

From: bill brock

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 8:38 PM

To: Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>; Bill Brock; Woolsey, Heather <hwoolsey@London.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] presentation for Feb. 27, 2024

To Budget Committee

Attention: E. Peloza, chair

Brief with my approval to put on added agenda for Feb. 27, 2024

Presentation

City Council had approved this process and according to chairperson taken a different procedure this time around.

First item is for new procedure be published because it is apparent Councilors have taken over as leaders instead of staff! Policy setting is gone; staff accountability and expertise is now secondary! Political comments about trust the "Experts" as demeaning when used to attack other groups!

The fundamental procedure is to follow a procedure that is accountable and transparent for all. Noting salary changes for budget chair and deputy mayor were approved and budget chair (according to Mayor) has been busy since last summer! It would be fair to say that this Council is free and open to do whatever they wish; with whomever they wish! When does the public watch a meeting where all councilors and staff make a presentation in layperson terms and everybody gets the same message

The procedure now is each councilor leads their ward and you as a citizen must speak to your ward councilor! Also

Councilors are now directed to ask questions before meeting and arrange any motions etc. before. This allows consensus and support before meeting! The common theme is time is of the essence so much gets approved without question under consent leaving the public out of process! It appears public accountability is gone!

There should be a concern when the justification of community / public meetings is guided by police staff leading the sessions. How does one justify appropriate feedback when 3 wards (75000 voters?) are represented by 100 people!

Second item is an explanation on how police budget and Legislative change #P-L9 equips very patrol officer and vehicle with appropriated weapons along with appropriate training but doesn't affect police budget needs?

The city prepared a 2 year Mobility study involving some 60 people! It started last year of previous council and first year of current. Major costs and not a question raised. Staff are aware of concern and asked why factual data from 2021 CENSUS not used. Millions can be diverted to real needs now!

Item three refers to Business case #P-16 Housing stability bank (\$700,000.) I think it is gone? However because council may claim other gov't responsibility for income problem not ours! You can't ignore the major issue before us

you can't take the view out of site out of mind. The staff were made aware of this concern in hub discussions and ignored issue (refer to 3 questions asked about hubs).

Transit is interesting because some politicians took shots a budget but didn't bother to get the facts! The expertise is not standing at a bus stop at 7:30am . Facts about university year round contract for all undergraduate students from Sept. 1 to following Aug. 30th weren't acknowledged! Not withstanding many written submissions you fail to recognize that the cuts in BRT fully operational system and spine leaves you with (at best) an express service , serving the east , south and downtown only! The links with north and west will be a nightmare!

Because you only talk about next four years you need to validate by factual data raises and organizational changes (staffing by department; consultants by project and area)!

Under your current system not data is necessary unless your budget exceeds approved guideline.

Item #5. should be the providing of such data in a complete form .

Finally given the magnitude of information and the way you do business leaving the public and accountability aside I suggest the following be done:

Prepare appropriate reports as noted above!

Recognize that the 43 neighborhoods making up 14 wards in London are not the same (No Robots).

You must give real and serious recognition of "NEEDS" come first. Look at the disparity for B.I.A.s \$150,000 - \$350,000. (membership 350 to 47?)

YOU MUST DROP THE BUDGET TO around 7% . Failure to do so will raise the need to look at other actions

Hopefully at start of meeting you will provide the status of all business cases and can go from there!

Note: The Mayor was given "POWERS" which appears 10 votes (he +9).

All through this budget process councilors have been talking to get support or consensus ; that is before public meeting! If not careful citizens will have no influence!

William Brock C.I.M.

London Transit 38 years.

London School Board 20 years

Children's Safety Village

Block Parents

Several city briefs or memberships etc.)