

The Town has suggested the following as potential solutions to the budget shortfall:What is your preference?

no tax increase, but cut overtime and reduce unnecessary services

There are more ideas than these, like reducing the town staff spending on themselves and their perks.

Would also be nice to have a by-law dept that is both visible and actually enforces parking on side streets.

Perhaps a freeze on management salary might be in order to demonstrate leadership and encourage staff to find ways of reducing costs

we pay enough taxes,

re consider current expenditures enough with the tax hikes. The Town has seen massive increases in the number of units paying tax and has mismanaged the increased revenue from the growth. The town should levy substantial fees on properties being redeveloped on Davis Drive and Yonge Street over the coming years.

Perhaps the town should look at ways of cutting instead of increases taxes. Don't all the councilors also work as well -- do they really need to be making anything over 25K? The people of Newmarket are already taxed to death not only by our own Government but also the Federal & Provincial .. ENOUGH!!!

Your Facebook overview is misleading.

This survey is too vague to accurately choose. More explanation is required for item 1 and 2.

Enough with our high TAX , this town needs business and industry.

I don't understand how taxes keep going up and up these options are unacceptable. you expect residences to keep paying. lets see some cut backs with the mayor, staff, and other town offers give up some of there benefits and pay to lessen the cost on us

And/ or Freeze salaries, reduce salaries, increase user fees and add no new services.

Charge developers and builders for all their parking and bylaw infractions.

If you continue to slash services pretty soon the town will be left with nothing and if you think people are going to pay sky high taxes for absolute zero in return, you are in for a rude awakening.

Why would anyone want tax increase anyways. We know if we do go for a 2%or more we get screwed for services anyways so why vote for one and get 0?

How about increase efficiency with town staff.

We need to pay for the services we want and use. There's no magic money tree. If we want snow plowing, rinks, sports fields, recreation programs and a vibrant community, we need to be prepared to invest in these services.

More full time park staff is needed

Find efficiencies. There's no mention of which services might suffer but I'm sure there are some that could be looked at. People cannot afford a property tax increase. Hydro is already going through the roof.

With hydro and gas increase we cannot afford nor support another hike to the home owner.

Council wage freeze and wage cuts . Same for the Mayor.

what about the \$700,000 a year the theatre is losing? The staff are desperate for a web site but internal office politics is interfering with a simple \$5 a month web site to sell the theatre and the old town hall, The acts are booked but no one knows about them Era is a dead loss. \$300,000 plus town page in Era not necessary the town has a web site for the same material wasting money on a newspaper no one reads.

Other ideas for revenue and budget reduction.

Under the current mayor, we have always faced substantial tax increases each year of his mandate and quite frankly, I'm sick of it! It's no wonder there is a budget shortfall of \$1.6 million the way he spends. For example, look at the overspending on the new Old Town Hall. Decrease in services, Hah!, that's a joke. I'm lucky to see a plow in the worst storms this year.

They should also enforce homeowners' responsibility to shovel sidewalks and drive revenue that way.

They should be looking at running the town more efficient and not increase taxes at the expense of the taxpayer. We can not please every one. Raising taxes on fixed incomes is NOT the option.

How about lowering the mayor's salary!

Cut staff 10% and freeze taxes.

Find savings by reducing Supervisors and Managers and basically cutting back on hiring too much money going out for Public Works !! All these People Hired are not needed, just a few can do the Job.

The average homeowner does not get a 2.8% salary increase. A 4.8% increase in property taxes is irresponsible. It seem to me that no one is thinking about the impact of higher property taxes will have on the lower income families. There is a shortage of affordable housing in Newmarket. Higher property taxes will force landlords to hike rent.

The town should re evaluate its capital plan and reduce infrastructure spending until we can afford it. The town also should revitalize businesses list on David Drive because of lengthy construction. Do not decrease services to taxpayers- stop building expensive bus shelters.

They should cut expenses, they don't need as many staff, if you ride around town (or run) you really notice the staff we have, how many building do they need, there is only 85000 people living here,how come so many building for staff. Mangement has to chance the way they think and council cost of living 1.4 percent , no reason for them to start so high. They are a business , no reason they can't act like one and give top service

I would like to see less parking infraction revenue except during winter months (for snow clearing).

the Town needs to start looking at what stupid things we are paying for and ask the residents their opinions about whether we should do something that is not necessary and whether we should pay for it.

Sell overnight parking passes like the City of Toronto does

Delete jobs when personnel retire. Put a freeze on all new employment.

I think the Town should aim to have a balanced budget by next fiscal year and put together a plan to address the shortfall not simply by raising taxes but looking at new revenue streams and cutting back services if necessary. Moreover, an evaluation of the ROI of current services should be undertaken to ensure cost savings wherever possible.

I suggest they hire retired people to hand out tickets in high problem areas!!

None of the above suggest a reduction in discretionary spending. Parking fees as a major income source are comical and regressive. We want people downtown.

everything they have suggested is on the back of the resident. How about they freeze wages (which has been done in the private sector). Why are we sanding the sidewalks 5 days a week? Even when it doesn't snow. Reduce overtime by utilizing contractors who have been priced less than what town staff are paid.

There is a LOT of bi-law's, that are not enforced, but would be revenue producers. Parking, Off Leash dogs, trailers in driveways, sidewalks not shoveled, etc. In my opinion, we need more enforcement officers, who would pay for themselves and add revenue, in short order. The town waits for complaints, before enforcement. The officers should be able to act on their own. We pay a lot (too much) for bi laws to be written, and then they are not enforced?

Elimination of unnecessary services and staff would be a good start to gaining control of the budget.

Town should have USER fees

How did we get here????

Should the Town of Newmarket continue to defer expenses to the next fiscal year? Why?

Don't leave for next gen

They should investigate how to reduce their costs and act accordingly.

Defer is the easy way out. Election is in 2018 watch how much they (council) try to defer to keep taxes low and the ability to snow people under to get re-elected again...

Deferring expenses will always bite you later. I would prefer to see us prepay expenses when possible
deferring means weakness.

Your question is too simplistic. I support phasing in projects to moderate their tax impact if it is significant and consistent with identified community needs.

Depends on the expense

You have to face reality at some point.

Tackle the problem spending now because we don't know what tomorrow will bring

I'd rather pay for services than interest charges on accumulated debt.

Only makes it worse.

Maybe a portion of it and quit spending what they don't have.

Can only defer for so long until you end up with a very large but necessary increase

Poor fiscal management strategy and incurs interest charges

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This is a political budget. Next year, there will be soon be a municipal election and this council is trying to keep taxes low to 'look good' this year. By deferring the \$1.6 million shortfall, they will merely be shifting the burden. This council needs to come up with 'creative ways' to raise the shortfall and not expect taxpayers to foot the bill for their negligence. The mayor's salary is just one instance of mismanagement of funds. The mayor buying himself a Honda Pilot to get around on town business, is just another example of the mayor's extravagance.

It should cut expenses 5% in every department

It's a sustainable debt.

Eventually the tax payers will be the ones who will be stuck with high increases in taxes and services provided by the town.

Defer capital investment. Don't defer maintainance on buildings needed by residents and families. Don't defer debt payment.

If we defer, it will cost more in the future.

defer a large portion of the cost to new developers of new housing projects.

we will be forever paying and paying, the Town needs to start looking at what stupid things we are paying for and ask the residents their opinions about whether we should do something that is not necessary and whether we should pay for it.

Deferring expenses is not sustainable in the long term in the absence of a plan to deal with the root causes of the revenue or expense shortfalls

It's time they suffered the consequences for their incompetency

No. Deferring expenses is akin to slowly ripping off a band aid...get it over with and pay our expenses so we can move forward towards a balanced budget.

How will they ever balance their books?

Defer the expenses or defer the project/work?

where will the money come from in 2018 to pay off what was deferred

Delaying the inevitable reality, is false logic. City of Toronto, being an example.

Do not put off necessary expenses to make the budget look good; that is a recipe for unmitigated disaster.

To many employee in the township - reduce the no employee

What would that solve? Are they going to be in a better position next year? Not likely.

Burying your head in the sand doesn't make debt go away

Should the Town of Newmarket seek aggressive internal cost savings as other municipalities have done? (For example, Brampton and Ottawa).

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/brampton-fires-25-senior-bureaucrats-in-dramatic-purge-of-city-staff/article31735643/>

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/its-not-a-good-feeling-its-not-a-good-day-next-round-of-job-cuts-begin-at-ottawa-city-hall>

Absolutely. Spending and salaries are out of control in Newmarket.

Do more with less. Fear of losing a choice health care plan and pension are great motivators.

nuff said

The amount of internal spending (new town buildings etc) that the town has done over the past 5-10 years is unprecedented.

What you are not telling me is what is the impact of those cost "savings". On what basis are you concluding that Newmarket is not doing so. Have you read 2016 & 2017 Budgets?

Cutting staff will reduce service levels. It's not rocket science. Brampton in a city of more than 500,000 people Newmarket is less than 100,000. Getting rid of 5 managers won't balance this budget, it's short sited at best and will cost Newmarket more in the long run.

You can start with cutting the grossly egregiously inflated salary of our pompous arrogant not worth the words out of his mouth Mayor, and that is the nicest way I could put it.

Maybe if council actually trave our of Newmarket to say Ottawa or toronto or Calgary especially Calgary they see for themselves how a city is run

Municipalities should constantly strive to ensure that services are delivered efficiently and effectively. No one wins when municipalities go through what was referenced above.

D'uh!

From what I've seen there are many internal savings available and there should definitely be some fiscal restraint

Oversight committee to seek out eliminate waste items and be ruthless

Brampton is by far the leader is achieving cost reductions after mismanagement by the previous mayor. I compare Newmarket to Brampton of a few years ago, with complete over-spending by the mayor and his group of cronies, who are afraid to speak out. For example, have you ever heard any type of discussion at a council meeting? Look for internal cost-savings. We have more than enough town employees on the sunshine list and too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Just look at the regime in Culture and Recreation!

Like lowering salaries!

Too many good old boys on the town council. As a senior on disability, I struggle to pay my monthly bills. Property tax increases means I will soon have to sell my home.

Knowing people in Brampton, all they have done with the cuts is overburdened already busy staff. They can find efficiencies by not cutting staff

So long as the savings come from fat and not from firing the lowest paid public servants.

To me, Newmarket is in a "growth" stage and needs the right amount of city staff.

there are too many expensive consultants being used for things that should be dealt with by staff at the Town or put to the residents of Newmarket. The use of the consultant in the Glenway matter that actually went against what the right thing was, as in standing by our OP

Absolutely. My taxes are out of hand. Looking at selling my home - I just can't afford them. Senior Citizen

All levels of government suffer from the same systemic problems. The organization becomes overstaffed, overpaid and experience a productivity drop.

They can start by getting rid of the information centre and require all departments to service the taxpayers directly. Also, cut the Christmas shutdown...what a disgrace!

Absolutely!

Cutting expenses vs. staff I would say yes. And perhaps from what I've seen speeding up the process on making decisions.

An across the board reduction in town hall payroll is necessary

Commissioners, Directors, Managers do we need so much management in each dept.

As I walk around, I see wasted revenue everywhere. Using the Ray Twinney complex as an example, doing summer work, in the dead of winter, at the moment, and in the past.

I'm thinking a sustainable cost reduction of 5% is a good starting target.

NM should do same as BRAMPTON

Review internal costs as all corporations have done.

What are your thoughts on the Town of Newmarket's current debt load?

It is ridiculous when there are obvious ways to save money.

Too large and not being paid down fast enough. The town acts like it pays for everything by credit card. Balance is greater than income and it pays the minimum interest. Unfortunately there is no Mom & Dad Newmarket that will pick up the tab - actually yes there is - its us the taxpayers....

A plan to reduce it should be published so the public can track progress and hold the town accountable.

bad management.

The value of many of the properties have not been realized (in particular the Stickwood Farm) Maybe time to sell off

That's a lot of money being wasted on interest alone!!

Again the question and supporting data is misleading. You show the amount of debt but "overlook" our capacity to service it. I suppose you wouldn't want the Magna Centre or the parkland purchases that were mortgaged.

seems like a lot of money and not being spent so wisely. I think a better job can be done

It depends how the debt is to be repaid, is it all through taxes or service charges or development charges? This is only partial information, it's easy to respond that it's too high but I would rather have these amenities/infrastructure and the debt than not have them.

It's pathetic and there is no excuse for it.

Whoever is in control of allowing the town to sink so far in debt with no warning bells going off should be held responsible. In the corporate world you would have been sent down the road kicking stones looking for alternative employment.

You haven't shown what the financial plan to address these debts are.

We are in growth mode

Wait until interest rates rise.

This needs to be addressed before it gets too out of hand

My previous comments have addressed this serious over-spending and negligence by the current council, most of the members have out-lived their past-due date. It's just an old boys' club -- look at how they fought and got Kwapis in Ward 5. Now they are getting afraid that taxpayers are starting to point fingers. We'll see if Tony Van Bynen has the balls to run in two years.

They paid off \$3M in the last year.

I don't even understand it. What is the Towns financial relationship with Magna?

Shouldn't have debt

As long as new debts are kept to an absolute minimum.

The current debt load is not large as a percentage of tax related revenue. It is well within provincial guidelines.

The Magna Centre is a money pit. The new Operations Centre should have been budgeted for in advance...you don't put the cart before the horse!

If I ran my business like this, I wouldn't have one!

WOW!!! What's stickwood? That's a lot of money. Why does a building have the name MAGNA on it with so much debt to the city?

If the rate of interest is fixed on these debts then they are acceptable.

I don't see the debt load from the OTH.

As most of the debt was incurred for infrastructure, using debt to pay it off over a longer term ensures all generations of users pays for the benefit not just the initial users.

Township spend to much money

Absolutely shameful.

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What should be the Town of Newmarket's priorities for the next 5-10 years?

STOP SPENDING MONEY ON USELESS SHIT LIKE THE ARCH WAY

Single dwelling homes take up too much space - the town needs to focus on both a greater ratio of affordable house in multi-tier lower rise condominiums and rental units. Only with a greater property tax base can we start to pay down outstanding debt as our capacity to produce more jobs, other than in the seasonal smaller footprint food services sector is non-existent. Also a great way to fill all those great big shiny blue buses...supposedly.

Enough focus has been paid to the downtown area - time to enhance other areas of town such as Davis, Yonge, Bayview and Leslie.

My biggest concern is trustee accountability. It has come to my attention that some of the York region district school board trustees have been travelling to Finland for so-called research but have not demonstrated any measurable evidence to justify such expenses.

Organization Ready 2020 should be the top priority because it is critical to our long term sustainability. Revitalizing Davis Drive & Yonge will help create jobs. Street safety is an important priority.

With the expansion of Davis drive to 6 lanes, we are at risk of creating a corridor in the center of town which is extremely unfriendly to pedestrians, similar to Ajax. We need to be proactive about preventing this.

Maintain what they already have so we don't end up like Toronto.

I think the town needs to have a future vision and programming to support it. Focusing on one area like debt reduction is how towns lose out. Newmarket has improved dramatically since I first moved here in 2002, that comes with a cost. I'm so happy to raise my family here.

If I see any more about spending hundreds of millions of dollars on buses that run 80% empty 90% of the time, I will vomit. Although I cannot bring myself to imagine the corruption and kickbacks that literally MUST have been involved in the Davis Dr debacle, I'm now being forced to relive the nightmare on Yonge (granted, on a smaller scale). Morally and ethically bankrupt people in positions of power will always be exposed for who they are, a la Susan Fennell. It is going to happen here too and no one will be surprised.

I would agree that those are all good priorities to drive future planning and programs. I would also add: continuing to strengthen Main Street's position as a local and regional tourism and shopping destination, and improve employment opportunities through economic development programs that allow more people who live in Newmarket to also work in Newmarket.

Pay down the debt and freeze hiring for the town as well as no new projects

Although investing for the future sounds good current costs, taxes and debt load need to be managed now. There has been too much emphasis on the Davis Drive corridor

Build a downtown tiered parking garage with a parking fee. Free downtown parking is a thing of the past. No more free downtown parking, swap the library parking and build the condo on the Clock tower its costing taxpayers who don't even know we have a downtown increased taxes, do the math for the 20,000 property owners VS the 300 plus in the downtown who are holding up increased tax revenue

A few thoughts: *Maximize current revenue generating sources. *Sell the assets that are redundant- eg: Newmarket Theatre. *Maintain (as best we can) current levels of services. *No new projects or acquisitions. There is no money and we can't keep leveraging our future revenues! *Make paying down the debt an immediate priority (which it doesn't appear to be). *Optimize Town's financing and debt repayment terms. GET BACK TO THE FINANCIAL BASICS! NO MORE DREAMING! "Operate within the means of the current finances, not the monies we might(never) have in the future

1Most essential services provided as efficiently as possible and not spend more than it has.

We have endured over five years of construction on Davis Drive and millions of dollars in costs. Don't think that all came from the Region of York. There is only one pocket for taxpayers -- and by the way, the Region of York is the top region by debt load. Now they are working on Yonge St. Whose vision is all this, because I don't agree. All the Davis Dr. construction did was drive away business and put the businesses that were there out of business permanently. The same will happen on Yonge St. The mayor kept saying of the Davis Dr. construction, "short term pain for long term gain." I'm yet to see any gain from the Davis Dr. construction and now it's just one confusing road to drive on. I do agree that something must be done with parking on Main St., but I don't think it should cost millions of dollars like the new Old Town Hall, which finally opened after many so-called scheduled openings. No, I don't trust this council with my tax dollars. I have lost all faith in our municipal political leaders!

Job growth.

Reducing the cost of living for Newmarket residents.

1We need affordable housing, like the clocktower development, not hindered by vindictive self interested "tax advocacy" groups.

BALANCE THE BUDGET !!!! Reduce unnecessary Employees immediately because as they say, " it doesn't take three people to change a light bulb " . One person (one Salary) is all that's needed in many Departments. Not only is this a huge waste of Taxpayer's hard earned money, it also fuels Taxpayer's Anger over the constant talk of increased Taxes, and reduced Services. Let's tell the Town of Newmarket to " clean shop " and accept the fact that the cost of running the Town, can be greatly reduced simply by running a " tighter ship " , as in years past. The current Council is at fault, and changes must be made immediately .

stop centering everythign on main street - far more to the town than main street

Transportation- look at your demographic- move more people in and out of the city faster, more frequently with less carbon impact.

standing by our green space, keeping our new builds at a managed level, no high rise buildings as they destroy the small town feel of what and who we are. Developers need to be kept at bay and we need to protect our land and open space.

A viable budget strategy...don't spend money you don't have! When planning for the community ensure the project benefits all not the chosen few.

Let's not worry about where we park our cars and focus instead on intensification efforts to make this a Town which continues to develop into a vibrant and exciting place to live.

Living facilities for low income and seniors

Everything listed above except for box 2 seems to be more money spent with no financial return. Lets get the employment lands full of good paying jobs. Lets fill those lands with businesses to help take the tax burden off of the home owner. Why are there no high-rise building other than one under construction on Davis Dr. Some of the property on Davis and Yonge has been approved for Big development but there is no construction, the town should figure out a way to force the land owner to develop the land that has been approved.

For the past 6-7 years, Newmarket's council has destroyed the town, with ill conceived, and worse executed, wastes of money, in an attempt to become "Toronto lite". It has evacuated business, and the revenue and JOBS, that go with them, and imposed one of the worst transit systems, in the world. This is in conjunction with York Region, and the autocracy that administers it. We need major changes in the way things are done, and both the town, and the region, need to be audited, by an outside, non connected auditor, and the Ombudsman of Ontario. York Region has not faced an outside audit, since it's inception, in 1971. Any government that audit's itself, is rife for corruption. And, it is my opinion, York Region is as corrupt as it can be. It does NOT act in the public's best interest, but rather, imposes it's will, with no repercussion.

Focus on town owned assets and processes - not staff or strategy - to maintain service delivery in a cost effective manner. Eliminate those processes and staff that do NOT add value to the community.

Nm should have management that save the money for Taxpayers not SPEND SPEND.

Reducing debt and a moratorium on big project spending (aka the Old Town Hall)

We spent all that money on that fucking street, we should make sure it gets used!