

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS
Received: May 2, 2024 (after 9:00 a.m.) – May 6, 2024 (before 5:00 p.m.)
May 6, 2024 Council Meeting
ADDENDUM

Submitted on Sun, 05/05/2024 - 12:11

First Name

Charlie

Last Name

Griffin

Email

charlesgriffinesq@gmail.com

Address

210 Hillside Drive

Message

Mayor McEachern and Members of the Council,

I have perused the proposed FY 2025 Budget and note that it contains 748 pages. Its length rivals that of War and Peace and the King James Bible.

While I understand that its length reflects your commitment to transparency, I submit that the sheer volume is overwhelming for the average citizen.

I stress that point because the idea that you can deal with this budget primarily in one marathon work session on May 13th boggles my mind and exceeds my attention span and I suspect that of others.

The primary purpose of a budget work session is not for your benefit, who have greater familiarity with city departments and expenditures, but for that of the taxpayers who have to deal with the ramifications of the budget you adopt.

As such, we should not be expected to absorb everything about this budget primarily in one six hour marathon work session.

Prior Councils had multiple budget work sessions .This approach gave both the Council and the public the opportunity to gradually learn about and comprehend the contents of the budget .

I urge you to schedule multiple shorter work sessions as opposed to a marathon one. Specifically I propose that you cancel the 9 to 3 May 13th work session and instead schedule three two hour evening sessions, the first on May 14th, the second on May 20th (already scheduled) and the third on May 28th(the 27th being Memorial Day.) Take the time to do it right and give taxpayers the opportunity to better understand the budget over time, not all at once.

I also note that a public hearing is scheduled for May 13th. If you still opt to proceed with the 9 to 3 work session ,the ,public hearing should not take place that night. Not everyone will be able to attend the 9 to 3 work session ,but both they and those who do attend need time to learn about and absorb what was said and have more than a few hours to reflect on what they want to say at the public hearing.I would propose that the initial public hearing take place on June 3rd with a continuation and adoption of the budget on June 17th.

I also note that there is reference to Listening Sessions on the agenda for the May 13th work session.

In a traditional public hearing the public talks at the Council and there is no opportunity for give and take Not everyone feels comfortable speaking at a public hearing.

.Last year the Council split into teams and held Listening sessions at various venues.I attended one, enjoyed it and found that people felt more comfortable addressing the Councilors and that there was an opportunity for meaningful give and take.I urge you to schedule Listening Sessions again this year.

Finally, I want to talk about the Elephant in the Room, namely the revaluation. In her Budget Message, the City Manager projects a proposed tax rate based, I presume, on current property valuations.

However, as I understand it, , the December tax bills will be based on the property revaluations. If I am correct, I would like to see some discussion of the impact of the revaluations on the proposed budget.

As always, I thank you for your consideration.

Charlie Griffin

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 05/06/2024 - 09:44

First Name

Lisa

Last Name

Hebert

Email

mllisahebert@hotmail.com

Address

183 Hillside Drive

Message

Please make the Greenleaf/ Hillside sidewalk installation a top priority as residents and children need and expect safe access to parks and schools. This is an urgent public safety issue that needs immediate resolution.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 05/06/2024 - 11:18

First Name

Joni

Last Name

Lane

Email

jonialane@gmail.com

Address

64 Hillside Dr

Message

Dear councilman and councilwomen,

As you know, it is not safe to leave or return to the neighborhood on Hillside Dr. from Greenleaf Ave.

The stakes are too great, the risk is too high. Every time I walk out of Hillside Dr. to walk my child to the park, to exercise, to walk my dog, to bike, I am confronted with the danger. Losing the pass-through at the ABC buildings has impacted the safety of ALL residents in this neighborhood. And of course, the children have the greatest risk. For many of the kids who are at an age where they want to have some independence, to walk on their own, bike to school or meet friends downtown, they are unable to do so safely. Everyone is driving more, walking less as a result. All it will take is for one person, one child to be injured. I understand there are other fires in the community that need tending, but this one MUST be addressed quickly. It is truly an immediate issue of safety. Because you chose not to pursue the ABC board legally, and demand we continue to use the safe pass through, our community requires that you get a sidewalk installed as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 05/06/2024 - 12:13

First Name

Karen

Last Name

Solomonides

Email

ksolomonides@comcast.net

Address

87 Hillside drive

Message

Hello City Councilors,

I am reaching out to find out the start date of the sidewalk project implementing sidewalks along Greenleaf and Lafayette that will enable Hillside Drive residents to have safe access to the downtown, schools and parks.

Thank you,

Karen Solomonides

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 05/06/2024 - 12:23

First Name

Don

Last Name

Pexton

Email

donpexton@gmail.com

Address

225 HILLSIDE DR

Message

Please push to have the sidewalk installed from Hillside Drive up to Lafayette to allow a safe walking route to down town and the ABC Medical Bldgs.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 05/06/2024 - 12:25

First Name

Arthur

Last Name

Solomonides

Email

ajs39178@gmail.com

Address

87 hillside dr

Message

Dear Council Members

As you know neighbors on Hillside Dr have been cut off from using the ABC building cutoff since Sept 2023

Since that time neighbors are crossing the dangerous intersections at Greenleaf and Hillside and Greenleaf and Lafayette.

A side walk has been approved to help this dangerous situation and I am asking that push this along as I have not seen work done other than surveying

Thank you for you support

Art Solomonides

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 05/06/2024 - 12:51

First Name

Sean

Last Name

Glerum

Email

seanglerum@gmail.com

Address

179 Hillside Dr

Message

Hello,

I wont be able to be in attendance this evening, but along with my neighbors on Hillside Dr, I am curious if there is a date set for the construction of a sidewalk for the Hillside neighborhood onto Greenleaf/Lafayette? Thank you!

Sean Glerum

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 05/06/2024 - 15:38

First Name

Barbara

Last Name

McMillan

Email

bdorrmcm@gmail.com

Address

84 Hillside Drive

Message

As the nice weather is hear and worried about safely crossing the road, just checking to see if there is an idea when the sidewalk on Greenleaf Ave near Hillside Ave is scheduled.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes
