



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
GEORGIA



EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF THE 6TH CITY COUNCIL OF KUTAISI

CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Main Findings	4
Chapter 2: General Information about the City Council of Kutaisi	5
Chapter 3: Important Developments	9
Chapter 4: Activities of Commissions and Factions of the City Council	11
Chapter 5: Control of Bodies Accountable to the City Council	14
Chapter 6: Incomplete Asset Declarations and Incompatible Activity	16
Chapter 7: Involvement of Members of the City Council in the Council's Activities	18
Chapter 8: Citizens' Involvement in the City Council's Activities	22
Chapter 9: Activities of the Gender Equality Council	23
Chapter 10: Expenditures of the City Council of Kutaisi	24
Recommendations	28

Transparency International Georgia has evaluated the performance of the representative body of the Municipality of the City of Kutaisi elected in 2017 - the City Council (hereinafter “the City Council of Kutaisi”).

The report is based on information requested and received from the City Council and on observations of our organization, and covers the period from November 2017 up to 2019.

CHAPTER 1: MAIN FINDINGS

Exercise of control:

- During the reporting period, the City Council of Kutaisi exercised weak oversight on the executive body and on legal entities established by the municipality, and the City Council's control over officials and individual agencies accountable to it was formal in most cases.
- During the reporting period, the City Council of Kutaisi didn't invite an independent auditor to conduct an independent audit of the City Council's activities.

The process of adoption of legal acts:

- The City Council of Kutaisi held 37 sessions, including 10 extraordinary sessions.
- During the reporting period, only the Commission on Healthcare and Social Affairs invited 2 specialists for the duration of one year.
- The City Council of Kutaisi adopted 134 resolutions, 110 of which had been authored/initiated by the Kutaisi City Hall, 23 - by the City Council, and 1 - by the Gender Equality Council.
- All the 5 factions at the City Council of Kutaisi submitted initiatives to the City Council. The factions had 24 initiatives during the reporting period.
- The Gender Equality Council at the City Council of Kutaisi considered the draft Budget of the Municipality of Kutaisi and elaborated recommendations as well as legislative proposals.
- It is noteworthy that the City Council of the previous convocation didn't include a gender equality council at all, so the formation of this council is a positive novelty.

Accountability:

- Three of 16 officials of the City Council of Kutaisi filled out their asset declarations with shortcomings.
- Members of the City Council missed sessions of the Council 192 times in total. Members of the Council who missed the most sessions include Vladimer Kldiashvili (21 sessions) and Giorgi Ukleba (20 sessions) from the United National Movement and Davit Gogisvanidze (19 sessions) from European Georgia.

It is noteworthy that Giorgi Ukleba and Davit Gogisvanidze also had the most absences from sessions of the City Council of the previous convocation, 50 and 43, respectively.

- GEL **1,853,759** was given as salaries at the City Council of Kutaisi. The staff and non-staff employees of the City Council received GEL **202,446** in total in the form of salary supplements, bonuses, and allowances.
- The City Council of Kutaisi spent **115,653** liters of fuel.
- Members and staff of the City Council of Kutaisi spent GEL **48,906** in total on work trips within the country and abroad.

CHAPTER 2: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY COUNCIL OF KUTAISI

The City Council of Kutaisi is the representative body of the Municipality of the City of Kutaisi which exercises the powers established by the [Local Self-Government Code](#) in the territory of the municipality. It also exercises control on the activities of the executive body, the City Hall, and its officials within the limits established by law and carries out other powers determined for it by law, the Constitution of Georgia, other legislative acts, and the Rules of Procedure of the City Council.

The City Council of Kutaisi has **25** members, **10** of whom are elected in local single-mandate majoritarian electoral districts and **15** - through the proportional system.

Distribution of mandates		
Elected through majoritarian system - 10 members (all from Georgian Dream)		
Elected through proportional system - 15 members		
Georgian Dream	United National Movement	European Georgia
19	4	2

There are only 4 women among the members of the City Council, which is 16% of the total membership. There are 2 women among the officials of the Council: the Chairperson of the Georgian Dream faction, Marekh Nizharadze, and the Deputy Chairperson of the same faction, Eleonora Archaia.

There are 5 factions at the City Council:

Faction	Membership
Georgian Dream	9
United National Movement	4
Georgian Dream - Conservatives	3
Georgian Dream - Industrialists	3
Georgian Dream - Greens	3

The chairpersons of all the factions except the Georgian Dream - Conservatives have a deputy.

The City Council has the authority to create commissions for the purposes of drafting proposals for the City Council, facilitating the implementation of decisions, and exercising control on the structural units of the City Hall and legal entities established by the City Council. **The City Council of Kutaisi has created the following commissions for the duration of its term of office:**

1. the Commission on Legal Issues (Chairperson – Vlasi Gardapkhadze);
2. the Finance and Budget Commission (Chairperson – Kakhaber Bochorishvili);
3. the Commission on Economy, Property Management and Municipal Services (Chairperson – Giorgi Cheishvili);
4. the Commission on Culture, Education, Youth Affairs and Sports (Chairperson – Otar Lortkipanidze);
5. the Commission on Healthcare and Social Affairs (Chairperson – Mamuka Rizhamadze).

Sixteen of the 25 members of the City Council are officials, specifically:

Name/last name	Position	Date of election
Nikoloz Lataria	Chairperson of City Council (resigned from office)	20/11/2017 – 10/12/2019
Ramaz Chkhikvadze	Deputy Chairperson of City Council	20/11/2017
Irakli Shengelia	Deputy Chairperson of City Council Acting Chairperson of City Council	20/11/2017 10/12/2019

Chairpersons of commissions		
Vlasi Gardapkhadze	Chairperson of Commission	20/11/2017
Kakhaber Bochorishvili	Chairperson of Commission	20/11/2017
Giorgi Cheishvili	Chairperson of Commission	20/11/2017
Otar Lortkipanidze	Chairperson of Commission	20/11/2017
Mamuka Rizhamadze	Chairperson of Commission	20/11/2017

Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of factions		
Marekh Nizharadze	Georgian Dream - Chairperson	20/11/2017
Grigol Shushania	United National Movement - Chairperson	20/11/2017
Nana Kostava	Georgian Dream - Conservatives - Chairperson	07/12/2017
Was replaced by Nikoloz Chechelashvili		26/06/2019
Lasha Gvenetadze	Georgian Dream - Industrialists - Chairperson	07/12/2017
Imeda Saghinadze	Georgian Dream - Greens - Chairperson	27/12/2017
Eleonora Archaia	Georgian Dream - Deputy Chairperson	18/01/2018
Vladimer Kldiashvili	United National Movement - Deputy Chairperson	18/01/2018
Was replaced by Roman Kvachakidze		
Nikoloz Chechelashvili, held the position until June 26, 2019	Georgian Dream - Conservatives - Deputy Chairperson	18/01/2018 - 26/06/2019
Davit Tsuleiskiri	Georgian Dream - Industrialists - Deputy Chairperson	18/01/2018
Amiran Kopaleishvili	Georgian Dream - Greens - Deputy Chairperson	18/01/2018

General statistics:

During the reporting period, the City Council held 37 sessions, including 10 extraordinary sessions, out of which 1 session was convened on the initiative of the Chairperson of the City Council, 2 - on the joint initiative of the Chairperson of the City Council and the Mayor of Kutaisi, and 7 - on the initiative of the Mayor.

Not a single session of the City Council was cancelled during the reporting period due to lack of quorum.

Sessions held at the City Council of Kutaisi	
Total	Extraordinary
37	10

Thirty-eight sessions of the Bureau were held during the reporting period.

During the same period, the City Council of Kutaisi adopted 134 resolutions, 110 of which had been authored/initiated by the Mayor of Kutaisi, 17 - by the Chairperson of the City Council, 1 - by the Deputy Chairperson of the City Council, 1 - by the staff of the City Council, 4 - by the Commission on Legal Issues, and 1 - by the Chairperson of the Gender Equality Council.

The City Council of Kutaisi initiated 73 issues.

The City Council deliberated on the imposition, modification, and abolition of local taxes, fees, and service fees on 13 occasions.

The legal supervision authority drafted 14 negative legal opinions on legal acts of the City Council of Kutaisi. The City Council submitted a reasoned written refusal on 2 negative legal opinions, 1 of which was recognized as satisfactory by the supervision authority.

Not a single petition was registered at the City Council of Kutaisi during the reporting period.

CHAPTER 3: IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

Resignation of the Chairperson of the City Council:

On December 10, 2019, the Chairperson of the City Council of Kutaisi, Nikoloz Lataria, resigned from office. The City Council has not elected a new chairperson. The obligations of the chairperson are being fulfilled by the Deputy Chairperson of the City Council, Irakli Shengelia.

Changes in the composition of the City Council of Kutaisi:

From June 27, 2019, on the basis of the Rules of Procedure of the City Council, the City Council of Kutaisi terminated the powers of a member of the Council from the United National Movement, Giorgi Ukleba. According to the City Council, Giorgi Ukleba hadn't attended the sessions of the Council and of its commissions and factions for six months, failed to get involved in the Council's activities, and, at the time of the inquiry, failed to submit evidence of a valid reason for absence.

Giorgi Ukleba was replaced by Roman Kvachakidze at the City Council.

Unethical behavior of members of the City Council:

A member of the City Council (from the Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia), Nana Kostava, published an unethical post in the social network about a girl who had died at the time of a field trip. This was [followed by severe protest](#) of the public. The fact was evaluated negatively by several members of the City Council and by the [Mayor of Kutaisi](#). After these developments, Nona Kostava resigned from the position of the Chairperson of the Georgian Dream – Conservatives faction and also left the faction. She also left the Gender Equality Council.

On September 19, 2018, members of the City Council of Kutaisi from the Georgian Dream, Amiran Kopaleishvili and Imeda Saghinadze, [assaulted](#) Giorgi Ukleba, also a member of the City Council from the United National Movement. According to media outlets, the assault took place because Giorgi Ukleba had insulted Salome Zurabishvili, a presidential candidate supported by the Georgian Dream, on his Facebook page, which was followed by verbal confrontation and fistfight first in the session hall of the City Council and then in the corridor. The City Council of Kutaisi hasn't deliberated on this fact and hasn't established a violation of norms of ethics.

Gratuitous transfer of property to the State:

During the reporting period, the City Council of Kutaisi adopted 6 decrees on gratuitous transfer of municipal property to the State:

1. By Decree No. 86 of June 27, 2018, the State received a gratuitous transfer of a non-agricultural land plot with an area of 3,070 sq. meters located at 52 Kharebava Street in Kutaisi, with the aim of its subsequent transfer to LEPL General Giorgi

Kvinitadze Military Lyceum of Cadets with the right to use.

2. By Decree No. 87 of June 27, 2018, the State received a gratuitous transfer of a non-agricultural land plot with an area of 3,800 sq. meters located at 19 Nikea Street in Kutaisi, with the aim of its subsequent transfer to the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the right to use.
3. By Decree No. 104 of September 19, 2018, the State received a gratuitous transfer of a piece of real estate at the intersection of David Agmashenebeli and Tbilisi Streets in Kutaisi.
4. By Decree No. 138 of January 30, 2019, the State received a gratuitous transfer of land plots no. 1, 2, and 3 within the territory of JSC Litoponi Factory on A. Tsereteli Street in Kutaisi and a non-agricultural land plot with an area of 4,374 sq. meters at 192 A. Tsereteli Street in Kutaisi, with the aim of their subsequent transfer to the Department of Environmental Supervision with the right to use.
5. By Decree No. 225 of September 25, 2019, the State received a gratuitous transfer of a non-agricultural land plot with an area of 2,925 sq. meters and a building located on it at 55 Sharvashidze Street in Kutaisi, with the aim of their transfer into private ownership of IDPs.
6. By Decree No. 242 of November 27, 2019, the State received a gratuitous transfer of a non-agricultural land plot located near 16 Bagrati Street in Kutaisi.

Important legal acts

Approved budgets of Kutaisi were amended **20 times in total** during the reporting period: Specifically:

- the Budget of 2017 was amended once;
- the Budget of 2018 was amended 8 times;
- the Budget of 2019 was amended 11 times.

During the reporting period, the Kutaisi City Hall submitted to the City Council programs, strategies, and plans for the socio-economic development and/or other purposes 9 times and documents of spatial-territorial planning – 14 times.

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

Activities of commissions of the City Council:

Five standing commissions at the City Council of Kutaisi held 163 sessions in total during the reporting period. A session was only cancelled once due to lack of quorum (a session of the Commission on Economy, Property Management and Municipal Services on November 22, 2019).

The City Council's commissions submitted a total of 40 draft legal acts to the Council and, also, drafted 487 legal opinions on the conformity of legal acts to be considered by the Council with the legislation.

Number of sessions of commissions of the City Council					
Year	Commission on Legal Issues	Finance and Budget Commission	Commission on Economy, Property Management and Municipal Services	Commission on Culture, Education, Youth Affairs and Sports	Commission on Healthcare and Social Affairs
2017 (November-December)	2	0	2	2	1
2018	21	14	17	10	14
2019	26	16	16	6	16
Total:	49 sessions	30 sessions	35 sessions	18 sessions	31 sessions

Number of draft legal acts submitted by commissions to the City Council				
Commission on Legal Issues	Finance and Budget Commission	Commission on Economy, Property Management and Municipal Services	Commission on Culture, Education, Youth Affairs and Sports	Commission on Healthcare and Social Affairs
21	3	3	10	3

During the reporting period, only the Commission on Healthcare and Social Affairs invited 2 specialists for the duration of one year (without remuneration), although the City Council failed to inform us about the purpose for which they had been invited.

Activities of factions of the City Council:

There are 5 factions at the City Council of Kutaisi elected in 2017. The factions were able to initiate 24 proposals from the day of their registration up to 2019.

The Georgian Dream faction approached the City Council in connection with the following issues:

- Increasing the expenses of the Program for Assistance of Single-Parent Families, in order to help single-parent families;
- Providing funds in the draft Budget of 2019 for conducting free medical examinations of children below the age of 18 once a year to help families with multiple children.

The Georgian Dream - Greens faction initiated 2 proposals:

- Increasing the allocations for the arrangement of new public squares and reconstruction/restoration of existing ones in the budget of the local self-government body;
- Increasing the number of exercise equipment units and sports pitches in the city of Kutaisi, with the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle for the young generation.

The Georgian Dream - Industrialists faction submitted 5 proposals during the reporting period, although they have failed to provide us with a list of proposals.

The United National Movement faction initiated 11 proposals during the reporting period:

- Providing every pensioner with an additional voucher of GEL 50 for buying medicines;
- Providing average- and middle-income subscribers with a one-off utilities voucher of GEL 100;
- Paid internship program for successful students, with a pilot allocation of GEL 100,000 in the first year;
- Introducing student fares for local transport (halving the fares);
- Providing a voucher of GEL 400 for all newly-born babies;
- Allocating GEL 50,000 for every school, which the schools will use as they see fit, according to decisions of teachers and parents' councils (38 schools in total);
- Creating home owners' associations of side streets and blind alleys of settlements of private houses - in parallel with apartment owners' associations of multi-storey condominiums - which will be able to submit projects to the Kutaisi City Hall to

receive funding for resolving problems of their streets, side streets, and blind alleys; a pilot allocation of GEL 500,000;

- Halving the parking fee and resolving problems with parking;
- Studying the issue of social houses and providing response;
- Responding to unlawful cutting of trees and launching a greening campaign;
- Initiatives raised at sessions of the City Council and its commissions regarding amendments to draft budgets: creating a task force for studying poor quality works of rehabilitation of the water supply system and providing response; starting work on the problem with municipal transport and formulating a vision for tenders of 2019; reducing bureaucratic expenses; prohibiting the installment of kiosks; stopping the coercion of employees of the “Kutaisi” charity foundation to make donations in the run-up to elections; stopping unlawful constructions in public squares; taking measures to strengthen the supervision function of the City Council; responding to unlawful reorganization of the House of Gratefulness, submitting a staff list of the City Hall and remarks about statutes of municipal services.

The Georgian Dream - Conservatives faction submitted the following proposals:

- Considering citizens’ demand to “return religion to schools”;
- Allocating funds for a banner related to the festivities of the Mother Language Day, which were provided for in the Budget of 2020;
- Granting collective request of professors of Akaki Tsereteli State University to co-fund the conference titled “Labor Market: Unemployment and Poverty of Employees”;
- Decorating the April 9 memorial with flowers and bringing it to order.

The City Council considered and made decisions on 13 of the 24 issues listed above. According to the United National Movement faction, the City Council didn’t even consider the 11 proposals that were initiated by them.

Faction	Number of initiated proposals
Georgian Dream	2
Georgian Dream - Conservatives	4
Georgian Dream - Industrialists	5
Georgian Dream - Greens	2
United National Movement	11
Total initiated proposals	24

CHAPTER 5: CONTROL OF BODIES ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

According to the Local Self-Government Code, the municipal/city council has the powers to monitor the activities of the municipality's executive bodies and of their officials and to hear and evaluate their reports,¹ and the mayor is accountable to the municipal/city council and to the population.²

According to the Local Self-Government Code and the Rules of Procedure of the City Council of Kutaisi, mechanisms for exercising control are as follows:

- casting a vote of no confidence against the mayor;
- asking a question by a member of the city council and interpellation;
- invitation to a session;
- hearing reports;
- conducting an independent audit;
- exercising control on the enforcement of decisions taken;
- exercising control on the execution of the budget.

During the reporting period, the Mayor of Kutaisi didn't submit a report to the City Council of Kutaisi elected in 2017.

The structural units of the City Hall and municipal legal entities have submitted [14 reports](#) to the City Council, none of which were evaluated negatively. Also, according to the information provided by the City Council, the City Council, as well as the Bureau, commissions and factions of the Council systematically invited representatives of the executive body with the aim of discussing individual issues.

The City Council supported all the issues submitted by the executive body and put on the agenda of the City Council's sessions.

Only [9 members](#) of the City Council asked questions to bodies accountable to the Council, the Mayor, and other officials. Of these, the Mayor of the city received the most questions.

The City Council of Kutaisi elected in 2017 also hasn't revealed infractions, conflict of interest and/or incompatibility with office in the Mayor's activities. In addition, according to the information provided by the City Council, "There have not been any

1 Subparagraph C.A, Paragraph 1, Article 24 of the Local Self-Government Code.

2 Ibid, Paragraph 2 of Article 48.

infractions related to incompatibility with office/conflict of interest of a member of the City Council during the reporting period”.

The City Council of Kutaisi hasn't invited an independent auditor with the aim of inspecting the municipal bodies.

The Mayor of the city has submitted to the City Council reports on the execution of the budget during 2017, during six months of 2018, during nine months of 2018, during 2018, during six months of 2019, and during nine months of 2019.

CHAPTER 6: INCOMPLETE ASSET DECLARATIONS AND INCOMPATIBLE ACTIVITY

Officials' filling out asset declarations incompletely and with shortcomings is a considerable challenge to the City Council of Kutaisi. Three of 16 officials (Chairperson of the City Council, Deputy Chairpersons of the City Council, Chairpersons of Commissions, Deputy Chairpersons of Commissions, Chairpersons of Factions, and Deputy Chairpersons of Factions) have filled out their declarations incompletely.

Requirement of legislation:

According to the [Law](#) on Conflict of Interest and Corruption in Public Institutions, an official is obliged to fill out an asset declaration completely within two months after his/her appointment to the office,³ indicate information about his/her and his/her family members' property and economic interests,⁴ transfer the management rights of his/her stakes in business entities to another person, and resign from the position of the head (director) of the business entity within 10 days after being appointed to the office.

Shortcomings in the asset declarations of officials of the City Council of Kutaisi:



NIKOLOZ LATARIA

Chairperson of the City Council of Kutaisi

In a [declaration](#) filled out in September 2019, Nikoloz Lataria indicated that he owns a 50% stake in [Nikoili-Terjola LLC](#), a 40% stake in [Gio LLC](#), a 100% stake in [Nikoili 9 LLC](#), and a 55% stake in [Fresh Food LLC](#). The declaration says that he has transferred the management rights of the stakes to another person, although, in spite of the requirement of law, the Public Registry records don't contain information on the transfer of the management rights of the stakes.

3 Paragraph 1 of Article 14 of the Law on Conflict of Interest and Corruption in Public Institutions.

4 Ibid, Article 15.



LASHA GVENETADZE

Chairperson of the Georgian Dream - Industrialists faction

In a [declaration](#) filled out in April 2019, Lasha Gvenetadze indicated that he owns a 20% stake in [VIP Kakhianaury LLC](#), although, in spite of the requirement of law, the Public Registry records don't contain information on the transfer of the management rights of the stakes to another person, while the declaration contains this information. In addition, Lasha Gvenetadze's spouse, Khatia Kikvadze, has owned a 50% stake in [Legal Aid Team LLC](#) since January 2019, but this is not included in Lasha Gvenetadze's declaration which he filled out in 2019.



KAKHABER BOCHORISHVILI

Chairperson of the Finance and Budget Commission of the City Council of Kutaisi

In a [declaration](#) filled out in January 2019, Kakhaber Bochorishvili indicated that he owns a 50% stake in [Argmsheni LLC](#), a 67% stake in [New Transport 2015 LLC](#), and a 50% stake in [Konsoli 21st Century LLC](#), although, the Public Registry records don't contain information on the transfer of the management rights of the stakes to another person, while the declaration contains this information.

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

The Rules of Procedure of the City Council of Kutaisi do not specify what kind of absence from a session is to be considered as absence without a valid reason. The Rules of Procedure rely on a provision of the Local Self-Government Code, [according](#) to which the powers of a member of a municipal/city council are to be prematurely terminated if he/she has not participated, without a valid reason, in the work of the municipal/city council for six consecutive months.

According to the information provided by the City Council of Kutaisi, members of the City Council notify the Chairperson of the reason for their absence verbally, which is not included in the minutes of the session.

From June 27, 2019, the City Council terminated the powers of a member of the Council from the United National Movement, Giorgi Ukleba. According to the information provided by the City Council, Giorgi Ukleba hadn't attended the sessions of the Council and of its commissions and factions for six months, failed to get involved in the Council's activities, and, at the time of the inquiry, failed to submit evidence of a valid reason for absence.

Participation in sessions of the City Council:

During the reporting period, members of the City Council missed the Council's sessions 192 times in total.

Among members of the City Council, Vladimer Kldiashvili from the United National Movement has the most absences (21 sessions), followed by Giorgi Ukleba (20 sessions, the United National Movement), whose powers were terminated, and Davit Gogisvanidze (19 sessions, European Georgia).

Statistics of absences of members of the City Council of Kutaisi from the Council's sessions		
Member of City Council	Attended	Failed to attend
Nikoloz Lataria	27	10
Maia Simonidze	31	6
Ramaz Chkhikvadze	33	4
Aleksandre Akhaladze	35	2

Otar Lortkipanidze	31	6
Lasha Gvenetadze	33	4
Nana Kostava	30	7
Davit Tsuleiskiri	34	3
Vlasi Gardapkhadze	36	1
Davit Gogisvanidze	18	19
Merab Meshveliani	23	12
Besik Bregadze	20	17
Giorgi Ukleba	9	20
	1	7
Was replaced by Roman Kvachakidze	16	21
Vladimer Kldiashvili	25	12
Grigol Shushania	31	6
Merab Kvitsaridze	37	0
Imeda Saghinadze	32	5
Irakli Shengelia	30	7
Amiran Kopaleishvili	33	4
Giorgi Cheishvili	33	4
Marekh Nizharadze	35	2
Eleonora Archaia	35	2
Nikoloz Chechelashvili	31	6
Kakhaber Bochorishvili	32	5
Mamuka Rizhamadze		

Participation in sessions of the City Council's commissions:

Members of the City Council have missed sessions of the City Council's commissions 473 times.

Among members of the City Council, Giorgi Ukleba (from the United National Movement) has the most absences from sessions of commissions (59 sessions), followed by Davit Gogisvanidze (53 sessions, the United National Movement) and Besik Bregadze (47 sessions, European Georgia).

It is noteworthy that the powers of Giorgi Ukleba were terminated, and he was replaced by Roman Kvachakidze, who has missed 5 sessions of commissions.

Statistics of absences of members of the City Council of Kutaisi from sessions of commissions	
Member of City Council	Total absences
Maia Simonidze	27
Ramaz Chkhikvadze	7
Aleksandre Akhaladze	17
Otar Lortkipanidze	20
Lasha Gvenetadze	14
Nana Kostava	21
Davit Tsuleiskiri	17
Vlasi Gardapkhadze	2
Davit Gogisvanidze	53
Merab Meshveliani	23

Besik Bregadze	47
Giorgi Ukleba	59
	5
Was replaced by Roman Kvachakidze	42
Vladimer Kldiashvili	11
Grigol Shushania	38
Merab Kvitsaridze	4
Imeda Saghinadze	5
Irakli Shengelia	15
Amiran Kopaleishvili	6
Giorgi Cheishvili	15
Marekh Nizharadze	10
Eleonora Archaia	5
Nikoloz Chechelashvili	7
Kakhaber Bochorishvili	3
Mamuka Rizhamadze	473
Total	

CHAPTER 8: CITIZENS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE CITY COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

According to the information provided by the City Council of Kutaisi, the City Council ensures citizens' involvement in its activities, including ensuring the attendance and participation of citizens in the sessions of the City Council of Kutaisi and of its commissions and factions;

Members of the City Council hold periodic meetings with the population to better familiarize themselves with and address their needs and demands.

The website of the municipality has been updated, and it's possible to register petitions electronically.

An order on convening sessions of the City Council of Kutaisi is issued by the Chairperson of the City Council. The order:

- is published on the website of the local self-government body;
- is posted on the information board in the building of the local self-government body;
- is announced via the Rioni TV station.

The information on the City Council's sessions is published within time frames provided for by law.

CHAPTER 9: ACTIVITIES OF THE GENDER EQUALITY COUNCIL

During the reporting period, the Gender Equality Council at the City Council of Kutaisi considered the draft Budget of the Kutaisi Municipality and elaborated budget-related recommendations regarding:

- placement of a washing machine with a drying function for beneficiaries at N(N)LE House of Gratefulness;
- dismantling of the statue of Vasil Kikvidze;
- addition of a nursery (which will also work in summer)/improvement of infrastructure;

The Gender Equality Council also elaborated a recommendation about inclusion of norms on sexual harassment in the internal regulations of the local self-government body of Kutaisi.

In addition, the Gender Equality Council elaborated legislative proposals on the definition of the status of a single parent and on amendments/additions to the Tax Code of Georgia regarding the introduction of income tax relief for single parents, which were submitted to the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia. The Council initiated amendments to two legislative acts:

- the Civil Code of Georgia;
- the Tax Code of Georgia.

The Gender Equality Council of Kutaisi hasn't received applications or any types of petitions.

The Gender Equality Council submitted its activity report to the City Council on May 29, 2019.

CHAPTER 10: EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF KUTAISI

Salaries and bonuses:

The total salaries given to members, staff, and non-staff employees of the City Council of Kutaisi elected in 2017 amounted to GEL **1,853,759** (from November 2017 up to 2019).

Salaries given at the City Council of Kutaisi elected in 2017 (in GEL)	
2017 (November-December)	57,415
2018	907,831
2019	888,513
Total	1,853,759

During the same period, officials, staff, and non-staff employees of the City Council received a total of GEL **202,446** as bonuses, salary supplements, and allowances. Of this amount, GEL 55,746 was given as salary supplements, GEL 58,200 as bonuses, and GEL 88,500 as allowances. It is noteworthy that [officials also receive allowances](#). Officials received GEL 6,900 in 2018 and GEL 28,000 in 2019 as allowances.

Bonuses/salary supplements/allowances given at the City Council of Kutaisi elected in 2017 (in GEL)	
2017 (November-December)	7,940
2018	89,136
2019	105,370
Total	202,446

You can see information on salaries, bonuses, salary supplements, and allowances given to officials of the City Council in the table below:

Salaries, bonuses, salary supplements, and allowances given to officials of the City Council (in GEL)

Name/last name	Position	Salary	Bonus	Salary supplement	Allowance
Nikoloz Lataria	Chairperson of City Council	58,648	0	0	0
Irakli Shengelia	Deputy Chairperson of City Council	89,832	0	0	3,500
Ramaz Chkhikvadze	Deputy Chairperson of City Council	86,997	0	0	3,500
Kakhaber Bochorishvili	Chairperson of Commission	47,948	0	0	3,800
Vlasi Gardapkhadze	Chairperson of Commission	43,962	0	0	1,900
Otar Lortkipanidze	Chairperson of Commission	48,548	0	0	1,900
Mamuka Rizhamadze	Chairperson of Commission	47,948	0	0	0
Giorgi Cheishvili	Chairperson of Commission	47,948	0	0	5,700

You can see information on salaries, bonuses, salary supplements, and allowances of chairpersons of the City Council's factions in the table below:

Salaries, bonuses, salary supplements, and allowances given to chairpersons of factions (in GEL)

Name/last name	Position	Salary	Bonus	Salary supplement	Allowance
Marekh Nizharadze	Georgian Dream - Chairperson	47,920	0	0	1900
Grigol Shushania	United National Movement - Chairperson	47,948	0	0	0
Nana Kostava	Georgian Dream - Conservatives - Chairperson	34,376	0	0	1900
Was replaced by Nikoloz Chechelashvili		33,040	0	0	1200
Lasha Gvenetadze	Georgia Dream - Industrialists - Chairperson	46,976	0	0	1900
Imeda Saghinadze	Georgian Dream - Greens - Chairperson	45,824	0	0	1900

Expenses of work trips:

Members and staff of the City Council of Kutaisi spent a total of GEL **48,906** on work trips within the country and abroad during the reporting period.

Expenses incurred by the City Council of Kutaisi elected in 2017 on work trips (in GEL)

2017	210
(November - December)	18,399

2018	30,297
2019	48,906
Total	

Vehicles and fuel expenses:

There are 3 vehicles on the balance sheet of the City Council of Kutaisi. The vehicles are used by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the City Council.

A total of GEL 24,440 was spent on the repair of the vehicles (GEL 129 in 2017, GEL 16,197 in 2018, and GEL 8,114 in 2019).

The City Council of Kutaisi spent **115,653** liters of fuel in total.

Fuel spent by the City Council of Kutaisi	
Year	ლიტრი
2017 (November-December)	4,215
2018	51,690
2019	59,748
Total	115,653

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exercise of control:

- Members of the City Council should get involved more actively in supervision activities. Specifically, they should exercise more intensive control on the process of public procurements and on the progress of large infrastructure projects.
- The City Council should work actively and in good faith to reveal cases of conflict of interest, incompatibility with office, and violations of the Rules of Procedure of the City Council and of ethical norms in the municipality.

Accountability:

- Attendance of members of the City Council at the sessions of the Council and its commissions should be improved considerably. Every member of the City Council should exercise responsibility and attend the sessions. In addition, the reasons of both valid and invalid absences of each member of the City Council should be established and studied, and corresponding measures should be applied.
- Filling out asset declarations by officials is an important mechanism for ensuring transparency and accountability. At the same time, filling out declarations incompletely also contains a risk of corruption. For this reason, it is necessary that officials fill out the declarations completely.

Activities of factions:

- It is important that the activities of factions be beneficial for the corresponding self-government body. Factions should get actively involved in the process of considering and deciding on issues that fall under the powers of the City Council; 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 increase citizens' involvement in self-government considerably, as well as support local initiatives and advocate for citizens' needs and problems. Therefore, we call upon the factions to use the said instruments actively.

Expenditures of the City Council:

- It is important that the expenditures incurred by the City Council be in full conformity with the exercise of the powers assigned to the Council by the 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 at efficient spending of funds.

Petitions:

- The legislation enables self-government bodies to [decrease](#) the number of signatures required to file a petition to any number they want. The Local Self-Government Code only sets the upper limit – 1%, which may be difficult to observe considering a large number of citizens in some municipalities. Considering that not a single petition was registered at the City Council during the reporting period, we believe that the City Council of Kutaisi, too, should decrease the lower limit of the number of signatures and set it at 0.3% or 0.5% instead of 1%, which will make the procedure of preparation of a petition easier for interested individuals.

General assembly of the settlement:

- The general assembly of the settlement has not been held in Kutaisi yet. It is important that the City Council take the initiative to activate this mechanism of involvement and apply to the Mayor with a motion to hold the assembly. It is necessary for the municipality to hold the general assembly of the settlement in order to better plan the budget of every following year.