

# *You Spoke. We listened.*

*Let's partner to preserve our values!*

Organization: Citizen Unity Commission

Meeting Date: 3/31/11

# in Attendance: 13

(Plus 5 staff)

- Hampton and Newport News sharing services still being considered?
- What are driving principals to make budgetary decisions? - Quality of the kind of City we want Hampton to be that are non-negotiable. What makes the City what it is?
- Hampton has been in the forefront of innovation, compassion and understanding for soft issues.
- Annoyed when elected officials come out inflexible.
- If things such as Bookmobile (like the “ice cream man” – remember as a child), The Teen Center, History Museum, etc. give a better quality of life – does not mind raising taxes.
- Commend City on frugality in staffing departments. Sees a lot of waste in other area localities. Not suggesting cutting staff or salaries, but are there opportunities for cost savings?
- Always valued opportunities for all kinds of people to get involved (Youth Commission, festivals, etc.). Values choices and opportunities of the “nice to haves” – beautiful landscaping; Coliseum Central and Downtown Hampton very visually appealing.
- Appreciates support of Hampton City Schools.
- Cut back bulk trash collection to every other week. Bulk of recycling is 1/3 full – could possibly combine trash with neighbors.
- Citizens should put trash out once a month if not full
- Values volunteer opportunities in Hampton (CUC, etc.).
- Values opportunities to give citizen input. The Arts and Teen Center, for example, are not undervalued.
- What vision do you see Hampton in five to ten years? What changes do you see that will impact citizen? Will Hampton continue to grow?
- Sell ourselves short by not speaking up when we should – lessons we all need to take to heart. Okay with raising taxes. Big challenge is individuals who don't take opportunities to see what is there and take advantage of services, such as 311 Call Center.
- CUC should be one of the last areas to cut – every City should have a CUC. Are there other opportunities to raise revenue other than raising taxes?
- What about the boat tax?
- When first came to Hampton, attended CUC College and since have branched out to be more involved in community. We should not lose sight of who we are during the budget process. Over the past few years, things are starting to really take shape – Power Plant and Peninsula Town Center, for example. We cannot lose our vision. Fort Monroe could really be something! – Concerned it could be a lost opportunity.
- Toll to come into Fort Monroe, but Hampton citizens don't pay. ☺

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- Concerned with cutting services; don't want to dig a hole too deep. There will be consequences. Raising taxes has to be considered because at some point you shouldn't cut more. What should we do to make sure we are heard regarding raising taxes?
- Quality of life is important; we all share responsibility for financial burden to ensure that quality of life. We should not allow what is special about Hampton die. - We want the best for the City and not allow it to fade away.
- Dana Dickens gave overview of Hampton Roads at Community Leaders Breakfast – an interesting comment about SMIT (Science, Math, Innovation and Technology), which are areas we need to encourage our young college students to focus on. What does the City have in place on how to keep our talented young people living and working in Hampton?
- How do we lessen job losses when Fort Monroe closes?
- We need to find ways to “be cool” (like Charlotte) to keep/attract young people.
- CUC does a tremendous amount of work – would City consider charging a fee for CUC services (not for individuals)?
- Concerned about Golf Course Club House mortgage and golf course not making money.
- Middle schools have dedicated centers for arts, science, etc. and can carry it into high school.

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