in a way to accept responsibility and improve their homes. The revenues from extra permits would surpass fines, since more people don't feel afraid about getting a review from the city.</p>
<p>61. Core services most important. Stop replacing things just because of an arbitrary schedule; replace when absolutely necessary. Parks and green space plants: as low maintenance as possible, native species. I appreciate we have some excellent people on payroll. But - don't create new departments with added payroll. Keep payroll increases to inflation. I suspect a certain amount of "silo-ing" which can duplicate work, data, skill-sets. For example I've seen different numbers for things depending on where the information is coming from. Share data. Staff training important to accomplish this. Look at partnerships to reduce costs - other levels of government, NPAs, Tri-Cities, etc. Police dept increases seem excessive. Treat each neighbourhood equitably - services, safety, parks, etc. Stop taxing some properties based on "potential" use - completely unfair. When you speak of "average" price of home for taxation explanations, break it out for type of unit - SFH, townhouse, condo. Otherwise this number is very misleading.</p>
<p>62. Limit population growth in order to reduce the need for more amenities. Concentrate on necessary amenities. Resist pressure to add new amenities, for example and indoor pool and sports facilities. Focus on increasing park and green space to keep up with population growth. Keep parks and green space in a natural or near natural without unnecessary equipment and manicuring. Do not spend money on public art.</p>

63. the Police costs seems disproportionately high compared to other city services especially given we are a community of 35K with low crime. need to expand tax base and look to increase light industry. think of park space in term of maximizing use throughout the day. I will be very disappointed to the gravel field at Rocky Point turn into another turf field for soccer when trasolini field sits empty all day long (only used weekends and evening). they playground structures are not sufficient for the community. think of outside gathering places.
64. Please reduce construction of new buildings (our infrastructure is not sufficient to service more high rises) with the exception of housing for low income earners which is sorely needed as we are going to lose all of our younger generation.
65. open up Rocky Point pool for more hours including clubs/programs for early morning swim club - many active people in port moody like to swim for fitness - Kits pool in Vancouver has a 6 or 7am swim club for that is very popular. Pools should spend for May long weekend and close after labour day weekend. Add Parking fees at Rocky Point May long weekend to end of Labour day weekend as a trial. Most who park there are not residents AND would encourage transit use AND avoid over use of facilities. Higher developer fees - hopefully you increase developer fees annually to match increase in property taxes.
66. Focus on core services and municipal priorities. Always remember the role of a municipal government is to provide services to its residents.
67. the city of the arts?? Where? The Esplanade artist studio is held up as one of the gems of the city but it seems to be a very small group of people who can use of benefit from this. More transparency is needed here. Example the fence wrapping around Inlet center sky train station. Seems to only be for residents of the Esplanade studios. Would love to see more open inclusive arts here.
68. Inflation is not an excuse to increase taxes rates. Inflation is already built into a rate because it's a percentage. We have to spend within our means. Taxpayers are not money printing machines. Individuals need to tighten up their belts when money gets tight, so should governments at all levels.
69. why is there always a trade off of services provided vs tax rate? the highest cost items need to be managed better
70. Please consider that residents are currently struggling financially! Personally, I will take a reduction in services and enhancements so that my property taxes do not continue to increase like they have every year. It is honestly pricing me out of my beloved home now that I am retired. I am very worried about it, to be honest. Please hear the concern that this is not the time to contemplate any enhancement. We need to tighten our belts for the next few years. With property values increasing, every increase in taxes is multiplied. I know that eventually I won't be able to afford to keep living here, but I really love my home and would like to stay as long as possible. Having such a huge increase in taxes this year is unconscionable, to be honest. It is causing a lot of stress.
71. Better traffic flow on St Johns

<p>72. For Mayor and council: Please be respectful of staff time as you would with all other budget considerations. From watching council meetings, it is clear that a lot is being asked of City staffers which must be resulting in overtime dollars being spent. In some cases, after a staff person concludes their report, I have heard immediate responses, such as 'Well, I won't be supporting that recommendation.' Your qualified staff are professionals in their fields and their recommendations should not be casually disregarded. This particular instance is related to the Bert Flynn land parcel discussions. I was extremely disappointed to see the full disregard for dollars being spent in what was reported to have no legal benefit. In summary, please do not cut service levels in the community - but Instead, think about how much money your decisions are costing the taxpayers. Finally, Council meetings going into the midnight hours is costing tax payer dollars as well as staff don't work for free! Pull it together Mayor and Council! No meeting is effective after 4 hours.</p>
<p>73. I consider the questionnaire to narrow in scope and answers don't prove sufficient input. So with that comment, I highly recommend that you don't suggest that you consulted with the public on this subject to justify cuts. If you cut anything: quit creating new staffing positions like: climate plan by hiring two seasonal and temporary full time staff and use the "found money" on services and programs that the staff is getting paid for. Give your budget to the small services that seem to get cut and quit paying consultants for reports that are redundant.</p>
<p>74. Due to Covid- reduce hours of various facilities and have a small user fee for art and library usage as other facilities.</p>
<p>75. Run meetings more efficiently and less agenda driven make work projects that require staff time and resources.</p>
<p>76. Cut back on city staff wage hikes.</p>
<p>77. You should fix the shoreline bike path and connect it from the rec center parking lot so it is stroller friendly</p>
<p>78. Encourage development to increase tax base</p>
<p>79. As the City of Port Moody is becoming more congested with more new multiple dwelling units and high rise building constructions, the developers and new property owners should be made to pay additional costs associated with the increase in population density and traffic congestion and the host other costs associated with the newer development. It is not equitable to pass the increased costs to the existing home owners by means of increased city property taxes.</p>

80. I think council could look towards a fair increase in tax on non-profit/recreational properties. They only provide 0.13% of tax revenue, not even 1% and that isn't a fair share when households are struggling to find extra money year after year for ever increasing costs. There are 124 non-profit/recreational properties, which works out to be roughly \$464/yr each. That appears to be extremely outdated. Non-profit such as urban churches, generate an average of \$375K/yr and they are paying little to no tax. As an example, our household generates an average of \$110K/yr and we pay more than 4 times the amount a church would pay. While the church has some community benefits, that has drastically reduced over the years. Currently there is a great need for homeless shelter in Port Moody and the churches have not opened their doors, even in minus weather. So they do not benefit the community the way they used to and taxes should reflect that and be increased to ensure more fairness. Less than 1% of overall taxes is not fair when home owners are paying 60%. These organizations have the ability to pay more and its time they paid a fairer share of the cost.

Perhaps the storage fee for the refinery could be increased? Parking fees installed on streets around white pine beach? This could generate good income in the summer months as we had triple the amount of visitors in 2020.

Port Moody's budget guide states that increasing taxes on residents is necessary when new developments don't cover the "growth for growth" ratio. Please take more consideration to ensure developers and new residences pay the proper costs of growth to growth ratio so these are not passed down to other residential properties. Developers shouldn't be able to weasel their way out of paying the necessary fees associated with building. We already have to endure day in and day out construction noise, awful traffic, and its really stressful. Now we have to cover the costs associated with this? That should be the developers responsibility. There is clearly good profit in developing and developers should cover the costs.

I would like to see a reduction in fees because last year many services to the community were cut and they will be cut again this year. All the community events, and facilities have been closed to the public. We haven't opened any shelter services to the homeless and it feels like many costs should have been saved from the closures. Our family doesn't use the rec centre or library, haven't in 3 years and before that was 2 or 3 times a year. I would like to see the Fire Department receive more funding and the police department to receive less with them meeting more in the middle on funding. The Fire department has a broader range of abilities when it comes to attending emergencies and they approach these situations with a lot of respect, dignity and calmness (no weapons or aggression!).

I thought it was a bit concerning that 59% of tax collected goes to wages/salaries, which is 61% of the entire budget and that residential properties make up 65% of the tax revenue. It was also concerning to read that tax payers are paying more to the provincial and federal government, while these governing bodies provide less to cities, therefore expecting residences to cover even more city costs. It sounds like taxpayers are getting double hit with tax! I think government across BC does not recognize that many people live with average incomes, between \$60-\$80k/yr which doesn't cover cost of living in this Province. Wages do not go up every year to cover these increasing costs. Government officials make far more than average and i think this contributes to an out of touch attitude of what cost of living is like for many families. While we make just over \$100K/yr as a family, this is a really low income to live comfortably in the Lower Mainland. Factor in monthly childcare fees, increased food

costs and bills...its getting tough to manage. Increasing taxes by \$108/yr may seem like nothing to council but when you increase that every year (which has for us) along with everything else, we have to find that money from nowhere. And why is that being increased the same when services have been drastically cut both years?

While the budget guide explains how most households will only see a \$108 tax increase this year, we have seen an increase every year and I would like the city to know that my wage has not increased in 10 years. In fact, it dropped by \$5000 in 2014 due to a medical disability. This has put significant pressure on our family household finances and each year is a struggle to comes up with the money required for taxes. This is real for many people and we see hundreds of new homes being built, which we are told will decrease our taxes however so far that has been completely false.

I would like to see council look to alternatives to raising taxes on homeowners every year, like some of the suggestions above that could generate income from outside sources like parking fees for the parks for non residents. Homeowners are treated like they are all rich and its just not the case! We need a break too!

81. These questions dont allow any actual consideration of where things could be done better... just asking if i would rather paymore taxes or have less services isn't fair. How about i think the city should spend the money more responsibly, deliver core services at the highest level and stop wasting tax dollars on irrelevant projects outside of the scope of responsibility.

82. Allowing densification through thoughtful development in Port Moody is the number one best way to increase services and raise additional funds that are required to maintain and improve City initiatives.

83. It's time to stop funding non essential programs like art/heritage.

Also would like to see this anti development mindset that council has shown, shift to a more pragmatic approach and put the economic needs of the city ahead of there personal biases, by developing density, and maintaining our level of services.

Looking forward to the next election and hopefully seeing a more balanced council.

84. Since Port Moody is developing so fast with people moving out of Vancouver to the suburb areas, we should make Port Moody more attractive for the working population. I would like to see more bars or clubs available and more businesses opening up for foot traffic.

85. Cut some capital projects slated for 2021 NO more bike paths, upgrade shoreline boardwalk, look to remove artificial turf cost versus expense to maintain for JUST 8 years! Housing is too expensive for what you get. two bedroom doesn't suffice for a family of 4. Somehow reinstate small business or lite industrial for tax benefit, jobs

86. The questions you ask are not easy to answer as To how I would rank them. So I will just say this. In light of COVID 19 and the significant financial impacts that have resulted from the pandemic, including many citizens having lost their jobs or are suffering from income losses this past year, I do not believe this is the time to introduce undue tax increases. We are very much still in the midst of COVID-19 and are currently looking at recovery into the 3-5 year range.

The Port Moody Police and the city budgets need to reflect the current conditions and unfortunately tough decisions need to be made while still delivering the essential services to the citizens of Port Moody.

A study done in 2018 looking at various lower mainland municipalities and the amount of taxes/fees paid and the average house price revealed that there is no correlation. Shockingly, the annual taxes and fees paid by the owner of an average home in Vancouver and Port Moody are the same at about \$4,400 even though the value of an average house in Vancouver is \$2.5 million while the value of an average house in Port Moody is \$1.3 million. Overall, Port Moody has ranked as the 6th least affordable community. Your stewardship of our finances will soon move us up to possibly the least affordable.

Another study done during the same time period showed that in all Metro Vancouver municipalities there isn't a single market where a household earning the median income can afford the average detached home price.

My point here is that pre-pandemic, average citizens were struggling to make ends meet and now in the midst of a pandemic circumstances have worsened for many people. The ability to pay year or year tax increases is unrealistic.

Municipal taxes and fees are based entirely on the budget of each municipality depending on Councils priorities for taxing and spending.

Residents cannot continue to shoulder the increasing property tax burden in Port Moody, which beyond unsustainable increases, is further exacerbated by the loss of industrial and commercial tax base. ie: the hydro plant as well as the change of tax base for Flavelle Mills from industrial to mixed use .

Tough decisions need to be made and I think 1 area to start would be all contracts be revenue neutral, no pay increases unless we see a decrease in benefits to match. Instead of 100% funded maybe they need to pay 10% or whatever the difference would be. Since this area is the majority of our expenses would you not think this is a good place to start?

Look at cost savings within the city itself prior to coming to us again for more money.

87. QUESTION 17: ANSWERED 'NOT SURE' BECAUSE NOT ENOUGH OPTIONS TO ANSWER ADEQUATELY

Understanding sources of revenue; why doesn't a substantial increase in high rise development make a difference?? Many more people are/will be paying taxes (increasing the amount of 80% of revenue), and several construction corporations are continuing to make a substantial amount of money on all our backs. Why then, do taxpayers who have lived in Port Moody for years, continue to look at tax increases over a cost of living increase, every year? Surely, maintaining present levels of services should be easier as more and more taxpayers come on board. Otherwise, why are we building more and more and more high rises??? We continue to lose our number one attraction for living here - a close, safe, green community feeling - and we continue to be asked to pay more and more for living here.

<p>88. Don't like to be critical but from my experience and what I believe to be an objective perspective, the Fire Hall and Fireman are a high cost under-utilized service; some thought might be given on how to combine or add services to/from this facility such as combining it with the BC Ambulance service or adding to the workload/services of the Firemen.....\$503 per household seems like an awfully high annual cost for this service; The Maintenance Facility on Murray should be re-located and the land included in the Inlet Park, Rocky Point parks planning; with the Electronic Avenue condo's being completed more park space will be required; re-location of the three remaining land owners on the north side of Murray should be considered as part of this plan; Glass recycling drop off at recycling depots by residents should be encouraged so that one day this service might be eliminated and costs saved; The hot tub space at the Recreation Centre is a poorly utilized space with better options generating more revenue likely available; maybe combined with the fitness centre and a relocated entrance/exit;</p>
<p>89. 1. We need to significantly increase the tax base (i.e. greater population), with accelerated approvals of development plans and permits. 2. Consider sale of city properties (old fire station property) to reduce taxes. 3. Consider wage freeze(s) for all city staff for one year in order to share the financial pain that many residents have endured through the COVID pandemic.</p>
<p>90. Most people are spending less, the City needs to do the same in these times. Some things noticed that have not been a good use of City funds, staff inefficiency at City hall and the Recreation centre given services now provided, Recreation centre project, ie. hot tub, waste of money and inefficient use of funds. Think about how we all need to adjust in these times, the extras are not possible and think about how we need to be efficient, staff costs seem to be excessive for a city of this size. Think Green, think natural, green spaces not manufactured hardscaping.</p>

There are 12 comments on what service(s) should be added or enhanced

1. Arts should be further funded.
2. I would like to see more spent on enhancing parks and recreation facilities in the interest of promoting sport and I'm in favour of additional public art installations and other park enhancements to promote enjoyment of outdoor and indoor public spaces.
3. Culture and emergency services fire and police service. As well as the preservation of land.
4. Enhance public safety services, add services to address homelessness and improve services to marginalized community members.
5. Public grounds maintenance- grass cutting, plant pruning, etc.
6. Taxes are already too high and based on high property values. Find other sources of revenue. Reduce expenses.
7. Recreation centre upgrades and build new sports fields

8. library, policing, building code and bylaw enforcement and parks
9. Library, recreation facilities and recreation services, including more dedicated paths for cycling and walking.
10. Finance and Technology, Engineering and Operations (i.e. create a really fast system for permits, and then charge them online)
11. expanded park and playground space OUTSIDE of Rocky Point
12. Recreation, Streets,

There are 25 responses to the question, "If the City were to look at service level reductions to lower the tax rate increase, which specific services do you think we should consider reducing?"

1. Public Art - There are so many positive ways to spend public money than public art. Please stop this. Heritage? What heritage! Not a good way to spend tax money. Work on making natural environment preservation to be our heritage.
2. '-reduce the costs associated with city gardening, and park maintenance where possible- -ie: shift to ground covers where grass is not needed---and therefore no mowing needed all the time- -shift to natural species of plants, rather than high maintenance floral options etc. -shift to species of plants that rebuild bee & butterfly populations- require no pesticides
3. reduction in city staff far too many people wastage
4. Signage is over done throughout Port Moody. Plantings ie. intersection of Noons Creek and Falcon is a waste. A nice clean ground cover in the triangle is all that is needed. Increases user fees is not required as more savey marketing and sales could close the gap.
5. I agree re. using ground covers in place of turf, pls. see below. I think, the city may consider suspending art grants for city art, especially the type that has been installed at the Rocky Point (there is a list of public art installed at the entry, and many people I know would not consider it art at all, unfortunately; if art cannot be easily identified as such without additional explanation, it's value as art is not great). Also, temporarily the city can do without or reduce the frequency of bog Sunday 2 pm concerts that most of the time are not of a great quality neither. I would also suggest to suspend all the traffic studies, and other studies that have been listed in the budget.
6. I don't think that you should be looking at this. Our taxes are fair and if anything our taxes could be slightly increased to allow for the increase in services. How else to people expect offerings that are not fee-for-service to be paid for.

7. It is important to live within our means. During the pandemic and recession, Port Moody residents and businesses are cutting costs of nonessential items in their budgets. If Port Moody residents and businesses can make cuts to the household budgets, I expect our City to do the same. There are several nonessential capital projects being proposed that could be cut to cover the ~\$2 million needed.
8. a 4.5 increase during a pandemic is not the right solution. Those of us who have had a hard time having steady income during this time are not able to afford this, and the city should be doing better to manage this. If something like the mill closing (from 2018) had a significant impact on revenues that should have been anticipated and planned carefully. I would suggest the community and recreational services as well as public art programs cut or reduced during the pandemic in order to avoid a significant tax increase like that. It's not affordable, and with all the development happening, one would expect the city revenues to be increasing from property tax and utility fees.
9. Public art and heritage, parks and recreation
10. To close the pool at Rocky Point park.
11. Increasing taxes is not the thing to do, especially during a pandemic. The people of Port Moody are cutting costs to make ends meet and we expect our elected City Council to do the same. The arts grant can be eliminated, and high maintenance items such as flowers can be replaced with lower maintenance perennial plants. Becareful in planning for higher density residential development to increase the residential property tax base. In doing so, yo can lose the character of Port Moody forever. Increasing the population density will require more services and More roadway and transit development. Even though the revenue will increase, the expenditure will also increase.
12. The award winning Port Moody Fire Hall was a waste of money. Although being a firefighter is definitely an honoured, valuable and required profession, in Port Moody I don't see the need for such opulence. More often than fighting any fires that I know have occurred I see and hear of the firefighters attendance at birthday parties, pancake breakfasts or fender bender accidents. Is this a good use of taxpayers money? I think not.
13. We can skip art displays, decorations around town. Keep to the basics street salting, snow removal, garbage collection, road repairs. Note: having St. John's traffic disrupted due to construction at same time as Murray street due to construction a bad idea?? Both roads should never have closures at the same time. Basic community programs only. Watch every penny spent ask is it necessary at this time
14. Taxes should not be increased during a pandemic. I love the arts, but at what cost? Should not be an increase for taxpayers. Arts in our city are great but could be put on hold for a while.
15. Art in Public Spaces is one area where I would have no objections to lowering the level of service and capital expenditure.

<p>16. The question itself is misdirected - the key to saving money is not making a few large cuts - it is a mindset change such that every dollar spent is scrutinized: "Watch the pennies and the dollars take care of themselves." Residents should not be the ones needing to provide the obvious idea of shifting to perennials and native species to reduce gardening costs, or more natural areas in parks and less grass cutting costs. The real question is how to incentivize staff to advocate for change that lowers costs (both capital and operating). Do their incentive plans and performance reviews include a heavy weighting on cost cutting? Is promotion based on reducing department size? Does eliminating under utilized programs bring reward or condemnation? Asking residents which programs should be cut is coming close to abdicating leadership (cloaked as "consultation") and leaves me questioning the competence of city management. Freeze the budget, optimize the programs, and figure it out - that is why you earn the big bucks.</p>
<p>17. I was just reviewing a beautiful draft for Art in Public Spaces Master Plan. It looks like it took over 2 years to research and prepare but it seems a little excessive to me. I am a huge fan of public art, arts and cultural programs and events for our citizens but I cant imagine the time and cost that this document and its content must have taken. Rather than cut service levels to city programs or funds to our services, I would like to see city staff, admin and council look at better efficiencies and processes that include cutting back on unnecessary spending and scrutinizing existing expenses and costs.</p>
<p>18. I would say all expenditures should be reviewed, not just city services, with the criteria that city budget increases should be limited to the annual rate of inflation.</p>
<p>19. Fire services - how many fires do we have in PoMo nowadays?! Shift those \$ to a rent bank or invest those \$ in asset replacement plans to make sure core city services and buildings/infrastructure are maintained in future.</p>
<p>20. I would like to see some stats of employment hours and actual need/use of members of the police and fire fighting service. This is one of the largest expenses to the city and I would like to see how theses expenses compare to other communities.</p>
<p>21. Reasonable tax increases are expected to maintain core services. Raises taxes is acceptable if required for core services that keep within the responsibilities of municipal governance. Increased development should only be approved if it is revenue generating or revenue neutral.</p>
<p>22. Cut back on staff wage hikes other than the cost of living. Look at services that were halted during the pandemic and see which ones we can scale back on.</p>
<p>23. Keep essential services such as garbage collection, snow removal, road repairs as needed. Look at services that were scaled back during the pandemic and see if they can remain scaled back for now. Adjust street lights so they aren't on during daylight hours. Minimal city workers on Sundays. Our mini park can be cleaned any weekday and doesn't need to be done weekly. It's very small.</p>

24. The city should evaluate ALL services for value. Start by doing an audit of all projects - a value audit not just an accounting audit. Evaluate the core services and identify all scope creep and eliminate. Stop putting tax dollars into areas that are not the mandate of local government. Reinvest tax dollars into community events that enhance the lives of residents especially the growing demographic of young families. Follow the lead of the regional police departments integrated teams and look for efficiencies to be gained from partnerships with other municipalities .. for example: why does EVERY city need to design their own parks and playgrounds and community amenities. Shared services in particular specialties (coquitlam has a bylaw car with license plate reader, make a deal with them to share the technology cost)

25. I would not be in favor of service reduction for lower taxes.