



EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF AKHALTSIKHE IN 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Transparency International Georgia (TI Georgia) has evaluated the activities carried out by the City Council of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality (hereinafter “City Council of Akhaltsikhe”) elected in 2021.

The report is based on the information requested and received from the City Council and that on the official website of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality, as well as on information on the official Facebook page of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe and the observations of our organization.

The reporting period of the study is from January through December 2023.

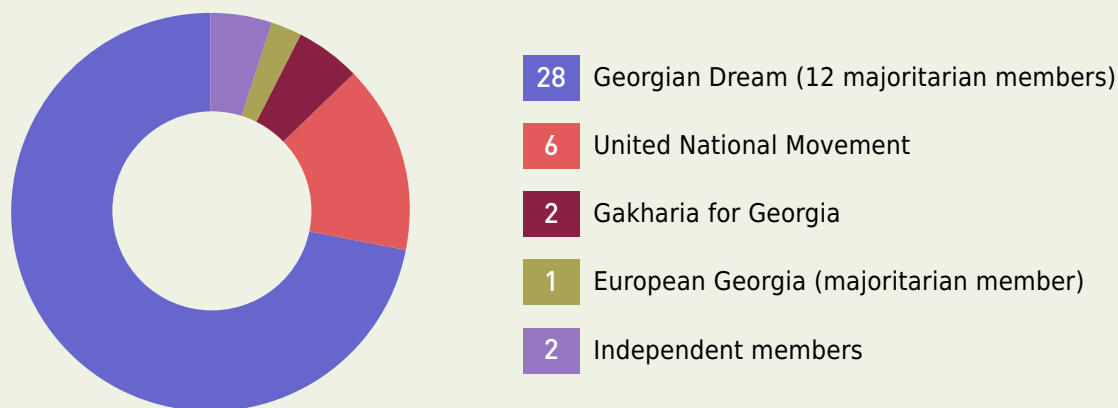
CHAPTER 1. MAIN FINDINGS

- During the reporting period, the City Council of Akhaltsikhe **exercised weak oversight** on the executive body. In most cases, the control on accountable public officials and individual agencies had a formal character;
- The City Council of Akhaltsikhe **has sharply worsened the practice of releasing public information**. At the time of preparation of the present evaluation, the City Council failed to provide us with information on the delivery of speeches by members of the City Council, as well as on their summoning the Mayor and other officials to the City Council and the written questions or proposals sent by them to the City Hall;
- The City Council of Akhaltsikhe **has not identified any cases of incompatibility with public office, violations of the Rules of Procedure of the City Council or of norms of ethics, or conflict of interest**. In 2023, the companies of 4 members of the City Council and their family members received **GEL 6,480,666** from the public procurements of the Akhaltsikhe City Hall and its legal entities alone;
- With the consent of the City Council, in 2023 the Akhaltsikhe City Hall sold **8** non-agricultural land plots (with a total area of 790 sq. meters) through an electronic auction. Four of these land plots (623 sq. meters) were bought by a member of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe, as well as by individuals connected with other members and with employees of the City Hall;
- During the reporting period, the City Council held **14** sessions and supported all the **105** issues put on a vote. The only issue that the City Council returned to the City Hall with comments was the draft budget of 2024;
- Of **39** members of the City Council, **7** representatives of the opposition have failed to submit the annual report. In the report forms, the question on the number of initiatives submitted by the member is missing. Only 11 members of the City Council have indicated a specific issue resolved with their involvement – 35 issues in total, although 15 of these issues coincide;
- **6** of the **22** public officials in the City Council of Akhaltsikhe have filled out the asset declarations with flaws;
- None of the 3 factions active at the City Council has submitted an initiative. A total of **GEL 368,462** was spent on the activities of the factions;
- During the reporting period, the Gender Equality Council neither conducted an analysis of legal acts nor worked on the development of the system of monitoring on measures taken to ensure gender equality or prepared any recommendations;
- The City Council of Akhaltsikhe **didn't register a petition** filed by TI Georgia;
- The expenditures of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe in 2023 amounted to **GEL 1,223,706**. Of this amount, a total of **GEL 1,123,491** was given as salaries, salary supplements and rewards;
- During one year, the City Council consumed **33,251 liters** of fuel with a value of **GEL 89,199**. Of this, 9,834 liters of fuel (with a total value of GEL 26,588) was consumed by the Chairperson and three Deputy Chairpersons of the City Council.

CHAPTER 2. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY COUNCIL OF AKHALTSIKHE

There are 39 members in the City Council of Akhaltsikhe:

Distribution of mandates in the City Council of Akhaltsikhe



Twenty-two of the 39 members of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe are [public officials](#).

There are **11 women** in the City Council, 5 of whom are public officials.

The City Council of Akhaltsikhe has created 5 commissions for the duration of its term of office:

The Commission on Legal and Mandate/Procedural Issues and Ethics (Chairperson – Mariam Gogoladze);

1. The Commission on Finance and Budget (Chairperson – Vladimer Kurtanidze);
2. The Commission on Social Issues, Culture, Education, Sports and Youth Affairs (Chairperson – Nino Mikaberidze);
3. The Commission on Property Management, Natural Resources and Agrarian Affairs (Chairperson – Zoia Baliashvili);
4. The Commission on Spatial-Territorial Planning and Infrastructure (Chairperson – Nodar Talakhadze).

There are **3** factions at the City Council. The Chairperson of the **Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia** faction, Besik Bliadze, has 7 deputies; the Chairperson of the **Independent Deputies** faction, Davit Akhalkatsi, has 2 deputies; and the Chairperson of **Akhaltsikhe for Georgia** faction, Giorgi Giorgadze, has 1 deputy.

Changes in the City Council of Akhaltsikhe

All the six members of the Independent Deputies faction, Davit Akhalkatsi, Ketevan Bardzimadze, Koba Sandroshvili, Besik Okromelidze, Nato Darbaidze, and Ioseb Demetradze, worked at the City Council on behalf of the United National Movement faction until September 2023. They

left the party, naming disregard and disrespect as the reason. A member of this faction, Nato Darbaidze, [joined](#) the City Council on February 27, 2023, replacing [Gocha Inasaridze](#), whose powers had been terminated due to absences.

On May 23, 2023, Roin Nebadze, a majoritarian member elected in the community of Minadze, [entered](#) the City Council of Akhaltsikhe from the Georgian Dream. He took the place of Zaal Beridze, a member elected in this community who had passed away in 2022.

Sessions of the City Council:

During the reporting period, the City Council held **14** sessions in total, and the Bureau of the City Council held **11** sessions. Not a single session failed to be held due to lack of quorum. Only 1 session of the City Council was extraordinary. It was held on the initiative of the Mayor of Akhaltsikhe.

During one year, the City Council considered **115** issues (including 10 issues that it took cognizance of) and not a single issue failed to pass in the voting.

The City Council approved **31** ordinances. Of these, 27 draft ordinances were submitted by the Mayor of Akhaltsikhe and 4 – by the City Council.

During the reporting period, the City Council of Akhaltsikhe received legal opinions from the Government Administration of Georgia regarding 2 normative acts and took them into consideration.

According to the information provided by the City Council, the City Council gave its consent to the Mayor on one occasion to make a transaction whose value exceeds 5% of the payables of the municipal budget. However, in 2023, the City Council gave such consent on 2 public procurements:

- On January 31, 2023, for the [rehabilitation](#) works of the Sakuneti-Tkemlana road – for **GEL 1,878,921**;
- On June 9, 2023, for the [acquisition](#) of public transport – buses – for **GEL 6,183,000**.

Also, according to the information from the City Council, the representative body only gave its consent once to give property free of charge – N(N)LE Construction College ‘Constructor 2’ was given non-agricultural land with an area of [3,200 sq. meters](#) in the village of Atskuri for the [construction](#) of a school. However, on the website of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality, one can find one more [decree](#), according to which the City Council also gave its consent to the transfer of a building situated on a non-agricultural land plot with an area of [5,264 sq. meters](#) at 18 Stalin Street in the town of Vale to N(N)LE Construction College ‘Constructor 2’.

In December 2023, the City Council of Akhaltsikhe adopted ordinances on the following issues, along with the municipal budget:

- The Procedure for Issuing Social Assistance from the Budget of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality of 2024;
- The Procedure for Awarding the Scholarship of the Mayor of Akhaltsikhe to Leading Students from the Appropriations in the Framework of the Subprogram of the Budget of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality of 2024 “Scholarships of the Mayor of Akhaltsikhe for Leading Students”;
- The Procedure for Awarding Monetary Gifts from the Budget of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality of 2024 in the Framework of Educational, Cultural and Sports Programs;

- In December 2023, a research report on the needs of vulnerable target groups was submitted to the City Council with the aim of planning the social policy and social programs in the Akhaltsikhe Municipality.

According to the information provided by the City Council, no proposals were submitted to the City Council of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality regarding the establishment, reorganization or liquidation of legal entities of public law. However, on May 23, 2023, the City Council of Akhaltsikhe gave its consent to the Mayor to commence the procedure of [liquidation](#) of Service LLC.

The City Council failed to provide us with information on the number of times each of the 39 members of the City Council exercised their right to deliver a speech or presented a report to the City Council during the year. The City Council only wrote to us that “Members of the City Council constantly state their opinions regarding the issues under consideration, which may also be carried out at the time of a session of the relevant commission, the Bureau or the City Council”.

Property privatized with the consent of the City Council

According to the documents on the privatization of state property that have been uploaded to the official website of the municipality, in 2023, **8 non-agricultural land plots with a total area of 790 sq. meters** were sold through an auction with the consent of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe. Four of these land plots with a total area of 623 sq. meters (**78.8%** of the sold area) were bought by a member of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe, as well as by individuals connected with other members and with employees of the City Hall:

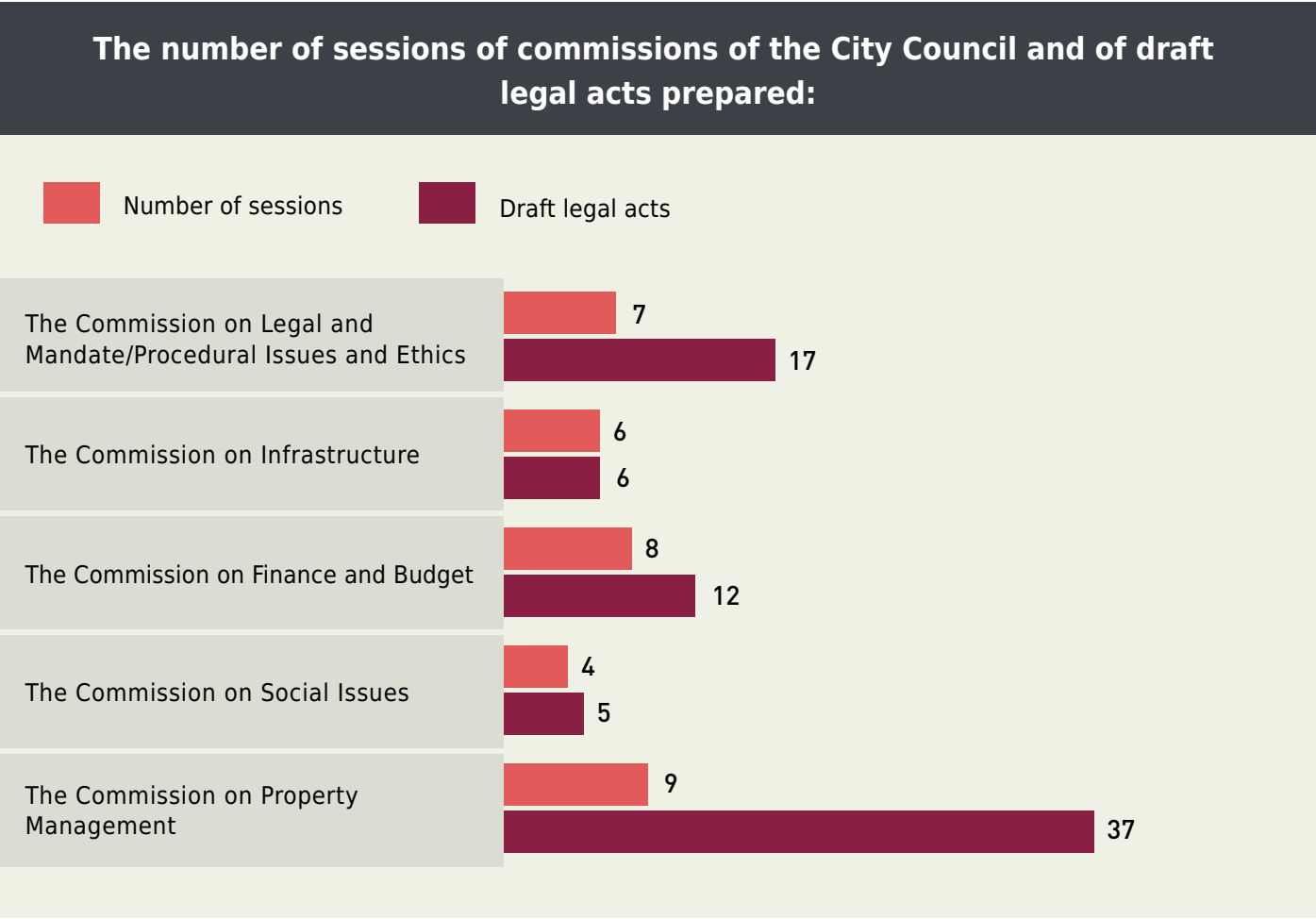
- On May 15, 2023, a non-agricultural land plot with an area of [196 sq. meters](#) adjacent to 122 Rustaveli Street [was purchased](#), for GEL 19,992, **without competition** by Iakob Baliashvili, the son of the Chairperson of the City Council's Commission on Property Management, Natural Resources and Agrarian Affairs, [Zoia Baliashvili](#). In the years 2020-2022, he [received](#) more than half a million lari from the public procurements of the National Forestry Agency.
- On May 15, 2023, a non-agricultural land plot with an area of [313 sq. meters](#) adjacent to 23 Jakeli Street [was purchased](#), for GEL 25,040, **without competition** by Gela Chalidze, a member of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe. Since October 2021, when he became a member of the City Council, his companies have [received](#) more than GEL 250,000 through public procurements of the Akhaltsikhe City Hall and its N(N)LEs. In September 2021, Gela Chalidze donated GEL 3,250 to the Georgian Dream.
- On August 15, 2023, a non-agricultural land plot with an area of [100 sq. meters](#) adjacent to 99 Rustaveli Street [was purchased](#), for GEL 19,074, **without competition** by Manana Kbilashvili. She is the spouse of Avtandil Kachkachashvili. Avtandil Kachkachashvili was the Deputy Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti in the years [2014-2015](#). Since then, he has been the director and owner of a 15% stake in [Road Construction Division No. 2](#) LLC. This limited liability company has [received](#) more than GEL 21 million through public procurements. [Avtandil Kachkachashvili donated](#) GEL 20,000 to the Georgian Dream in August 2021. It is noteworthy that a 15% stake in Road Construction Division No. 2 is owned by Medea Kharashvili, a daughter-in-law (son's spouse) of Zoia Baliashvili, the Chairperson of the Commission on Property Management, Natural Resources and Agrarian Affairs at the City Council of Akhaltsikhe.
- On September 16, 2023, a non-agricultural land plot with an area of [14 sq. meters](#) adjacent to 44 Aspindza Street [was bought](#), for GEL 1,652, by Giorgi Taktakidze. His cousin, [Vakhtangi Taktakidze](#), is the Financial [Consultant](#) to the Mayor of Akhaltsikhe. Giorgi Taktakidze's uncle, Roin Taktakidze, was the head of the Service of Economic Development and Property Management at the Akhaltsikhe City Hall in the years [2014-2016](#). In addition, Roin Taktakidze represented the [Georgian Dream](#) in District Election Commission of Akhaltsikhe No. 37 at the time of the parliamentary elections of 2016.

CHAPTER 3. ACTIVITIES OF COMMISSIONS AND FACTIONS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Activities of commissions of the City Council:

The five standing commissions of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe held **34** sessions during the reporting period. Not a single session of commission failed to be held due to lack of quorum. According to the information provided by the City Council, the only issue that the commissions returned to the City Hall with comments was the draft budget of 2024. The City Hall agreed with 2 of their comments, although the City Council has not specified them for us.

During the reporting period, all the five commissions prepared **77** draft legal acts.

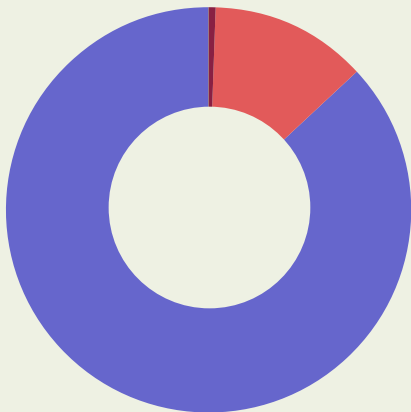


Activities of factions of the City Council:

None of the **3** factions active at the City Council of Akhaltsikhe had any initiatives during the reporting period. Nor did they submit any draft normative and individual administrative acts or written initiatives.

Expenditures incurred on the activities of the factions in 2023

GEL 368,462 in total



319,440 Salaries

46,440 Cost of fuel

2,552 Telephone communication

30 Expenses on business trips

CHAPTER 4. MONITORING OF THE BODIES ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of Akhaltsikhe heard the Mayor's report twice:

- On February 3, 2023, the City Council evaluated the activities carried out in 2022 as **satisfactory**;
- On December 25, 2023, the City Council gave a **positive** evaluation to the activities carried out in 2023.

In 2023, the Chairperson of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe also presented a report twice.

The City Council failed to provide us with information on the number of times the City Council or its factions or commissions invited representatives of the City Hall to discuss various issues. They wrote to us that the officials and representatives of the executive body systematically participated in the sessions.

The City Council of Akhaltsikhe made 4 changes to the municipal budget of 2023, all of which were initiated by the Mayor.

During the reporting period, the City Council did not reveal any types of misconduct or conflict of interest in the public procurement process, despite the fact that two members of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe, [Zaza Melikidze](#) and [Gela Chalidze](#), are personally involved in the procurements of the Akhaltsikhe City Hall and its legal entities. The companies of family members of two more members of the City Council, [Zoia Baliashvili](#)¹ and [Nodar Talakhadze](#), also obtain public procurement contracts from the Akhaltsikhe City Hall and its legal entities. It should be noted that Nodar Talakhadze is also a member of the tendering commission of the Akhaltsikhe City Hall.

In 2023, members of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe and their family members obtained public procurement contracts with a total value of **GEL 6,480,666 from the Akhaltsikhe City Hall and its legal entities:**



Zaza Melikidze

GEL 72,526



Gela Chalidze

GEL 101,037



Zoia Baliashvili

GEL 3,199,030



Nodar Talakhadze

GEL 3,108,073

¹ Zoia Baliashvili's daughter-in-law (son's spouse), has [owned](#) a 15% stake in Road Construction Division No. 2 LLC since November 2021.

The City Council failed to provide information on how many members of the City Council posed a question to a body accountable to the City Council, the Mayor or other officials, and on what issues, as well as who the most questions were addressed to. The City Council wrote to us in general terms that “Members of the City Council constantly state their opinions regarding the issues under consideration, which may also be carried out at the time of a session of the relevant commission, the Bureau or the City Council. Oftentimes, an issue is specified in relation to a draft legal act as a result of discussing the issue together with a relevant representative of the executive body.”

The City Council also failed to provide information on the number of times the members of the City Council exercised their right to deliver a speech at the City Council’s sessions. They wrote to us in general terms that “Members of the City Council constantly state their opinions regarding the issues under consideration.”

CHAPTER 5. INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

Participation in sessions of the City Council:

The City Council of Akhaltsikhe gave us an incomplete reply regarding the absences from sessions. They failed to provide information about **10** members of the City Council from the Georgian Dream (out of **39** members). We saw the statistics of attendance of these members at the sessions in the reports submitted by them until November 1, 2023. However, these data are incomplete.

The remaining **29** members of the City Council had **87** absences from **14** sessions held in 2023. Only **7** of these absences were for a valid reason.

A member of the Independent Deputies faction, Besik Okromelidze, missed the most sessions – **10**; representatives of the same faction, Davit Akhalkatsi and Ioseb Demetradze, missed 8 sessions each. Zaza Melikidze has the most absences from the City Council members from the ruling party – 6.

You can see the statistics of attendance of members of the City Council at the Council's sessions [here](#).

Participation in sessions of commissions of the City Council:

Twenty-nine members of the City Council had **86** absences from **34** sessions held by the commissions of the City Council, and only 4 of them were for a valid reason.

A representative of the Independent Deputies faction, Besik Okromelidze, did not attend a single session of the **Commission on Finance and Budget**. Another representative of the Independent Deputies faction, Ioseb Demetradze, missed all the sessions of the **Commission on Social Issues, Culture, Education, Sports and Youth Affairs**. These members missed all the sessions of the **Commission on Property Management, Natural Resources and Agrarian Affairs**.

You can see detailed information on the absences from sessions of the commissions [here](#).

Chapter 6. Incomplete Asset Declarations

Asset declarations filled out by public officials incompletely and with flaws is a considerable challenge to the City Council of Akhaltsikhe. **It should be taken into account that TI Georgia is devoid of the possibility to verify whether the companies mentioned in the study are active, as information needed for this purpose is a tax secret.**

There were violations in the asset declarations of **6** of the **22** officials of the City Council.



In a [declaration](#) filled out on March 28, 2024, the Deputy Chairperson of the Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia faction, **Nodar Khitarishvili**, failed to disclose that he has owned a 15% stake in [Gela and Company](#) LLC since 1999, and he has not transferred the management rights of this stake to another person.



In an asset [declaration](#) filled out on March 29, 2023, the Deputy Chairperson of the Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia faction, **Zurab Bardzimadze**, failed to disclose that he has been an individual [entrepreneur](#) since 2018. He also failed to disclose that his father, Anzor Bardzimadze, is the director of the [Atskurirdze](#) cooperative.



In an asset [declaration](#) filled out on February 2, 2024, the Deputy Chairperson of the Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia faction, **Ioseb Kapanadze**, failed to disclose that his father, Levan Kapanadze, has been an individual [entrepreneur](#) since 2011.



In an asset [declaration](#) filed on November 30, 2023, the Deputy Chairperson of the Independent Deputies faction, **Ketevan Bardzimadze**, failed to disclose that she has been an individual [entrepreneur](#) since 2009. She also failed to indicate that she has been the director of [Cooperative Agro-Meurneoba 2022](#) since 2022 and the director and owner of a 100% stake in [Ecopark 2021](#) LLC since 2020, which is a violation of the [Law](#) on the Fight against Corruption. She should have transferred the management rights of the stake to another person and resigned from the director's position.

Besides, she failed to disclose that his son, Amiran Bardzimadze, has been an individual [entrepreneur](#) since 2013, the director and owner of a 50% stake in [Business Center of Georgia 2014](#) LLC since 2014, and, also, the director of the [Farmer's Hand](#) cooperative since 2016.

Ketevan Bardzimadze also failed to indicate that her daughter, Mariam Bardzimadze, has been a member of [Cooperative Agro-Meurneoba 2022](#) since 2022.



In an asset [declaration](#) filled out on July 27, 2023, the Deputy Chairperson of the Independent Deputies faction, **Koba Sandroshvili**, indicated that he was a consultant at Credo Bank, from which he had received an income of GEL 3,084 during 2022, which is an incompatible activity according to the [Law](#) on the Fight against Corruption.



In an asset [declaration](#) filled out on March 27, 2024, the Chairperson of the Akhaltsikhe for Georgia faction, **Giorgi Giorgadze**, indicated that he is the director and full owner of [Saba](#) LLC. He should have resigned from the director's position and transferred the management rights of the stake to another person.

CHAPTER 7. CITIZENS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The letter sent to us from the City Council reads that the sessions of the City Council are announced on the City Council's Facebook page, as well as on the information board. However, none of the 14 sessions held during the reporting period was [announced](#) a week before, as required by [law](#).

During the reporting period, the City Council of Akhaltsikhe received 1 [petition](#). On the initiative of TI Georgia's Committees of Concerned Citizens, the petition was prepared "on the allocation of space for non-governmental organizations working on the needs of PWDs in the City of Akhaltsikhe", **which the City Council refused to register**. The petition was signed by 400 citizens. According to the City Council, "making a decision on the issue dealt with in the petition is not within the powers of the municipality".

According to the City Council, **with the aim of promoting citizens' participation** in the exercise of local self-governance:

- The Gender Equality Council has been created, which includes representatives of the public and non-governmental organizations;
- A public council has been set up;
- The City Council actively cooperates with school and university students, meetings are held with members of the City Council;
- A public discussion on the Budget of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality of 2024 was held, involving representatives of the civil society sector, media, and the public council;
- Members of the City Council actively hold meetings with the population.

Reports of members of the City Council

In 2023, **32** of the **39** members of the City Council [submitted](#) reports using the form approved by the City Council. All the six members of the Independent Deputies faction and an independent member, Mariam Dalalishvili, failed to submit reports to the population.

Unlike the previous years, **the report forms** for 2023 **no longer contain the question on the number of initiatives submitted by the member to the City Council**. In the reports, only 4 members of the City Council – Davit Tabatadze, Ambartsum Baboyan, Marine Abuladze and Taniel Tabatadze – point to 7 proposals and initiatives submitted to the City Council.

- **27** members of the City Council write that they held **167** meetings in total.
- Marine Abuladze, Taniel Tabatadze and Giorgi Giorgadze didn't hold a single meeting. Davit Lomidze and Mariam Gogoladze do not specify the number of meetings held.
- In the 8 meetings held with the population, [Simon Gelashvili](#) indicates meetings held in the framework of the Village Support Program.
- An independent member, [Nona Kozashvili](#), writes that at the 8 meetings with her, citizens raised 4 different issues. However, the report does not make it clear whether or not any of them was resolved or whether or not she raised these issues with the relevant agencies.

- Only **11** members of the City Council indicate that 35 issues in total were resolved with their involvement, although **15** issues are duplicated. For example, 4 members - [Zoia Baliashvili](#), [Besik Bliadze](#), [Davit Tabatadze](#) and [Davit Samsonidze](#) - indicate the same issue - resolution of the problem with the façade and sewage system at Building No. 6 of Tamarashvili Street - among issues resolved as a result of their efforts.
- [Zoia Baliashvili](#) counts the fact that she gave a citizen advice for restoring a lost ID card and that the citizen afterwards took an ID card at the Public Service Hall among 6 issued resolved with her involvement.
- A member of the City Council from the Gakharia for Georgia party, [Marine Abuladze](#), writes that in 2023 the City Council of Akhaltsikhe supported her proposal on the introduction of civic budgeting. However, as we [learn](#) from a number of posts [published](#) on the Facebook page of the Akhaltsikhe City Hall, the said program was [introduced](#) in cooperation with the local non-governmental organization, Center for the Promotion of Formation of Civil Society.
- Only 3 members of the Akhaltsikhe for Georgia faction - [Giorgi Giorgadze](#), [Tariel Tabatadze](#) and [Marine Abuladze](#) - indicate 2 issues that they did not support: increasing the staff list and salaries in the City Hall and the City Council.

CHAPTER 8. ACTIVITIES OF THE GENDER EQUALITY COUNCIL

In 2023, the Gender Equality Council at the City Council of Akhaltsikhe:

- failed to develop and introduce a system of monitoring and evaluation of measures taken for ensuring gender equality;
- failed to provide an expert opinion on draft legislative acts;
- failed to submit proposals and recommendations to the City Council of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality or to the Gender Equality Council at the Parliament of Georgia;
- did not receive applications regarding violations of gender equality.

The Gender Equality Council of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality reviewed the budget of the next year (2024) for the first time, paying particular attention to social, sports and cultural programs.

A member of the Gender Equality Council had a proposal that the youth centers and libraries in the villages be equipped adequately. In her opinion, young people living in villages do not have access to digital technologies and giving them access to such technologies is the only way to enable them to take part in online meetings and training sessions.

The Gender Equality Council did not present a report on the fulfillment of its action plan in 2023.

CHAPTER 9. EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF AKHALTSIKHE

Salaries:

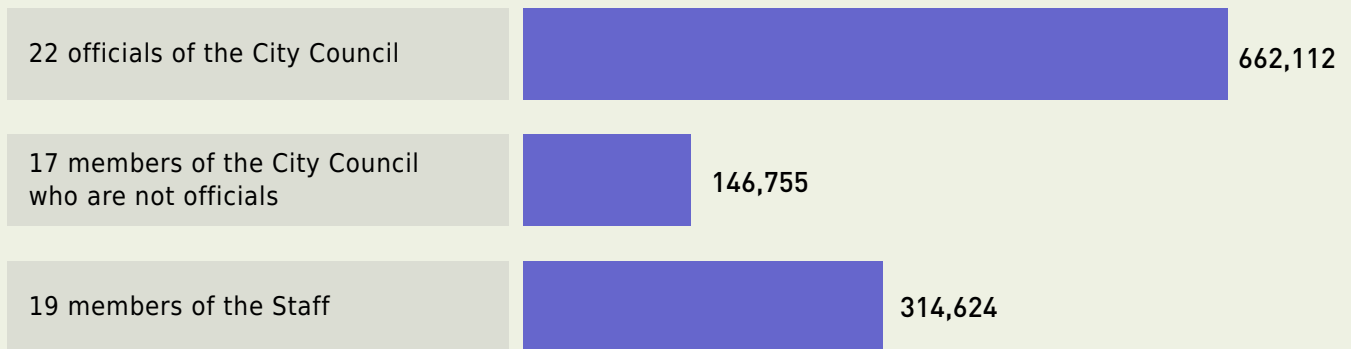
In 2023, the total expenditures of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe amounted to **GEL 1,223,706**. Of this amount, a total of **GEL 1,123,491** was given to 58 individuals as salaries, salary supplements and rewards. Among them, 19 members of the Staff received **GEL 337,015** in the form of salaries, as well as salary supplements and rewards. **GEL 662,112** was allocated for the salaries of [public officials](#) of the City Council.

Other expenditures:

- During the reporting period, a total of **GEL 1,384** was spent on the [business trips](#) of **14** employees of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe within the country.
- The City Council of Akhaltsikhe [incurred](#) an expense of **GEL 9,632** on telephone communication.
- All the officials of the City Council use the fuel purchased with the local budget for their private vehicles. The City Council of Akhaltsikhe consumed **33,251 liters** of fuel with a value of **GEL 89,199**. See detailed [information](#) on the consumed fuel [here](#).
- The City Council has failed to provide us with information on the amount spent in 2023 on the repairs/rehabilitation of vehicles on its balance sheet.

Expenditures of the City Council of Akhaltsikhe and its Staff in 2023

Remuneration and reimbursement of expenditures (in GEL):



Expenses incurred on telephone communication (in GEL):



Fuel consumed by officials (in GEL):



RECOMMENDATIONS

Exercise of the oversight function:

- Members of the City Council should get more actively involved in oversight activities, use the control mechanisms more frequently, and supervise the process of public procurements and large infrastructure projects more effectively;
- The standing commissions of the City Council should exercise oversight on the activities of executive bodies more actively;
- The City Council should work actively and in good faith to reveal cases of conflict of interest, incompatibility with public office, and violations of the Rules of Procedure of the City Council and of norms of ethics in the municipality.

Accountability:

- The City Council should release public information within timeframes established by law, as well as proactively upload the minutes of sessions of the City Council and its commissions to the official website and make them available to everyone.
- The asset declarations of public officials is an important mechanism for transparency and accountability. At the same time, filling out the declarations incompletely also contains a risk of corruption. It is necessary that officials fill out the declaration in full.

Activities of factions:

- It is important that the activities of factions be beneficial for the self-governance process. Factions should actively study/control the activities of the City Hall and municipal legal entities; submit initiatives to the City Council; get actively involved in the budgeting process; etc. Factions considerably increase citizen's involvement in self-governance and support local initiatives and advocacy of citizens' needs and problems.

Expenditures of the City Council:

- It is important that the expenditures incurred by the City Council be in full conformity with the exercise of its powers granted to it by legislation;
- The City Council should exercise strict control on the administrative expenditures of both the representative body, in particular, and the municipality, in general, and be oriented on prudent spending of financial resources.

General Assembly of a Settlement:

- According to the Local Self-Government Code, the General Assembly of a Settlement is one of the main mechanisms for citizens' involvement in self-governance. As the General Assemblies of Settlement in the Akhaltsikhe Municipality are only held in the framework of the Village Support Program, it is important that the City Council activate this mechanism of involvement; the City Council should request the Mayor to hold the assembly upon his solicitation to better plan the budget of each subsequent year.