

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** C. Harris, Manager of Marketing & Communications

**NOTED:** R. James-Reid, Executive Director of Access Barrie  
C. Ladd, Chief Administrative Officer

**RE:** 2016 Budget Engagement Results

**DATE:** January 18, 2016

*Chris Harris*  
*R. Reid*

Further to Council's strategic priority of Responsible Spending, Access Barrie worked closely with Finance to introduce new ways for residents and businesses to engage with the 2016 Budget with the goal of improving understanding of how tax dollars are spent and demonstrating value for money.

One key element was the Budget Allocator Tool, an online engagement tool that let residents choose how to invest their tax dollars and leave comments about their choices. The Budget Allocator Tool launched in November 2015 and included major service areas in the tax based operating budget that impact the daily lives of residents and businesses. For each service area respondents had the option to "increase spending 5%", "maintain existing spend", or "decrease spending 5%" and each option included details about the associated service impacts. The tool closed for official comment on January 6, 2016 with a total of 271 submissions and 94 comments. A complete summary of results and comments are included with this memo. The following is a brief overview of the unscientific results:

- The majority of respondents chose to "maintain existing spend" for each service area. The only exception was Culture where 48% of respondents chose to "decrease spending 5%".
- The two service areas that had the highest number of respondents choose to "increase spending 5%" were Roads Operations (38%) and Transit (28%).

In addition to the Budget Allocator Tool, Access Barrie created a short animated video to help educate residents and businesses about how their tax dollars are spent, highlighting the variety of services the City provides and educating on the new Dedicated Infrastructure Renewal Fund. The video was sent to both school boards for their distribution to Barrie high schools for use in their Grade 10 Civics class. The video is available via [barrie.ca/budget](http://barrie.ca/budget) and as of January 7, had received over 450 views.

Other new engagement approaches included targeted presentations to community groups including the Barrie Construction Association, Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs. Presentations were delivered by the Mayor and members of Finance and provided an opportunity to present an overview of the 2016 Budget, gather feedback and answer questions in a smaller, more personal setting.

Content on the website was also expanded to include easily accessible facts and highlights about the budget process, how Barrie compares to other municipalities, and how tax dollars are spent, with the goal of providing residents and businesses with clear, simple budget information. Additionally, expanding website content allowed Access Barrie to better leverage social media channels to drive traffic to the website and further educate citizens.

For questions, please contact Cheri Harris, [cheri.harris@barrie.ca](mailto:cheri.harris@barrie.ca) 705-739-4220 ext. 4714

# City of Barrie 2016 Budget Allocator

## Roads Operations

	Responses	Percentage	
Increase spending 5%	100	37.74 %	
Maintain existing spend	138	52.08 %	
Decrease spending 5%	27	10.19 %	

## Parks & Forestry Operations

Increase spending 5%	38	14.45 %	
Maintain existing spend	157	59.70 %	
Decrease spending 5%	68	25.86 %	

## Transit

Increase spending 5%	73	27.65 %	
Maintain existing spend	138	52.27 %	
Decrease spending 5%	53	20.08 %	

## Recreation

Increase spending 5%	53	20.00 %	
Maintain existing spend	147	55.47 %	
Decrease spending 5%	65	24.53 %	

## Environmental Operations

### Curbside Collection, Waste Disposal & Diversion

Increase spending 5%	48	18.32 %	
Maintain existing spend	157	59.92 %	
Decrease spending 5%	57	21.76 %	

## Culture

Increase spending 5%	56	21.13 %	
Maintain existing spend	82	30.94 %	
Decrease spending 5%	127	47.92 %	

**Fire & Emergency Service**

Increase spending 5%	32	12.03 %	
Maintain existing spend	178	66.92 %	
Decrease spending 5%	56	21.05 %	

Total Respondents = 271

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

Date	Comment
11/26/2015	We have beautiful facilities for our Police force, Fire Department, and City hall. They should not need upgrades yet. The personel need to be supported, but the buildings should not cost a lot for maintenance. If anything when building the facilities they went overboard.
11/26/2015	Move up funding for Harvie Road and Big Bay Point bridge. The majority can be collected through development charges, past and future. The operating budget increase can be off-set by decreases to less imperative programs.
11/26/2015	Thanks for providing our citizens with this information Like me I think many did not realize the amount of taxes that go to The government. Keep up the good. Communications. You are a great communicator I trust your judgment.
11/28/2015	Great survey. Well written and provides a good understanding of the difficult trade-offs that must be made during a budget process.
12/1/2015	Roads - (Maintain existing spend) Roads need to be constructed and repaired more effectively. Tired of seeing new roads only a year old begin to heave and dip. Manholes are rarely positioned or levelled properly. Utilities are permitted to cut into new roads and thus it begins. Needs to be done more efficiently.
12/1/2015	Transit (Increase spending 5%) - Critical and essential service. Been in Barrie for 5 years, still no bus route/service within a 2+ km walk, on busy roads with no side walks. Essential for our youth.
12/3/2015	Close the library waste of money
12/4/2015	Please stop maintaining Sunnidale Park like it is a golf course. Do we really need 9 staff using leaf blowers and trimmers? Really? Create more maintenance free green space, fescue, native grasses. Why are we using all these carbon spewing machines in one of the most beautiful spaces in the city? Let's look at all the parks, how much we spend on staffing (this increases exponentially in the summer with the students). How can we be more "green" in our approach, start engaging the community, the users of this green space to help maintain and develop sustainable and low cost space for our city to enjoy. What ideas can staff come up with if they are tasked to cut costs and develop green space that is geared to self sustainment? Create a Parkland Naturlization committee, involve staff and community. There are many ways to reduce spending and create opportunities to really engage and educate both staff and lovers of our amazing parks, start thinking outside the box and bureaucracy and we can save money along the way. And yes I would love to help.
12/4/2015	The City of Barrie is overstaffed with redundant managers..also.Sunnidale Park is not a golf course it's a park far too many staff maintaining it....excessive cutting of the grass
12/5/2015	Fix ferndale road and stop spending \$\$ on changing the water front. Make people who dont live in barrie have to pay to park near our lake to make some extra \$\$
12/6/2015	The city has had a tax increase every year I lived here and service level reductions or additional increases on pay per use. It won't be long until I leave for a municipality that does not burden its citizens each year.

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

12/6/2015	<p>In fairness, I applaud this novel approach. For the first time since my wife and I moved to Barrie 11 years ago this has been the only outreach / consultation other than Ward-by-Ward Town Halls (and these only started eight years ago). My only experience with "attempted" contact with residential, commercial and industrial property tax payers has been a newsletter effort by Alex Nuttall that stopped in his second term. A major component missing in this novel approach is the lack of a "report card" on the "Budget versus Actuals" for the previous budget year. Only by seeing what was achieved or missed, with an explanation, gives any taxpayer a reference point for judging the future needs of our City. This whole effort would have been more effective if it had come from each Councillor to his/her constituents by pre-paid post (in a mail drop). At this point you are assuming everyone is computer literate, reads our local newspaper announcements by the City and/or subscribes to Access Barrie.</p>
12/10/2015	<p>If you want more people visiting Barrie and spending their \$\$\$ here - you need to work with all levels of government and increase the GO Train schedule. As of now it is useless due to the extremely limited time schedule.</p>
12/12/2015	<p>My reduction is the Roads Maintenance budget should apply specifically to snow clearance of both roads and sidewalks. I would leave it at existing levels if it were shared with clearance on side streets. We hear snowploughs blading 3 or 4 times in a night (in each direction) which is unnecessary. The sidewalk ploughs seem to have a minimum time they are out whether it's needed or not. They plow up grass that is usually repaired at the expense of the homeowner. We are out two and three plus times a day clearing the rills from our driveway from ploughs that are not co-ordinated. People in our neighbourhood pay approximately \$400/year to clear their driveways, largely as a result of Barrie road maintenance and the weight of the brine thrown up. How about increasing the budget, committing to blade so driveways are not filled in and we'll finance it out of what we are paying privately.</p> <p>I have never had children and have no problem paying for society's children to be educated. I do suggest parents can continue to fund their own childrens' out of school activities. I also am tired of seeing this budget presented with the most vulnerable populations (i.e. seniors) listed as the result of any budget cut. I have been pleased to see a decrease in bureaucracy in this department and certainly hope the administrative overhead has been decreased.</p> <p>I would suggest that the waste management calendar has long outlived its usefulness. The number of yard waste bags out when pickup goes to bi-monthly should suggest that to anyone actually driving on Barrie streets. Use web-based resources and street signs on major arteries instead.</p> <p>I don't believe Barrie should be using taxpayers money to fund any events. If they're worth doing, private sponsors will step up. Let's stop pretending Barrie is anything but a sports town.</p> <p>My comments make me sound completely right wing. However, I would be willing to pay tax increases even above the amount mandated by City Council to fix incompetence and dishonesty in the administration of City departments, to fix infrastructure and to support the City's service partners - specifically Barrie Public</p>

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

	<p>Library which is probably the most used facility in this city and the County of Simcoe for social services.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to present my opinions.</p>
12/14/2015	<p>My property taxes keep going up but my income doesn't.</p> <p>Please do not increase property taxes or you will drive me out of my house</p> <p>Especially do not increase the police budget. Police are way over staffed and over payed.</p>
12/15/2015	<p>Its time to get back to the basics. Luxury items are a thing of the past. Treat the budget like you would if you were laid off, oh right.... unionized workers... you get pay increases while the rest of the citizens get property tax increases.</p> <p>You know where I stand.</p>
12/16/2015	<p>Some of our roads in the east end and older parts of Barrie are in very poor condition. I am hopeful that maintaining and repairing these roads will not be forgotten as the City continues to expand into new development areas.</p>
12/16/2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harvie /Big Bay should be reassessed for need and the overpass should be further south where growth will be.</li> <li>2. Cultural department and Tourism department should be ended and let Chamber do the functions.</li> <li>3. New Years and other parties should be ended.</li> <li>4. Marina basin \$800K would not be spent on a city RV park so why on a marina that produces no income to off set costs. Private marinas are available. It is of limited if any tourism draw but a cheap cottage or traile /RV park in the city.</li> <li>5. The \$4 million on Memorial Square could be reduced. Fountains are not necessary except for the crowd attending to climb on. Moving the cenotaph is also costly and potentially be furteh from street level for the vets. Plenty of cost will be for water/sewer/ electrical.</li> <li>6. Heritage trail signs, really for what?</li> <li>7. Waterfront Center/ Spirit Catcher commercial center again for what reason? Not wanted not needed by public polls. Open space is the champion for the waterfront.</li> <li>8. Council should determine needs over wants.</li> </ol>
12/18/2015	<p>Our police services do an exceptional job handling emergency / rapid response work. However, take a hard look at the resources used to provide traffic based service with an eye to outsourcing much of this. Remove all pay duty through the police services and reallocate to private sector contracting. City should continue to set standards for what must have appropriate signage/security/escort but remove themselves from the provision of these services which would be better met through the private sector. Tying up assets with highly educated / paid police is too expensive. We could put more security trained social assistance on the streets to replace 'community policing' for lower cost.</p>

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

12/20/2015	Hold off with the changes at the Heritage Park, Get a better estimate for the interior Allendale Station (8 month and 3.5% Mill ludicrous, for the interior of an restaurant and some smaller busnisses) and look at the police budget. How many officers are on the sunshine list? On so many others unimportant projects, why not wait until the city gets the promised infrastrucutr funds for road improvements and free funds for other city plans.
12/22/2015	Bear Creek Park needs better maintenance. Park is frequently filled with garbage. Bear Creek Drive receives too much salt, sand and brine. Sidewalk is over plowed. Waist of money! Public transit needs reformed. Too many empty buses. Why do we send 3 fire trucks to minor collisions. Seriously? More traffic cops are needed. People drive like idiots in Barrie.
12/22/2015	Emergency services spending is crippling the province. I believe with modern day technology in our buildings and the rules around fire codes in these buildings, that fires relevancy should be disappearing. I would probably be cheaper to the tax payer to let buildings just burn to the ground and pay to rebuild them opposed to paying people 100k a year just to be seen driving a 500k truck around town. Let paramedics take care of the first response and go to a volunteer service Our infrastructure needs major attention let's focus on that.
12/22/2015	Barrie's infrastructure is falling to pieces in many areas of the city while millions of dollars have been wasted on moving Lakeshore Drive. Fire and Paramedic services should not be cut, but Barrie Police Service is over paid with poor response times if they show up at all after repeated calls requesting assistance, unless you are a bar owner in downtown Barrie. Culture and recreation programs should not be cut. The City of Barrie has one of the highest fee rates in Ontario for renting soccer and baseball sports fields, has been hitting sports clubs with a surcharge for years that was meant to be a temporary charge to assist with creation of the Barrie Sports Complex, wants exorbitant rates for lighting fields and does not even include lining in their soccer field rates. Highway robbery.
12/22/2015	Would like to understand how Barrie is succeeding or failing to increase revenues with acquisition of new economic development business.
12/23/2015	Culture is completely under resourced. Residents are getting a great deal at this point in time, many special events, public art, film industry opportunities, arts organizations support, 2 theatres running at capacity with a skeleton staff - they need to realize that the arts drives the economy and if they don't increase funding to this area they are missing a golden opportunity and will be seen as dinosaurs in comparison to other municipalities that have figured this out.

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

12/23/2015	It is simple, Cut the Barrie Police! With our declining population, decrease in crime rate AND the "bad apples" on the force, they deserve a DECREASE. We pay enough for PAST increases to take care of roads, recreation and parks. YOU just have to do the RIGHT thing and SPEND the money rather than use it for pet projects like moving lakeshore back, which with the pay parking scam, has cost us a LOT. I would sell off the Collier parkade. It is a waste and is a drain! Get rid of paid parking period. It will boost the local economy and you do not have to have staff (which is a huge cost) to give out "tickets"/tax collecting. Just a few things like this would help Barrie tremendously
12/23/2015	I set the wrong email. Its time to CUT the Barrie police. Given our decreasing population and the damage caused by "bad apples " on the force. They need a decrease! We pay enough taxes already for parks and recreation to be maintained as well for our roads and given that we have gone to two weeks for garbage pickup there is no excuses to increase that cost. What needs to be done is that the money NEEDS to go where it is supposed to! Actually FIX the roads, not misuse it for pet projects like moving lakeshore back which has cost us in lost revenue! Get rid of paid parking! Thanks to the paid parking scam we have lost a massive amount of tourists since its implementation and now, ironically, we again have to pay for that loss! No. Make it free so it will help the local economy and we don't have to pay meter maids (labor) which is a huge unnecessary drain! Sell the colliour parkade. Even at a loss it is better than it sitting on our budget creating a heavy drain on our city. We don't actually need much change, but the positive change we DO make could make a great big difference!
12/24/2015	Please ensure parks and trails are protected and water quality is maintained or improved. Being able to swim in the lake and watch the waterfowl and fish is an asset to living in Barrie and I have concerns about reduced water quality from development, road salting, etc.
12/27/2015	Eliminate libraries & culture grants. Reverse road narrowing. Water capacity looks excessive - coax Innisfil to use to cover high fixed costs
1/2/2016	A 5% reduction is easy to find by simply reducing waste. We should all be trying to be as efficient as possible these days, and share the savings with the residents. Keep up the good work!
1/5/2016	Good luck. This does not seem like an easy job. Overall I am happy with where my tax dollars are spent although I do think that we need to invest more in Green Infrastructure to reflect the reality of Climate Change.
1/5/2016	Investing into culture will be one of the most important pro-active decisions the City could make. It is why I came to this community and why it will encourage me to stay.
1/5/2016	Police budget exceeds those of equally sized communities all over Ontario. That is the first place where cuts should be occurring.



## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

1/5/2016	<p>Although I appreciate Barrie Council's desire to consult with residents on 2016 budget decisions, I feel that the average citizen does not have a thorough understanding of all the issues, ramifications of the departmental decisions nor the long-term planning skills necessary to ensure that Barrie is well-positioned to meet future challenges. Consequently, my survey response is less than helpful as I feel I am not well-enough informed. No resident wishes to spend more money; however, if residents clearly understood the issues we currently face, they might very well agree that raising taxes is, perhaps not desirable, but most definitely necessary. Budgeting is a difficult process, but, even more so, in challenging times. I would hope that Council will exercise prudence, but also consider the importance of long-term planning in order to ensure that we do not miss opportunities to strengthen the city's future prospects. It would be a simple matter to hold or decrease budget lines in order to satisfy immediate tax concerns. If we completely ignore the need for improved infrastructure and for creating a livable, walkable city that possesses strong connected communities, we do a disservice to future generations of Barrie residents. I wish Council the best of luck in grappling with the difficult 2016 budget process. My hope is that this Council will have the foresight and thoughtfulness to make decisions that will have a positive long-term influence.</p>
1/5/2016	Fix the roads in Barrie they are beyond atrocious!!!!
1/6/2016	<p>Between the outlandish sprawl and lack of walkable options near the transit hubs in town, or most anywhere in the core the zoning laws need to be relaxed BIG TIME. When a car becomes less a luxury and more a necessity for basic groceries, coffee shops, gyms, shopping, etc... it leads to useless congestion, expanded footprints for parking, and overall less safe and friendly neighbourhoods. Townhouses that house hundreds but are unable to have a convenience store built nearby?? Ridiculous</p>
1/6/2016	<p>Everyone does their job and not those of others. Keep the spending in line and be a Beacon of economic responsibility in this messed up province. Support community involvement with the parks and trees.</p>
1/6/2016	<p>Barrie is a Great City! Some areas need attention, obviously, but that isn't always necessarily addressed with more \$\$ Better management of the city's resources and current contracts etc. overall and greater attention to the best yield for the \$\$ could (should) assist this vibrant city greatly! Happy New Year !</p>
1/6/2016	Spray parks and other public places with weed killer. Our city is a disgrace
1/6/2016	Busses need a LOT of work. Longer service hours, reliable texting/app service, ect.
1/6/2016	Homeowner at 233 Cardinal St. Keep up the good work, Barrie taxes are reasonable and small increases are always necessary. Thank you
1/6/2016	<p>Unfortunately some previous Councils didn't spend or raise taxes. We are moving in a good direction, we need to spend to keep this city great. Please do not be afraid of raising taxes. 0% increase is ridiculous and not financially responsible.</p>

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

1/6/2016	We pay SO much in taxes and I don't think the recreation services are nearly as good as in cities with similar sizes/demographics. If your going to charge so much please keep investing in things that make commuting families continue to want to call Barrie HOME! For example, PARK SPACES badly need updating across the city....Why do we only have one splash pad? We should have one in each borough. As most don't use the beach during peak times because it is full of tourists. So do what you can to offer places for families that live here to actually use. As of right now, with house prices so high its easy for us commuters to move to other communities that are beginning to be a lot more family friendly.
1/6/2016	It's becoming very expensive to live in this city where there are minimal career opportunities locally resulting in hours of commuting each day. The benefits are being lost - would be nice to see our hard earned tax dollars put to use responsibly and where needed.
1/6/2016	I would like to see my tax dollars spent by creating the harvie road overpass. South end congestion is out of control.
1/6/2016	It would be awesome to have a library drop box in the southwest end (Holly Rec?). That way residents could just drop books in the box and library staff could pick them up once or twice a week. We could also use another splashpad. The Lampton Ln one is GREAT! But there is a ton of traffic there and the city could use another one. Lots of folks driving south (Thorton/Cookstown) to use theirs and taking some of their \$\$ with them and spending it at businesses outside of Barrie... just a thought.
1/6/2016	Maintain most spending and keep the purse strings tight for the moment. Money is tight everywhere and for everyone globally. Interest rates and utility rates are on the rise, and with the loonie falling even more and our economy doing poor, lets be smart and save a little money this year and reevaluate in 12 months. It's one of those save now and spend a little later type of years. Small boosts to spending will now make any positive impacts right now, and people are not in the position to pay more at this very moment.
1/6/2016	More funds to seniors programs.
1/6/2016	Do something about the smell at the lake front from the waste water treatment and stop dumping money into the already 12 years of never ending Lake front changes. It used to be nice and didn't stink.
1/6/2016	It's projected to be a tough year (2016) let's be conservative and spend like its our own personal budget.
1/6/2016	I currently am happy with the level of services provided by the city. Recently, I have read that we have the safest city in Canada. I didn't notice a budget line for policing. Is that seperate from this budget? I know that salaries increase in every department but if we are doing a great job already I am assuming we will not have to hire more staff for the police department.
1/6/2016	I would like to see improvements in our parks with such things as more benches and picnic tables. More shade trees and splash pads.
1/6/2016	The city employee budget must be curtailed; automatic and retroactive raises for unqualified employees results in a drain on other areas. The continued acquiescence of councils to continually add to employee salaries is irresponsible. If someone doesn't appreciate their pay rate, they are welcome to find work in the private sector. Public sector jobs shouldn't be about padding your retirement or termination bonuses

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

1/6/2016	We have seen property tax levels increase yearly for too many years. We need a break. Services haven't improved enough to warrant the increase.
1/6/2016	I'd like every week garbage pick up ! :o
1/6/2016	Please don't cut sidewalk clearing
1/6/2016	I know it's a difficult job, but the City of Barrie's staffers and elected officials do great work! Still the best city in Ontario to live in. I'm proud of my home town!
1/6/2016	Need more consistent property taxes across the city. Why am I paying that much more living in the SE end than anywhere else?
1/6/2016	I'd love to see a better initiative for at risk youth - evidence shows catching at risk youth early, and giving them a place to feel welcome in the community, reduces crime and violence. Glasgow in Scotland had an amazing program in place to reduce city wide violence and crime rates - and they focused on youth initiatives primarily.
1/6/2016	If we are not proactive and continue to invest in our infrastructure the long term effects will prove to be costly. Improvements to recreational facility and programming provides increased affordable access to recreational opportunities for all residents and supports a healthy community.
1/6/2016	I think tax dollars should be spent on more classes at the rec centre and maybe lowering our overall taxes me pay! It's getting very expensive to live in Barrie.
1/6/2016	I have no problem with a tax increase to improve services. Especially services that could save us money in the long run like environmental services or transit.
1/6/2016	Loved the video explaining budget.
1/6/2016	More garbage bins are needed in parks and look at updating/replacing play equipment in some of the playgrounds, great job with the one at Sunnidale now what about the south end!
1/6/2016	Don't hold the City back by not asking for enough for tax payers. It's time to grow-up as a community.
1/6/2016	Environment is my most important cause. Increase funds for anything that saves it.
1/6/2016	I would like to see money spent on an audit of staff roles and city services. Inefficiencies can cause a huge financial burden on any organization. Barrie taxes are high compared to the surrounding communities. I believe, at least some of, these costs could be reduced by looking at internal processes, services and staff to see where we can operate more efficiently.
1/6/2016	I know that these are hard decisions, I would advise caution in most areas so as not to overburden your taxpayers, but somethings just need to be done to improve the Barrie experience overall.
1/6/2016	I suspect there are a number of technical jobs that unnecessarily overlap responsibilities, which contributes to an increase in inefficiencies, a lack of cohesiveness, a decrease in acceptance of responsibility, and ultimately a significant amount of wasted money.
1/6/2016	We need tighter controls over running the departments. If we are going to outsource the work to contractors, we have to be super vigilant in ensuring the contractor is meeting our expectations. This requires due diligence and clear communication. Automate what we can.
1/6/2016	After seeing that it is an overall reduction of \$26 dollars per household, I would like to keep the firefighting services at par. Take any extra monies left over and please put it

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

	towards the interest on the water facility. Ty
1/6/2016	Please make sure proper audit policies are followed so no future theft/fraud of city funds takes place.
1/6/2016	I'd like to see more money invested in supporting local cultural/music/arts events and organizations like the Huronia Symphony.
1/6/2016	Feel we could go to every other week recycling like garbage. Also feel residents could maintain sidewalks & community gardens in neighbourhood. Think meter parking should be reevaluated in dtwn. Cost to monitor must be. High % of revenue. Also believe the city could engage and empower more community groups to work with the city on common public initiatives (parks, environmental & others). Thank you council for creating a great city to live, work & play!
1/6/2016	Stop spending money on fire hall museums and add more paramedics. We need people who are fully trained for medical emergencies. Not firefighters with a quickie course. Also stop fire from eating tax dollars on extra gas for driving to the grocery store during shifts. Bring meals like everyone else does for work.
1/6/2016	Invest money toward affordable housing
1/6/2016	We need to be exercising fiscal restraint. We don't need the best of everything. A modest approach to spending is important.
1/6/2016	I think our main focus should be on traffic and how to better improve road ways and how to allocate traffic in more effectively. Also there are volunteers who work on ice rinks in winter this is a great way to save money and keep the children and adults busy and active. How about a plan for summer maybe volunteers across differnt parks in Barrie hold differnt simple activities in the summer that will get kids making new friends that will not cost the city much money and provide everyone with equal opportunity to do something with there children to get them more active and trying something new. We need to be creative when it comes to the budget and priotize what is most important and cost and move from there i think if people saw an improvement on mapleview for instance they would be happier than feeling like nothing got done because we split the budget it up to accomplish lots. of tasks. Lets keep everything that is not broken the same if it works why change it. Lets fix our biggest completes from our residents and focus on what we can fix now.
1/6/2016	Decrease in taxes.
1/6/2016	Spend more wisely. Pick roads that NEED it most. Avoid rework. Cut administrative costs. Increase income in other ways than taxes
1/6/2016	We need to bring our community together.
1/6/2016	We need to get behind our city and start to do the right things, we need to decrease unemployment and implement some sort of standard for those abusing the system. A drug test would be a good start to stop those who abuse the welfare system and food banks etc.
1/6/2016	Please ensure our city develops as an inclusive place that provides safe housing opportunities for diverse needs, including those who need affordable housing and those who choose (for whatever reason) to live on the streets. As a resident and homeowner living in the downtown, I think it's very important to strike a balance between creating a place that is safe and enjoyable for everyone, including the homeless.

## 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATOR COMMENTS

1/6/2016	Investing in our infrastructure now will save in the future. Current council understands this and I hope they keep up with this trend; keep up the good work! Despite the various negativity from what I believe is a small number of people, I have seen positive changes in the way the City does business. Recreation programs and affordable and more accessible with the new monthly family pass. More work being done to improve quality of living (Lakeshore development, increasing the professional population living in our downtown core - this is how you bring business and "clean things up"). I'd like to see our downtown filled with multi purpose condo high rises.
1/6/2016	Culture (Maintain existing spend)Not the time to increase culture
1/6/2016	Environmental Operations (Maintain existing spend) - Have to always find better ways to do things that will not hurt the budget. Would love to increase this because the environmental responsibility is key to our future well being.
1/6/2016	Parks & Forestry (Decrease spending 5%) - I have a hard time with this one considering our reputation but this is not something essential. We are a beautiful city that has not reached its potential.
1/6/2016	Recreation (Maintain existing spend) - I have a young family and the services are used and appreciated.
1/6/2016	Roads (Maintain existing spend) - Would love to increase it because of geography and age but it is a budget.
1/6/2016	Transit (Decrease spending 5%) – Is it cost effective? To riders get value for service? Does the taxpayers dollars coming in use these services enough to justify the cost? Hard to give an answer that really considers all parties, but decreasing it is my choice. Hopefully the kinks in the new format have been resolved.