Jan 21, 2026

On Dec. 19, 2025 I watched the mayor's budget pass without input from taxpayers or representatives on council. I cannot fathom that two councillors sitting on council would have enabled the mayor to pass this budget through strong mayor powers, decaying any hope of democracy in Springwater township. The two councillors and the mayor were elected by a democratic process to represent taxpayers in a democratic manner. Taxpayers would trust that upholding democracy would be paramount to them.

Passing a budget by a minority in council demonstrates a total disregard for the taxpayers of Springwater. I now realize how democracy has decayed in Springwater.

There are many mayors across Ontario who have refused to use Ford's strong mayor powers and councillors who have not supported these powers either. Strong mayor powers have eroded our democratic process. In Springwater the mayor has passed a budget that will raise Springwater taxes substantially, all passed by 2 minority councillors and the mayor's use of strong mayor powers.

Not only has the township had its taxes raised significantly in 1 year, but the mayor has tried to hide the true rise in taxes by taking funds from the tax stabilization fund that was put in place by a previous council. The purpose of the fund was to be used if the township encountered unforeseen expenses. In other words, cushion the shock to the taxpayer. It was never met to be used to hide the true increase in the budget or to be used in budgets at all. The council should pass a motion to stop this deceitful practice.

Simcoe County has held their increase to 2%. Why is it they can hold increases to a reasonable amount but, yet the mayor's budget is actually 11.2% but is reported as 8.26% after she raids the tax stabilization reserve.

I have heard the mayor say, that past councils kept budget increases low and this is what has caused her extreme budget increase. My question to her is, would she please explain

spending that was delayed in the past because of low tax increases of those councils? I have found no such incidents.

Since new assessments of new buildings and increased MPAC assessments on existing homes, businesses and farms increases tax revenue. Why is the township not able to manage its business and effectively hold the tax increase in the 2026 budget to zero or near it?

With the loss of land to Barrie and the taxes that they would have generated for Springwater, what is the mayor's plan to keep taxes at a reasonable rate in Springwater. Tax increases that appeared in the 2026 budget are unsustainable. So, what is the plan?

There is an important question that must be addressed by the mayor. We have lost a major piece of Springwater township to Barrie with the mayor's blessing. With it comes realities. We no longer need to service this land. We will not need the same number of staff to run this township as it has significantly shrunk in size. What has the mayor proposed to address this issue. The mayor cannot expect the taxpayers to keep shelling out year after year substantial increases in the budget at these levels to make up for the loss., Doing so is financially irresponsible and demonstrates a total lack of respect for taxpayers in this Township.