

January 21, 2016

[REDACTED]

Attention: [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

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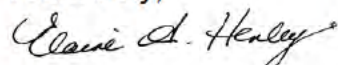
On January 20, 2016 the City of St. John's received your request for access to the following information:

*"I would like to obtain all email correspondence between the Mayor of St. John's and the Deputy Mayor of St. John's from December 1st, 2015 to December 15th, 2015."*

Enclosed is the information you requested. As the provision of the information constitutes full disclosure, we now consider this matter completed and will be closing the file.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned by telephone at 576-8202 or by e-mail: [ehenley@stjohns.ca](mailto:ehenley@stjohns.ca).

Yours truly,



Elaine A. Henley  
City Clerk

Enclosures

**ST. JOHN'S**



**Re: Council Pension by law**  
**Ron Ellsworth** to: Neil Martin  
Cc: Dennis O'Keefe

2015/12/01 03:16 PM

So any pass councillor can run and if elected can go into the db plan ? Anytime?  
But any returning staff can't

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 1, 2015, at 1:08 PM, Neil Martin <[NMartin@stjohns.ca](mailto:NMartin@stjohns.ca)> wrote:

Dennis/Ron:

As a follow up to our conversation regarding the pension status of a "previous" Councillor being elected in the upcoming by-election, Kevin has put together the attached analysis. The bottom line is that unless they have already opted out of the DB plan, they are entitled to choose that option upon their return. Our alternative would be to request that they opt out of the DB plan and enroll in the DC plan. I think the outcome of that request would depend upon who gets elected.

Neil

Neil A. Martin  
City Manager  
City of St. John's  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John's, NL  
A1C 5M2  
Phone: (709) 576-8446  
Fax: (709) 576-8474  
e-mail: [nmartin@stjohns.ca](mailto:nmartin@stjohns.ca)

----- Forwarded by Neil Martin/CSJ on 2015/12/01 12:43 PM -----

From: Kevin Breen/CSJ  
To: Neil Martin/CSJ@CSJ  
Date: 2015/11/30 11:26 AM  
Subject: Council Pension by law

---

As requested, I have had a look at the by-law with respect to former members of Council who held office prior to October 7th, 2013 and who may be re-elected to Council in the future. The question is would a returning Councillor, who had been entitled to a pension under the bylaw before leaving Council, be permitted to resume pensionable service for the purposes of receiving a pension. (full bylaw found here....

<http://www.stjohns.ca/city-hall/about-city-hall/laws-and-regulations>)

Section 2 of the bylaw states as follows:

***2) (i) Persons  
subject to this  
By-Law may opt  
out of its  
provisions by  
giving notice to  
the City Clerk on  
October 7, 2013;***

***(ii) Persons who  
choose to opt out  
of this By-Law  
on October 7,  
2013, shall not  
be able to choose  
to be subject to  
this By-Law at a  
later date and  
shall receive no  
credit for service  
accumulated  
pursuant to the  
terms of this  
By-Law.  
(Amended  
07/08/2013;  
#1568)***

So, any returning  
Councillor who  
gave notice as  
stated in section 2  
above would not  
be permitted to  
gain further  
service in the

"Plan".

Section 6.2 below  
contemplates a  
returning  
Councillor (who  
has not given  
notice under  
section 2)  
continuing to earn  
service under the  
bylaw.....

***6. (1) A pension shall be paid bi-weekly, commencing the week following which the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor, having attained the age of 55 years, leaves office. For persons who leave office and have not attained the age of 55 years, pension shall commence upon such person attaining the age of 55 years.***

***(2)  
Notwithstanding  
the foregoing a***

*pension paid  
under section  
6(1) shall be  
suspended should  
the person in  
receipt of same  
become a member  
of Council and  
shall remain  
suspended until  
such time as the  
person is no  
longer a member  
of Council.*

*(3) Pension  
payable to a  
person whose  
pension is  
reinstated  
following a  
suspension under  
section 6(2) shall  
be based upon  
total Council  
service and  
calculated based  
upon the base  
annual salary in  
section 5 herein.  
(Amended  
11/06/09; #1531)*

Regardless of age  
and whether or  
not they are  
receiving a  
pension when they  
leave, my reading

**of the bylaw**  
**would allow a**  
**returning**  
**Councillor to**  
**participate in the**  
**"Plan", accrue**  
**additional**  
**service and**  
**receive pension**  
**benefits when**  
**they reach age**  
**55, or receive**  
**additional**  
**benefits if they**  
**are 55 or older.**

(my emphasis  
added - NM)

Any questions let  
me know.

Kevin.

Kevin Breen,  
Associate City Manager  
City of St. John's  
P.O. Box 908  
A1C 5M2  
(709) 576-8213



**Re: Election signs along PARKWAY and also Logy Bay Road**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: [REDACTED]

Cc: Ron Ellsworth

2015/12/02 08:42 PM

I hope so also!

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 2, 2015, at 12:08 PM, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote:

Hope they get removed before the snow storm! !



**Re: Seniors Outreach Program - Christmas Party, Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., Foran/Greene Room, City Hall**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: Susan Perry

2015/12/02 09:28 PM

Cc: Council\_group, Tanya Haywood, Heather Hickman, Karen Sherriffs, Crystal Barron

Susan

As always, I will be there!

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 1, 2015, at 2:33 PM, Susan Perry <[SPerry@stjohns.ca](mailto:SPerry@stjohns.ca)> wrote:

His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council,

The annual Seniors Outreach Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the Foran/Greene Room, City Hall. Entertainment will be provided by Stan the Man, and meal services will be from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We hope you are available to drop by after the meal service to celebrate the holiday season with seniors in the Seniors Outreach Program.

Susan Perry/for  
Tanya Haywood  
Deputy City Manager  
Community Services





**Ron Ellsworth** to: Dennis O'Keefe, Neil Martin

2015/12/04 04:13 PM

Got a call from the telegram saying art sent a eMail saying he couldn't support the mill rate increase. I assume they mean to counsel I haven't seen anything

Sent from my iPhone



**Re:**  
**Dennis O'Keefe** to: Ron Ellsworth  
Cc: Neil Martin

2015/12/04 04:37 PM

I just got a call from Jonathan. Apparently he released a statement on the Budget! I am waiting to see what it said!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 4, 2015, at 4:13 PM, Ron Ellsworth <rellsworth@stjohns.ca> wrote:

>

> Got a call from the telegram saying art sent a eMail saying he couldn't support the mill rate increase. I assume they mean to counsel I haven't seen anything

>

> Sent from my iPhone



**Re:**  
**Ron Ellsworth** to: Dennis O'Keefe  
Cc: Neil Martin

2015/12/04 04:47 PM

We need to find a way to deal with release of information from our private meetings .

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 4, 2015, at 4:37 PM, Dennis O'Keefe <DOKeefe@stjohns.ca> wrote:

>

> I just got a call from Jonathan. Apparently he released a statement on the Budget! I am waiting to see what it said!

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Dec 4, 2015, at 4:13 PM, Ron Ellsworth <rellsworth@stjohns.ca> wrote:

>>

>> Got a call from the telegram saying art sent a eMail saying he couldn't support the mill rate increase. I assume they mean to counsel I haven't seen anything

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone



**Dennis O'Keefe** to: Council\_group

2015/12/04 08:32 PM

Colleagues

In view of the violation of Budget confidentiality and the undermining of staff confidence in Council which took place today, I would ask all Councillors to refrain from comment or speculation on the Budget. Please refer any inquiries from media to either myself, as Mayor, or Councillor Galgay, as Chair of Finance. Your can be assured that our comments will respect the confidential nature of the Budget process and Special Meetings!.

Dennis

Sent from my iPad



**Re: Tweet by The Telegram on Twitter**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: Tom Hann

2015/12/04 08:35 PM

Jonathan Galgay, Ron Ellsworth, Neil Martin, Dave Lane, Kevin  
Cc: Breen, Derek G Coffey, Bruce Tilley, Sandy Hickman, Danny Breen,  
Susan Bonnell, Kelly Maguire

---

Indeed! And a violation of the Budget process, undermining of staff confidence, and the confidence of Special Meetings!

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 4, 2015, at 6:12 PM, Tom Hann <[THann@stjohns.ca](mailto:THann@stjohns.ca)> wrote:

This is very unfortunate details of the budget are out there

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 4, 2015, at 4:58 PM, Jonathan Galgay <[jgalgay@stjohns.ca](mailto:jgalgay@stjohns.ca)> wrote:

<b>The Telegram (<a href="https://twitter.com/StJohnsTelegram">@StJohnsTelegram</a>)</b>
<a href="#">2015-12-04, 4:14 PM</a> Councillor won't support St. John's budget, say taxes going up too much - <a href="http://ow.ly/Vvd8t">ow.ly/Vvd8t</a> <a href="https://pic.twitter.com/mWVUhR0HRe">pic.twitter.com/mWVUhR0HRe</a>

[Download](#) the Twitter app

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Jonathan P. Galgay  
Councillor, Ward 2  
City of St. John's  
[\(709\) 576 7144](tel:(709)5767144)



**Re: 2016 Assessment of Residential Property**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: [REDACTED]  
Cc: "dbreen@stjohn.ca", "citycouncil@stjohns.ca"

2015/12/06 03:41 PM

Hi Ron

Thank you for your email! I understand your chagrin and frustration with your assessment and I am delighted to hear you will appeal it! We have pressuring the last government and will continue with this one to develop a new fiscal arrangement which will allow us to move away from our reliance property tax. We have long recognized that it is a regressive and inequitable tax. I will be meeting with Premier Ball and this and other issues of importance to the City in January. In the meantime As Council considers its Budget rest assured that we will try to reduce the mil rate as much as we can to minimize the increase in assessments . All the best and have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year

Dennis

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 6, 2015, at 2:11 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Danny and Councillors,

I am sure you have been getting grief from residents over their latest tax assessment so I would like to add my voice to the group.

I live at [REDACTED] in the East Point Landing Subdivision off Logy Bay Road. Our house was built in 2006 and is one of the smallest in the subdivision with a floor area of 1097 ft<sup>2</sup>. It has no garage, no fancy sheds, no granite countertops, spa etc., just a basic house. Most houses in my area are two story with garages and much more fancier amenities.

Needless to say I was a bit shocked when my assessment went from \$250,800 to \$360,700 an increase of \$109,900 (43.8%). Doing the math and using the present mil rate of 8.1, this results in an \$890 yearly increase in my taxes. Based upon the way the assessment system works this additional tax would be carried forward for the next 3 years even though the price of houses may decrease. It should be noted that I doubt very much that we could get the January 2014 assessed value of our house which would basically have us paying taxes on a house that is not worth the assessed value. To further add to this any potential buyers that get a whiff of the Robin Hood Bay dump at times and the potential for radioactive material to be stored in the area would definitely not buy in the area.

As you can see this is a substantial increase to our taxes and as a pensioner on a fixed pension this is somewhat of shock.

I will be appealing this assessment but as a council you have to lower the mil rate even though I suspect it will never be low enough to address the 44% increase in mine. Council has to look into a different way of taxation because as it now stands, residents like my wife and myself who have no intention of moving are being hit with additional taxes because of other people buying overinflated houses in my area. This problem has been in existence for years so council is well aware of the burden it has placed on long term residents who happen to live in a sought out area, resulting in some residents having to move because of the taxes.

Also, council should reconsider how they charge water tax. A lump sum is not fair to residents like myself where we have only 2 people in our house whereas some homes could have 5 or 6 residents, so obviously water use is much higher resulting in residents like myself subsidizing other water users. I have had a water meter in my house since 2007 under the city's water usage study and it is beyond me why council doesn't require water meters in new homes. The cost would be minimal and even if a metering system wasn't started right away at least the city would have been ahead of the game in this area. The city is so far behind when it comes to water metering versus other Canadian cities it is shameful. The city managed to implement a very complex Cross Connection Control program so I don't understand this ongoing delay of bringing in water meters. Council must find the POLITICAL will in this matter also so water taxes can be fair to everybody. Can you image if NL Power charged flats rates.

I thank all of your consideration in these matters and if you have any comments I would most welcome them.





**Re: Property Assessment for 2016**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Ron Ellsworth, "jgalway@stjohns.ca", Bruce Tilley

2015/12/08 03:29 PM

Hi [REDACTED]

I understand the circumstances for you and we will reduce the mil as much as we can. You should also appeal your assessment! It is a simple process.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 8, 2015, at 1:13 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> My name is [REDACTED]. I live at [REDACTED]. My property assessment has gone from [REDACTED] an increase of 35%. My wife and I are 65 years old. We live on a fixed income. When considering the mill rate for 2016, you must consider the circumstances of people like us. We just can't afford an increase in our taxes.

>

> Regards,

> [REDACTED]





**Re: E-Poll Kiwanis Music Festival - Request for Conitnued Sponsorship -  
Senior Rose Bowl Award**

**Ron Ellsworth** to: Jonathan Galgay  
Cc: Kathy Driscoll, Council\_group

2015/12/09 05:55 PM

Agreed

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 9, 2015, at 12:51 PM, Jonathan Galgay <[jgalgay@stjohns.ca](mailto:jgalgay@stjohns.ca)> wrote:

I would suggest we defer this until the budget has been presented.

---

Jonathan P. Galgay  
Councillor, Ward 2  
City of St. John's  
[\(709\) 576 7144](tel:(709)5767144)

On Dec 9, 2015, at 12:45 PM, Kathy Driscoll <[KDriscoll@stjohns.ca](mailto:KDriscoll@stjohns.ca)> wrote:

Please see attached decision note.

Council approval is required for a funding request for continued sponsorship of the Kiwanis Music Festival - Senior Rose Bowl Award.

Please advise if you are agreeable to this request.

Thanks,

Kathy

*(See attached file: Kiwanis Rose Bowl.docx)*  
<Kiwanis Rose Bowl.docx>



**Re: Sponsoring Syrian Refugees**  
**Ron Ellsworth** to: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Dennis O'Keefe

2015/12/09 06:32 PM

We have a internal working group established and are working with association for new Canadiens to see how we can best support .

I don't see us directly sponsoring one family , but supporting a process to support a community supporting the families .

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 9, 2015, at 1:42 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Mayor O'Keefe and Deputy Mayor Ellsworth,  
I an emailing to follow up from my previous message (below) about supporting Syrian refugees. Do you think the City would be open to formally sponsoring some? I think it would be a wonderful way to show support, especially when other Canadian and Newfoundland municipalities are doing so.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.



**Re: Sponsoring Syrian Refugees**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: [REDACTED]

Cc: Ron Ellsworth

Bcc: Janet Adams

2015/12/09 09:27 PM

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your interest in the Syrian refugee issue! For the past few months we have been working with the Association of New Canadians and the LIP to bring Syrian refugees to St. John's. It is an integrated approach so that when refugees arrive the supports will be in place to ensure their blending into the community over time! I have been in touch with the federal minister in this regard and have assured him of the city's full cooperation. Thank you again for your interest in a joint humanitarian effort.

Dennis

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 9, 2015, at 1:42 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Mayor O'Keefe and Deputy Mayor Ellsworth,

I am emailing to follow up from my previous message (below) about supporting Syrian refugees. Do you think the City would be open to formally sponsoring some? I think it would be a wonderful way to show support, especially when other Canadian and Newfoundland municipalities are doing so.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.



**Ron Ellsworth** to: Neil Martin, Dennis O'Keefe, Kevin Breen

2015/12/10 07:20 PM

Can't make tomorrow . Coaching gonzaga girls in provincial tournament .  
Thanks

Sent from my iPhone



**Re: Regular Council Agenda for December 14, 2015**

**Ron Ellsworth** to: Karen Chafe

Cc: Council\_group, Jacquie Clarkedean, Lynnann Winsor, Bill MacDonald, Stephen Fagan

2015/12/12 08:22 AM

OK with me

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 11, 2015, at 3:38 PM, Karen Chafe <KChafe@stjohns.ca> wrote:

>

> Hello Mayor and Councillors:

>

> Included in Monday's regular agenda is the Police & Traffic Committee Report of December 8, 2015.

> Given the length of time that will be taken up by the budget discussion, it is suggested that the P&T Report be deferred to the January 4, 2016 meeting. If Council is in agreement with this, a motion to defer will be required accordingly.

>

> Thanks and have a great weekend.

>

>

> Karen Chafe

> Supervisor of Legislative Services

> City Clerk's Department

> City of St. John's

> PO Box 908

> St. John's, NL A1C 5M2

> work: (709) 576-8619

> fax: (709) 576-8474

> www.stjohns.ca



**Re: Snow clearing and damage**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: [REDACTED]

Cc: Wally Collins, Sandy Hickman, Ron Ellsworth

2015/12/13 03:15 PM

[REDACTED]

I age seen it along Topsail! Am having it looked into. Thanks

Dennis

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 13, 2015, at 12:03 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Hi folks,

>

> Following last week's snow fall and subsequent meltdown I can't help but notice the incredible amount of damage done to lawns in the west end of the city. I live on Ashbourne Drive and the leftover sods up and down Richmond Hill are really extraordinary. I've also noticed it on Waterford Bridge Road near Corpus Christi and the Waterford. Are the operators not paying attention? I understand that some damage is likely through the winter but my assessment is this is not normal. (And while I'm not usually cynical, I do wonder if its a passive job action??). I'd appreciate some feedback

>

> Thank you and kind regards,

>

> [REDACTED]

>

> [REDACTED]

> St. John's

>

>

>



**Re: New mil rate**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: [REDACTED]

Cc: "citycouncil@stjohns.ca"

2015/12/14 08:44 PM

Hi [REDACTED]

We did! We cut 30 million dollars off the budget!

Sent from my iPad

> On Dec 14, 2015, at 8:37 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

>

> Simple. 15% increase in assessments. 3.7% decrease in mil rate. Hmm, almost 12 % increase in taxes. Yes sir, that's about 4 years of raises for working people but did it in one year. How about you cut the out of control costs at city hall instead of just raising taxes.



**Re:**

**Ron Ellsworth** to: [REDACTED]

2015/12/14 09:26 PM

Dennis O'Keefe, Danny Breen, Jonathan Galgay, Bruce Tilley,  
Cc: Bernard Davis, Wally Collins, Tom Hann, Sandy Hickman, Dave  
Lane, Art Puddister

Based on the information you provide you should appeal your assessment .  
If you need any assistance doing so,let me know .  
Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2015, at 12:49 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

I'm not really sure what intelligence was used to calculate the property assessments this year,though I figure it was very little.My last assessment was at \$153,000 which was well above market value.We had a realstate guy tell us that he would list our house for \$159,000 so that he could hopefully get us \$149,000. The house next to us sold for \$140,00.The guy on the other side is looking at selling and is hoping to get at least \$100,000 for his. Another house,two story has been on the market for over a year,another that was on the market for over a year sold for \$129,000.So where are you getting your numbers from.Property values have dropped 3% this year and looking at another 2% drop in 2016.You are forcing people out of their homes.We have very little income now as my husband got sick last year and was forced to retire. With no work pension and very little coming in CPP ans OAS where do you expect people to find money to pay these over abundant taxes and for very little service.The market is flooded by houses for sale because the prices are too high,plus they know the taxes will kill them.New home construction is down by 21% because no one is buying. Cut a few salaries,cut the the work force that often shows a hole being dug while 8/10 men stand around with their hands in their packets watching,cut the private use of city machines,like people driving their kids to school or going to the bank in little green trucks.|Get your ticket people to get out of their machines and actually ticket offenders instead of looking as they drive by.Enforce the policies already on the books and fine if not followed.Look at Rotary Dr., it's like a getto,they park on their lawns,their garbage is all over the place.They have big old mobile homes parked there on a side street for months and it's not just there.On Mundy Pond Rd. there's a guy on the corner of Anthony/Mundy Pond who has a high end used car lot right on the street,another guy a few doors up parks this big old jeep with huge tires on his front lawn.That's only two examples, yet this has been the same for years and you do nothing about it.What about the people who put their garbage out the day before garbage day,start fining those and people who throw snow back onto the street after the plow goes by.There are several on this street,even one with a plow on his truck.Get out in the city and enforce the policies and fine those who do not follow,there you have a source of income but that requires someone to actually do some work.Take 4/5/6 of those looking down the hole and tell them to do this or look for employment elsewhere.As for cutting services,well that don't matter to us cause we get our garbage picked up once a week and that's about



it. We can run to the dump once a week if we had to and not be taxed! Fine instead of continuously warning commercial properties who don't maintain their properties. Like Gentara for example, how many times have you warned them to cut the grass and pick up the garbage around here? yet it takes till the last minute and then they don't come back anymore for a year while we get left with the garbage that comes from their property. Again only one example. I don't cover much of the city on a daily bases but in the little that I do travel I see so many things and I'd be willing to bet that some or maybe all of you guys would come back to me and say oh well we don't see that happening!! Like other than cruise ships and downtown do you guys realize that there's a big old city outside of those things. I guess you do once every four years when ya need votes. Well from what see and hear won't be much point in most of ye thinking about that next time round!! Thank God! Her's a new flash for you, the bottom has fallen out of the market, we put all our eggs in the oil basket. Hopefully it will come back but right now things are not looking very good dollar wise. So how can you or anyone expect people to keep the status quo while we wait? Lets say it comes back in two years 2018, will you set property values then on 2105? because that's what you are doing now. Your decisions make no sense, my house in 2014 was as I said above valued at \$149,00 by the people who actually know what they are talking about and the market. So far as that goes anyway my house is a small attached town house, no matter what we put into it or do to it it will still be a small attached town house. It will not grow up and become some swanky mansion. But I guess at the end of the day you will tap yourselves on the back knowing you are taking people's homes from them by taxing them to an amount that they can not afford. When we were in Atlantic Canada this past summer, we looked at the housing market there and many times in Nova Scotia and PEI saw homes that were quite a bit bigger and loads of land that were selling for much less than you are saying our house is worth. So again I ask where are you getting your numbers from. Give me \$171,00 for my house and I will sign the papers in a flash. You can't base one house on what another is, you can't set property assessments from behind a desk at city hall. This area with all the commercial unkept properties has become more like a dump site. We killed over 60 rats this past summer, some of them as big as our cats. What did the city do to help, you ignored us and increased the value of our property to suit your spending needs. Thanks!! And we still have rats, four legged ones I mean. You are way off the charts this time, but then you usually are. I bet all those unnecessary additions to downtown won't be affected but then isn't that how it goes, bullies always pick on the smaller guy. Hey how about a few dollars from the Mile One donation from my tax dollars got to help off set my property taxes or the convention center? Those are not things I will avail of but the guys with the big bucks will and I get to pay for it by you upping my property value to get more taxes. I gotta ask, how do you guys sleep at night?



**Re: Commercial property tax increase**

**Dennis O'Keefe** to: [REDACTED]

2015/12/15 09:48 PM

Cc: Ron Ellsworth, Danny Breen, Jonathan Galgay, Bruce Tilley, Wally Collins, Tom Hann, Sandy Hickman, Dave Lane, Art Puddister

[REDACTED]

I can take criticism but not the word "contempt." You have every right to disagree with those who voted for the Budget but to use the word contempt is insulting, demeaning and unconscionable and unacceptable. Those like I and seven other rational and intelligent individuals felt this Budget was the prudent, positive avenue for the city and would secure us a solid financial foundation for the next budget cycle. You have every right to disagree but to hold those people in "contempt" is unacceptable and an example of why it is so difficult to attract young talented and skilled people into political life. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Dennis

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 15, 2015, at 9:08 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

>

> This email is addressed with contempt to all Councillors, with the exception of Dave Lane, Art Puddister, and Sandy Hickman.

>

> To those who voted to have the commercial downtown property taxes increased by such an exorbitant amount, I have to express my discontent with your failure to consider the immediate impact that will have on small business owners in the downtown core. While it was stated that this decision to increase the commercial property taxes is linked to increases in property values across the City, as a whole, the Canadian housing and property markets are overvalued. As such, the assumption that we have increasing property values may be problematic as the basis for the decision to increase commercial taxes as these property values could very well burst in the upcoming years.

>

> Tourism is not built on Aberdeen Avenue, or Kelsey Drive, or any other shopping area that can be visited in any major city across North America.

>

> If we take away the ability for independent businesses to operate in our downtown core, we are removing the uniqueness and character of our City, and the destruction of same is a huge oversight, and practice in short sightedness.

>

> [REDACTED]

> Ward 2, Jonathan Galgay

>

>



**Re: Commercial property tax increase**  
**Ron Ellsworth** to: Dennis O'Keefe

2015/12/15 10:12 PM

Good job

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 15, 2015, at 9:48 PM, Dennis O'Keefe <DOKeefe@stjohns.ca> wrote:

>

> [REDACTED]

>

> I can take criticism but not the word "contempt." You have every right to disagree with those who voted for the Budget but to use the word contempt is insulting, demeaning and unconscionable and unacceptable. Those like I and seven other rational and intelligent individuals felt this Budget was the prudent, positive avenue for the city and would secure us a solid financial foundation for the next budget cycle. You have every right to disagree but to hold those people in "contempt" is unacceptable and an example of why it is so difficult to attract young talented and skilled people into political life. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

>

> Dennis

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Dec 15, 2015, at 9:08 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>> This email is addressed with contempt to all Councillors, with the exception of Dave Lane, Art Puddister, and Sandy Hickman.

>>

>> To those who voted to have the commercial downtown property taxes increased by such an exorbitant amount, I have to express my discontent with your failure to consider the immediate impact that will have on small business owners in the downtown core. While it was stated that this decision to increase the commercial property taxes is linked to increases in property values across the City, as a whole, the Canadian housing and property markets are overvalued. As such, the assumption that we have increasing property values may be problematic as the basis for the decision to increase commercial taxes as these property values could very well burst in the upcoming years.

>>

>> Tourism is not built on Aberdeen Avenue, or Kelsey Drive, or any other shopping area that can be visited in any major city across North America.

>>

>> If we take away the ability for independent businesses to operate in our downtown core, we are removing the uniqueness and character of our City, and the destruction of same is a huge oversight, and practice in short sightedness.

>>

>> [REDACTED]

>> [REDACTED]

>> Ward 2, Jonathan Galgay

>>

>>