



Organization: Hampton Youth Commission
Meeting Date: 3/25/2013
Attendance: 24

- Is it the schools choice on how the schools spend their money?
 - Yes, the City provides a certain amount of money. The school board determines how much they will spend in various areas.
- At Phoebus high school, they are not allowing fundraisers. Will that continue?
 - Unsure- could be the result of a match requirement or nutritional value.
- If the tax increase was accepted by the citizens, should the city consider lowering the percentage of taxes that go to schools?
 - Probably not- schools are an economic driver for a City.
- How often does the percentage change?
 - It has not changed since it was adopted.
- What will happen to the buildings that are recommended for closing? Are there plans for those buildings already?
 - For the Hampton History Museum, the artifacts have to be protected- but would not be available for public view.
 - We would be looking for re-use. This is a process that the City would start if the decision is made.
- Could we have foreseen property taxes going down in 2008?
 - There were predictions but no one knew when the real estate bubble would burst.
- Are we prepared for what's happening now with the budget?
 - We try to prepare. The federal government has not been able to prepare a budget, this needs to be corrected. As a City, we know that we have to compete with neighboring cities and we try to do that with development.
- Why is the city just dealing with the tax situation 4 years later?
 - The City developed a policy that citizens should not realize a burden in real estate taxes greater than their income. This policy says we had to adjust the tax rate to minimize the impact of the increasing tax assessments. When real estate started declining, we handled it by making cuts internally we have now reached a point where we can't cut anymore.
- Why do we have to have yellow school buses transport students to school instead of city buses?
 - That was a school budget decision. It was cheaper to buy yellow buses than to maintain the contract with HRT, it was also safer because they are clearly marked and people easily recognize them.
 - There is a recommendation about changing the walk radius to 1.5 miles; this will reduce bus cost by about \$500,000.
- Why can't there be more focus and classes dealing with liberal arts?

- The arts are always looked at when there is a need for cuts because it is discretionary. Athletics is another thing that gets cut.
- Would the increase in the property taxes be all at once or would it be gradual?
 - Once Council decides on a tax rate and approves it, it happens at once. They could look at the way it's implemented after it's adopted.
- Do we collect any revenue from Langley Air Force Base?
 - No- Langley is a federal facility. We benefit through economic activity but the base does not pay real estate tax.
- Youth have to travel to different cities for entertainment. What is Hampton doing to compete with these cities to keep people here?
 - We have 6 different master plans that help shape development in Hampton. Now we are looking at the Downtown Master Plan that talks about doing development in downtown to develop activities/entertainment and open up the waterfront. Revisiting the Downtown Master Plan now to see if things need to change, we are also revisiting the Phoebus Master Plan.
- Are there initial results from the online survey?
 - Pete share citizens cuts to avoid for cities and schools;
 - Closing branch libraries
 - Support to volunteer fire fighters
 - Cutting school crossing guards
 - Closing blue bird gap farm
 - Eliminating youth programs
 - Eliminating Healthy Families programs
 - Closing Teen Center
 - Eliminating parent education programs
 - Reducing street lighting
 - Closing senior center
 - Closing history museum
 - Reducing mowing
 - Internal audit
 - Eliminate contributions to not-for profit organizations; HELP, Alternatives, Inc.
 - School services
 - Cutting elementary music and arts
 - Increasing class size in 4th and 5th grade
 - Make kindergarten aids part time
 - Cutting guidance counselors
 - Reducing field trips
 - Reducing supplements for clubs, associations and athletics
 - Increase high school classes from 8 to 7
 - Eliminate cafeteria monitors
 - Pay cut for 12 month employees
 - Replace RN's with LPN
 - Eliminate the teaming approach in middle schools
- Harbor Square- the City purchase, what will it be? Was the Mayor a partial owner.

- It was a dilapidated apartment complex, there were insect infestation, gas leaks, etc. In the Downtown Master Plan, it talks about redevelopment of this property. There was a potential buyer but they were planning to refurbish the apartments. The land will be used for the new courthouse with parking, and there are at least two developers interested in developing the other portion of the property. The City also plans to connect Union street and Franklin street.
- A lot of shopping centers have empty buildings.
 - We hear that often but places like Riverdale are privately owned property and the owners do not want to make updates to the center. New store owners chose not to locate there; they want to be where things are happening.
- HYC discussed at their previous meeting;
 - Use volunteers for cafeteria monitors and crossing guards.
 - Not a good idea to close branch libraries because they provide sources of books for summer reading assignments and computers for researching. They are also used as a place for study groups, and projects.
- How many branch libraries are there?
 - Four (4)
- Closing the Teen Center. It doesn't seem like a lot of youth go there they go to other community centers. If it is closed can the furniture and other materials be moved so that they can be utilized? The Teen Center is out of the way for many teens.
 - The Teen Center was located there because there was an opportunity to acquire the building at a below market price
 - There have been issues with usage, there may be some challenges with transportation that may be looked at.
- When the Teen Center was first opened it was being used. Is it closing because the facility isn't being used?
 - It was recommended because it's a discretionary item.
- Does Bay Days and other activities like it make money for the City?
 - No- the purpose of to bring people to the City, the City probably invest more in the activities than we receive back in taxes.
- Teens felt that keeping places is more important than keeping some positions in the City.