



# EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF AKHALTIKHE IN 2021- 2022

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## INTRODUCTION:

“Transparency International - Georgia” evaluates the activities of the representative body, City Council of the 2021 convocation of Akhaltsikhe Municipality.

The report is based on the information requested from the Akhaltsikhe City Council and that posted on the City Council’s official website, as well as on the observations of our organization.

The study covers the period between December 2021 and December 2022.

## CHAPTER 1: MAIN FINDINGS

- During the reporting period, the City Council of Akhaltsikhe exercised weak oversight over the executive bodies, and the oversight over the officials and individual agencies accountable to the City Council was formal in most cases;
- **The Akhaltsikhe City Council has significantly worsened the practice of providing public information.** While conducting this assessment, the City Council failed to provide us with the minutes from both City Council and Commission sessions. Additionally, they did not provide public information concerning the presence and absence of the members at these sessions, their statements, and the Mayor’s or other officials’ summons by the members of the City Council. Furthermore, there was a lack of information regarding written inquiries or proposals directed from the council members to the City Hall.
- The City Council was unable to provide us with the records of any meetings held between the members of the council and the population.
- No instances of conflicts of interest, incompatible activities with public service, or violations of ethical norms and rules of procedures were identified at the City Council of Akhaltsikhe;
- Throughout the reporting period, the City Council convened **18** sessions and endorsed all of the presented matters, except for one. This particular issue pertained to the regulations concerning the provision of real estate through leasing.
- **9** out of **22** officials of the Akhaltsikhe City Council incompletely filled out their asset declarations.
- None of the three factions operating in the City Council presented any initiatives. A cumulative amount of **311,586.88 GEL** was expended for the activities carried out by these factions.
- Throughout the reporting period, the Gender Equality Council refrained from analyzing draft legal acts, abstained from contributing to the establishment of a monitoring mechanism for gender equality measures, and did not engage in the formulation of recommendations.
- The City Council has created a public hall to ensure citizen participation.
- The petition submitted by “Transparency International - Georgia” was approved by the Akhaltsikhe City Council.
- Between December 2021 and 2022, the City Council’s expenditures amounted to **1,052,686.18 GEL**. Out of this sum, a total of 901,802.73 GEL was allocated for salaries, allowances, and awards.
- Within a year, the City Council consumed **33,584 liters** of fuel, which equated to a total cost of **109,690.45 GEL**. Among this, the chairman of the City Council and his three deputies accounted for the usage of 11,044 liters of fuel, accumulating a combined cost of 35,975.45 GEL.

## CHAPTER 2: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY COUNCIL OF AKHALTSIKHE

The City Council of Akhaltsikhe is the representative body of the Municipality of Akhaltsikhe which exercises the powers determined by the Local Self-Government Code in the territory of the municipality. It also assumes oversight responsibilities over the activities of the executive body and its officials within the limits established by law and carries out other powers assigned to it by the Constitution of Georgia, other legislative acts, and the Rules of Procedure of the City Council.

The Akhaltsikhe City Council comprises 39 members, with 13 of them elected under the majoritarian rule and the remaining 26 through the proportional system.

11 members from the opposition parties entered the City Council, including 8 - from the “United National Movement”, 2 - from the “Gakharia - for Georgia” party and 1 - from “European Georgia”. Only one of them, the representative of “European Georgia” is a Majoritarian member of the City Council. All the rest were included in the proportional list. However, as of today, the Akhaltsikhe City Council has 2 independent members, because of the fact that 2 members left the “United National Movement”.

In the Akhaltsikhe City Council, there are 11 women, with 5 of them currently occupying official positions.

During the tenure of Akhaltsikhe City Council, 5 commissions were established:

1. Legal, Mandate Issues and Ethics Commission - Chairman Mariam Gogoladze;
2. Finance and Budgetary Commission - Chairman Vladimir Kurtanidze;
3. Commission for Social Issues, Culture, Education, Sports and Youth Affairs - Chairman Nino Mikaberidze;
4. Property Management, Natural Resources and Agrarian Affairs Commission - Chairman Zoia Baliashvili;
5. Spatial-Territorial Planning and Infrastructure Commission - Chairman Nodar Talakhadze.

3 factions are operating in the City Council. The chairman of the “**Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia**” faction, Besik Bliadze, has 7 deputies, the chairman of the “**United National Movement**” faction, Davit Akhalkatsi - 2 deputies, and the leader of the “Akhaltsikhe for Georgia” faction, Giorgi Giorgadze - 1 deputy.

In total, 22 of the 39 members of the Akhaltsikhe City Council are officials.

### **City Council Sessions:**

During the reporting period, a total of **18** sessions of the City Council and **14** meetings of the Bureau of the council were held. No session was canceled due to lack of quorum. 2 out of 18 meetings of the City Council were extraordinary.

From December 2021 to 2022, the City Council approved **56** draft resolutions.

Throughout the reporting period, the Akhaltsikhe City Council obtained 3 legal assessments concerning 7 normative acts from the Administration of the Government of Georgia. The Council duly considered and integrated all of these assessments.

The City Council did not provide us with information regarding how many times 39 members of the City Council utilized their speaking rights or presented reports before the Council within a period of one year and one month. Instead, they merely indicated that “the MPs consistently express their viewpoints on pertinent matters under deliberation, which could be of significance” during commission, bureau, or City Council sessions.

Furthermore, the number of matters subjected to voting and the specific issues on which deputies did not extend their support remain undisclosed. The City Council did not supply us with the meeting minutes that would have enabled us to scrutinize the aforementioned matter.

During the reporting period, proposals for establishment, reorganization and liquidation of legal entities (NNLE/LLC) were presented to the City Council **7 times**.

Akhaltzikhe City Council handed over the below properties to the state free of charge:

- Non-agricultural plot of land for building a school in Chacharaki village;
- Non-agricultural plots of land and ambulatory buildings located on it in 22 villages;

In addition, in the form of gratuitous use, the City Council transferred the House of Rituals located in Kharischirashvili N1 to the Public Service Hall.

## CHAPTER 3: CHANGES IN AKHALTSIKHE CITY COUNCIL

On December 13, 2021, the **Chairman of the Finance and Budgetary Commission** Guram Gelashvili was replaced by Vladimer Kurtanidze, who previously served as the deputy chairman of the “Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia” faction. Nodar Khitarishvili took Vladimir Kurtanidze’s position in the faction.

Notably, in October 2022, Vladimer Kurtanidze [resigned](#) from his role as the chairman of the Finance and Budgetary Commission. He left the “Georgian Dream” party to join the “People’s Power”. Merely a few days later, on November 4, he was re-elected to the identical position, this time as a member without a faction.

Saba Kbilashvili, the **deputy chairman of the City Council** in Akhaltsikhe, also made a significant shift by aligning with “People’s Power”. In doing so, he stood as one of the initial members of the region to leave the “Georgian Dream”, leading to his resignation from his role on July 15, 2022. Remarkably, just five months later, on November 4, he secured re-election to the identical position, this time as a member without a faction.

Changes were made in the **“United National Movement” faction** as well. On May 11, 2022, the deputy chairman of the faction, Nona Kozashvili, left the “United National Movement” party and remained an independent member of the City Council. Nona Kozashvili was replaced by Mariam Dalalishvili, a member of the same party.

About a month later, on June 6, the Council member authority held by faction chairman Samson Baliashvili was terminated. This measure was a consequence of a court ruling that [found him guilty](#) under the initial section of Article 120 of the Criminal Code, pertaining to deliberate minor harm to health. Consequently, Besik Okromelidze, representing the “United National Movement”, [assumed the seat](#) within the Akhaltsikhe City Council, taking over from Samson Baliashvili. Mariam Dalalishvili took on the role of faction “United National Movement” chairperson, with Koba Sandroshvili appointed as their deputy.

After five months, precisely on October 4, Mariam Dalalishvili opted to step down from her position as the chairperson of the “United National Movement” faction. Simultaneously, she also parted ways with the party itself, citing conflicts with fellow party members as the underlying [reason](#). Following her departure, Mariam Dalalishvili maintained her engagement within the council, now functioning as an independent member.

On the same day, Davit Akhalkatsi, who previously held the position of one of the deputies, became the chairman of the faction. Ketvan Bardzimidze was appointed to the vacant position of deputy.

During the reporting period, the composition of the faction **“Akhaltsikhe for Georgia”** also changed. On July 27, 2022, the faction’s chairman, Marina Abuladze, who represents Giorgi Gakharia’s party in the city council, resigned. Marina Abuladze had been serving as a lawyer at NNLE “Akhaltsikhe Kindergartens Union for years. However, in the lead-up to the 2021 local self-government pre-election phase, her employment was [terminated](#). This came about subsequent to her son’s appointment as the coordinator of Giorgi Gakharia’s party within the region. Following legal proceedings and a successful court outcome, Marina Abuladze was [reinstated](#) in her role. Notably, she also continued her involvement as a city council member.

On July 27, 2022, Giorgi Giorgadze became the chairman of the “Akhaltsikhe for Georgia” faction. Taniel Tabatadze, the member of the “European Georgia” party, was appointed as his deputy.

In September 2022, Zaal Beridze, the majoritarian member of the “Georgian Dream”, [passed away](#).

# CHAPTER 4: ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSIONS AND FACTIONS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

## **Activities of the City Council Commissions:**

Five permanent commissions in the Akhaltsikhe City Council held **55 sessions** during the reporting period. No commission session was interrupted due to a lack of quorum.

Regrettably, the City Council has not provided us with the meeting minutes of the commissions. Consequently, we lack information regarding the number of matters that underwent voting during these commission sessions, as well as any instances where an issue might have been referred back to the City Hall or underwent modifications.

None of the commissions of the City Council, neither temporarily nor during the term of the commission's office, invited any external persons. Additionally, none of the commission chairpersons sought the expertise of specialists for any particular matters.

During the reporting period, all five commissions presented a total of **113** draft legal acts to the City Council.

## **The number of draft legal acts prepared by the City Council commissions:**

<b>Commissions</b>	<b>Number of Sessions</b>	<b>Draft Legal Acts</b>
Legal, Mandate Issues and Ethics Commission	14	43
Spatial-Territorial Planning and Infrastructure Commission	11	13
Finance and Budgetary Commission	8	15
Commission for Social Issues	11	14
Property Management, Natural Resources Commission	11	28

## **Activities of the City Council Factions:**

During the specified reporting period, none of the **3** factions functioning within the Akhaltsikhe City Council demonstrated any form of initiative. Consequently, they did not put forth proposals for normative or individual administrative-legal acts, nor did they present any written initiatives.

The factions did a little work, however, the expenses for their operation totaled **311,586.88 GEL**, namely:

## **Expenses incurred on the activities of factions:**

Telephone Communications	2,925 GEL
Fuel Expenses	4,772.42 GEL
Payroll	303,779.46 GEL
Business Trip expenses	110 GEL



# CHAPTER 5: CONTROL OF THE BODIES ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COUNCIL

According to the Local Self-Government Code, City Council exercises the oversight function over the activities of the municipality's executive bodies and their officials, listens to and evaluates their reports, and the mayor is accountable to the City Council and the population.

On November 4, 2022, the mayor of Akhaltsikhe Municipality submitted a report, and his performance was evaluated as satisfactory. Throughout the reporting timeframe, the City Council received presentations concerning both quarterly and yearly budget implementation plans, alongside reports on the execution of procurement plans.

The Culture Service reports from Akhaltsikhe City Hall were deliberated upon on May 31, 2022, and subsequently received a favorable assessment. Furthermore, the Public Health Service reports from Akhaltsikhe City Hall were examined on June 24, 2022, and similarly garnered positive evaluations. In addition to this, reports from four municipal NNLEs and one inter-municipal NNLE were also brought forward and presented.

Throughout the reporting duration, the City Council chairman delivered the performance reports on two occasions: first, on June 17, 2022, during a retreat session held at the public hall of the Akhaltsikhe Municipality City Council, and subsequently on October 28 during a session of the City Council itself.

The Akhaltsikhe City Council returned the budget proposals for both 2022 and 2023 to the City Hall, along with accompanying notes. Specific comments made by the Akhaltsikhe City Council regarding the 2022 budget proposal remain undisclosed, as they did not share this information with us. However, they informed us that they had duly considered all the remarks. For the 2023 budget proposal, the following list of matters was included:

- *Rehabilitation of buildings and structures in the city of Vale.*
- *Repair of existing roads in Vale city and villages.*
- *Enhanced support for newborns by raising the amount in the social assistance package by 50 GEL.*
- *Allocation of funds to religious organizations with the aim of promoting equality, duly recorded in the budget entry.*
- *The City Hall started working on the public transport issue.*
- *Rehabilitation of the damaged bridge on Kazbegi Street in Akhaltsikhe.*
- *Illumination of the area surrounding the artificial lake in Akhaltsikhe.*
- *Arrangement of exercise equipment in Rabat.*
- *Increase of the salaries of the NNLE employees.*
- *Inclusion of provisions in the social package to address assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and individuals facing extreme economic hardship.*

Throughout the reporting period, the Akhaltsikhe City Council endorsed all presented matters with unanimous support. However, an exception arose in relation to the draft decree titled

“Granting Consent for the Disposal of Municipally-Owned Real Estate through Paid Usage, via Electronic Auction”. This particular draft was returned to the City Hall for further clarification.

Between December 3, 2021, and December 31, 2022, the Akhaltsikhe City Council introduced a total of 8 revisions to the budget. Among these, a single modification was executed in December 2021. The driving force behind all these alterations was the mayor of the municipality.

During the reporting period, the Akhaltsikhe City Council presented a sole initiative. This initiative materialized as a decree detailing the names of 31 village streets.

No instances of official incompatibility or conflict of interest concerning City Council members were reported. However, a [study](#) released by “Transparency International - Georgia” in April 2023 proves the opposite. According to the study a **company owned by the son and daughter-in-law of Nodar Talakhadze, the Chairperson of the Infrastructure Commission and Member of the Tender Commission of the Akhaltsikhe City Council - Company L S Georgia LLC - received 8,797,512 GEL from the state procurements in 2020-2021. 2,290,017 GEL (78%) contracts of which were awarded by Akhaltsikhe City Hall through tenders without competition and direct procurements.**

As per [details disclosed](#) by “Transparency International - Georgia” on July 13, “Georgian Dream” MP Gela Chalidze has also **been associated with direct procurement. Specifically, his companies “Gvriti” LLC and “Dagma” LLC have received a cumulative sum of 244,146 GEL from state procurements spanning from October 2021 to the present date. Notably, the most substantial portion, amounting to 141,533 GEL (57.9%), originated from the Akhaltsikhe Municipality’s City Hall and its affiliated legal entities.**

Furthermore, it’s important to highlight that **Zaza Melikidze, a council member from the “Georgian Dream” party and former mayor of Akhaltsikhe, maintains involvement in state procurement activities** connected to the legal entities affiliated with Akhaltsikhe City Hall. “Transparency International - Georgia” has released multiple studies regarding potential instances of corrupt procurements involving Melikidze and his associates from 2019 to 2022. The Anti-Corruption Agency of the State Security Service has initiated an investigation into the potential abuse of authority by Zaza Melikidze. Moreover, the misconduct of Melikidze’s companies was documented in the 2021 report by the State Audit Office.

The City Council did not provide us with information concerning the number of its members who posed inquiries to the accountable body, namely the mayor or other officials of the municipality. Furthermore, details regarding the nature of these inquiries and the specific topics they pertained to were not provided. Additionally, the recipient who received the highest number of questions remains undisclosed. The City Council provided a general response indicating that a range of petition letters were dispatched to citizens. Furthermore, they mentioned that the issues highlighted by City Council members during interactions with the local population in different administrative-territorial units of the municipality were considered. Additionally, the list of infrastructure projects intended for inclusion in the budget and subsequent resolution was also taken into consideration. It was mentioned that a significant portion of these matters were acknowledged and addressed, and timely responses were provided to all inquiries.

## CHAPTER 6. INCOMPLETE ASSET DECLARATIONS

A notable challenge within the Akhaltsikhe City Council pertains to asset declarations of public officials that have been inadequately filled out, containing gaps and incomplete information.

Out of the total of 22 officials within the council, nine individuals submitted asset declarations with violations. Among those were the Chairman of the City Council, Davit Lomidze, the deputy chairman of the City Council, Ambartsum Baboyan, the deputy chairman of the “Georgian Dream-Democratic Georgia” faction - Nodar Khitarishvili, Zurab Bardzimadze and Arutun Agababyan, the deputy chairman of the “Akhaltsikhe for Georgia” faction Tariel Tabatadze, the deputy chairpersons of the “United National Movement” faction, Ketevan Bardzimadze and Koba Sandroshvili.

You can find the Violations Identified in Asset Declarations of Public Officials in Samtskhe-Javakheti Municipalities [here](#).

**It’s important to acknowledge that “Transparency International - Georgia” faces limitations in verifying the active status of the companies mentioned in their research. This is due to the fact that the necessary information for such verification falls under tax confidentiality.**

According to the Law on Conflict of Interest and Corruption in Public Service, a public official is obliged to fill out an asset declaration in full within two months after being appointed to the office, to include information about his/her and his/her family members’ property and economic interests in the declaration, to transfer the management rights of his/her stakes in business entities to another person, and to resign from the position of the director, head, of the business entity within 10 days after being appointed to the office.

## CHAPTER 7: INVOLVEMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

The Akhaltsikhe City Council did not furnish us with information regarding the absences of its members during sessions and commission meetings, whether due to valid or invalid reasons. Their response indicated that this matter is considered an internal organizational aspect of the City Council's operations.

Additionally, the City Council did not supply us with the minutes of their sessions, which would have facilitated our analysis of the aforementioned information.

## CHAPTER 8: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN THE CITY COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

According to the information provided in the letter from the City Council, the scheduling of City Council sessions is announced through posts on the City Council's Facebook page and displayed on information boards. However, out of the 18 meetings conducted during the reporting period, 15 [were duly announced](#). It's noteworthy that 6 of these announced meetings were held with a notice of two days in advance, while the remaining meetings were announced either one day earlier or on the same day as the session. The City Council did not adhere to the legal stipulation of announcing any sessions a week in advance, as required [by law](#).

**Throughout the reporting period, a single petition was officially registered in the Akhaltsikhe City Council. This petition was submitted by "Transparency International - Georgia," urging the "dismantling and construction of a new preschool facility at N12 ladze street in Akhaltsikhe." Notably, this petition was approved and adopted.**

It's worth highlighting that within the 2021 city council term, the assessment of a petition submitted by "Transparency International - Georgia" during the prior city council term was resumed. This petition had urged the "expansion of city transportation services in Akhaltsikhe and the implementation of varied route schedules," and had gathered endorsements from 500 local residents. In the year 2022, the Council members extended their support to this request.

According to the City Council, in order to promote **citizen participation** in the work of the local self-government, the following initiatives were put forward:

- Gender Equality Council is established.
- Public Hall under the City Council is established.
- Meetings are held with students and youth. 40 participants attended one such meeting.
- Public consultations of the 2022 and 2023 budgets were held.
- Retreats of the members of the City Council are held (however, the City Council could not provide us with the minutes of any such meeting).
- The members of the City Council presented reports to the population in different administrative units.
- The members of the City Council systematically attend the general assemblies of the settlements.

### Reports of the City Council Members

During the year 2022, a total of 31 out of 39 [members](#) adhered to the established reporting format and submitted their reports. Notably, none of the members affiliated with the "National Movement" faction, along with the representative of the "Georgian Dream," Arutun Agababyan, provided reports to the population.

All 31 members have reported active engagement in meetings with the local population, although some have omitted to specify the number of meetings conducted. Among those who did provide figures, a total of 127 meetings took place during the reporting period. However, it's worth noting that the Akhaltsikhe City Council has not supplied the minutes of these meetings for review.

All 31 members write that they raised the issues highlighted during the meetings with relevant structures and decision-makers. However, only 4 members listed 15 specific issues which were positively resolved. For example, MP from “Georgian Dream”, Artashes Balasanyan considers the meeting with the employees of the Public Service Hall as an issue resolved by his initiative.

Among the 31 City Council members, a total of 25 did not submit any initiatives, issues, or proposals to the council. This group includes the deputy chairmen of Akhaltsikhe City Council - Davit Tabatadze, Ambartsum Baboyan, and Saba Kbilashvili. Conversely, 6 MPs collectively presented a total of 22 initiatives, issues, or proposals. Notably, Mariam Gogoladze stands as the most active author with 4 initiatives, while Davit Lomidze contributed 3 initiatives.

## CHAPTER 9: ACTIVITIES OF THE GENDER EQUALITY COUNCIL

Gender Equality Council in Akhaltsikhe City Council in 2021-2022:

- Has not carried out an analysis of draft legal acts;
- Has not carried out the examination of draft legislative acts;
- Has not submitted proposals and recommendations to the Akhaltsikhe City Council or the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia;
- Has not received any statements regarding the violation of gender equality.

The Gender Equality Council has approved a three-year action plan and strategy document.

# CHAPTER 10: EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF AKHALTSIKHE

## Salary:

Between December 2021 and 2022, the City Council's expenditures amounted to **1,052,686.18 GEL**. Out of this sum, a total of **901,802.73 GEL** was allocated for salaries, allowances, and awards. Among them, the employees of the City Council office received **234,365 GEL**, both in the form of salary and allowances and rewards. **515,537.73 GEL** was paid to the officials of the City Council.

The "Local Self-Government Code" also provides for reimbursement of expenses incurred for the activities of the City Council for those members of the Council who do not hold official positions. There are 17 such members in Akhaltsikhe City Council and they received a total of **151,900 GEL**.

## Remuneration paid to Akhaltsikhe City Council and its office staff members from December 2021 to December 2022:

20 employees of the City Council Office	214,963
22 public officials of the City Council	515,537.73
17 members of the City Council	151,900
<b>Sum</b>	<b>882,400.73</b>

In 2022, 17 employees of Akhaltsikhe City Council office received the awards, although it is not known for what merit. Additionally, 12 employees received supplements during this period.

## Award and class supplements given to employees of the City Council office:

12 employees of the City Council Office - Class supplements	2,647
17 employees of the City Council Office - Award	16,755
<b>Sum</b>	<b>19,402</b>

## Business Trip Expenses

A total of **1,040 GEL** was spent on business trips of **13 employees** of Akhaltsikhe City Council within the country in the reporting period.

## Telephone Communication Expenses

Akhaltsikhe City Council spent **13,040 GEL** on telephone communication.

## Telephone Communication Expenses:

22 public officials of the City Council	6,280
17 members of the City Council	3,315
17 employees of the City Council Office	3,445
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>13,040</b>



### **Vehicle and Fuel Expenses:**

The City Council chairman, Davit Lomidze (with a TOYOTA - LAND CRUISER PRADO 2008), and the first deputy chairman of the City Council, Davit Tabatadze (driving a RENAULT DUSTER 2018), utilize the two cars allocated to the Akhaltsikhe Municipality. Fuel procured from the local budget is utilized by all City Council officials for their personal vehicles. Notably, Guram Gelashvili, who briefly served as the chairman of the Finance and Budgetary Commission for 10 days, did not use any fuel.

Within a year, the City Council consumed **33,584 liters** of fuel, which equated to a total cost of **109,690.45 GEL**.

### **Fuel consumed by City Council officials:**

Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the City Council	11044.5 Liters	35,975.45 GEL
Public Officials of the factions	14601.53 Liters	47,672.42 GEL
Chairmen of the Commissions	7938.58 Liters	26,042.58 GEL

Detailed information about the consumed fuel can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Between December 2021 and 2022, a total of **27,113 GEL** was allocated for the repair and restoration of vehicles under the possession of the City Council.

# RECOMMENDATIONS:

## **Exercise of Oversight function:**

- There is a need for increased involvement of the City Council members in oversight activities. Specifically, they should utilize control mechanisms more actively and take effective measures to monitor public procurement processes and large infrastructure projects;
- There should be a more proactive oversight by the permanent commissions of the City Council over the operations of the executive bodies;
- The City Council should diligently and proactively work towards identifying cases of conflict of interest, incompatibility with public office, and violations of the Rules of Procedure of the City Council and ethical norms within the municipality.

## **Accountability:**

- The City Council is obligated to release public information in accordance with legal requirements. Additionally, it should take the initiative to promptly upload minutes from both commission and council sessions onto the official website, ensuring their accessibility to the general public.
- Public Officials' asset declarations serve as crucial mechanisms for promoting transparency and accountability. Incomplete declarations can potentially contribute to corruption risks. Therefore, it is imperative for officials to diligently complete their declarations.

## **Activities of the Factions:**

- It holds significant importance that the actions of factions positively contribute to the local self-government. Factions should be actively engaged in scrutinizing and supervising the activities of the City Hall and affiliated municipal entities. They should also present initiatives to the City Council, actively participate in the budgeting process, and engage in similar endeavors. Factions play a crucial role in elevating citizen engagement within the self-government structure, endorsing local initiatives, and advocating for the interests and issues of the community.

## **City Council Expenditure:**

- Ensuring that the expenditures made by the City Council fully align with the responsibilities granted to it by the legal framework is of utmost significance;
- The City Council should exercise diligent oversight over administrative expenditures of both the directly representative body and the municipality as a whole. It's important to prioritize the efficient utilization of financial resources and promote financial prudence.

## **General Assembly of the Settlement:**

- As stipulated by the Local Self-Government Code, one of the primary mechanisms for engaging citizens in self-government processes is through the convening of a general assembly of the settlement. Given that in the Akhaltsikhe municipality, the general assembly of the settlement solely occurs under the context of the "Village Support Program," it becomes imperative for the City Council to promote this participatory mechanism. The City Council should direct the mayor to organize general settlement meetings upon request, specifically to enhance the budget planning process for the forthcoming year.