

## Excerpt from Emergency City Council Meeting Transcript

**DATE:** July 26, 2024

**Citizen 1 (Ms. Gable):** ...my shop has been closed for three days! There's a foot of water in my basement. Who is going to pay for this? We pay our taxes, and for what? So the city can ignore the pipes under our feet until they explode?

**Councilmember Smith:** I understand your frustration, Ms. Gable. This is an unfortunate and unforeseen incident. We are working around the clock to restore service.

**Citizen 2 (Mr. Chen):** Unforeseen? My water bill has gone up 20% in two years, but my service gets worse. We've had two other breaks on this same street! This isn't a surprise; it's negligence.

**Mayor Thompson:** Now, let's not resort to accusations. The Public Works department does the best it can with the budget it is allocated by this council. We have many competing priorities—parks, public safety, community programs...

**Councilmember Davis:** With all due respect, Mayor, Director Evans warned us this would happen back in 2020. We have it in writing. We chose to cut his budget anyway. This crisis is one of our own making.