

You Spoke. We listened.

Let's partner to preserve our values!

Name of Group: Virginia Peninsula Association of Realtors

Date: April 19, 2011

of Attendees: 4

Comments:

- Were you involved in the decision to move/hire fire department staff for the new Fire station?
- Regarding public safety, what kind of coordination is there between Hampton and Newport News? Do the fire services employees and police departments work together?
- How is the City dealing with the FEMA flood maps? Is public safety working on these issues at all?
- Will the City be sending the new maps out to the public?
- We need to do a better job informing citizens of flood insurance (i.e. costs, locations, etc.)
- We were surprised to see that only a small portion of Bethel would not be flooded during a major storm. Other than this, the entire City is submerged.
- Where is the new 911 call center going to be located?
- Have there been any problems with emergency services getting to some areas during a storm?
- Has the City issued mandatory evacuations?
- Commend the manager for appropriating funds to a flood elevation program through a revolving loan fund.
- How is the repayment of this loan structured?
- Do you know how many homes the 2.5 million would allow to be elevated?
- How do they raise homes on slabs?
- Realtors can help the City communicate the elevation program
- When is the finalization date of the budget?
- Dredging – Was the issue in Elizabeth Lakes resolved? I know there was one homeowner who would not sign the paperwork for the dredging. Is this dredging project moving forward?
- The dredging of Hampton waterways will really help the City with generating revenue. Owning a home with navigable waters is far more expensive than a home that is merely waterfront.
- Remind me what is happening with the real estate tax in Hampton.
- VPAR has been known to support a real estate tax increase because homeownership is not only about location, but also is dependent upon the services the localities can offer.
- We do believe that not raising the real estate tax was the right thing to do because this area has not seen the start of a recovery that many other areas have.
- One of the things we will continue to press on a state level regards recordation taxes. For years we did the recordation tax on the price of the sale of the house; as the market turned we started using the assessed value which was usually higher than the house would sell for. It is now an extra price people have to pay when they purchase a home.
- VPAR wants to be a resource for localities. Other localities are able to extrapolate the information that VPAR has to help formulate the budget each year based on trends in the market of real estate.
- I think the City needs to be prepared for a lack of revenue next year as well. I do not believe the market will go up so your staff needs to understand what they may be in for next year.

Visit hamptonvalues.com to get engaged!

You Spoke. We listened.

Let's partner to preserve our values!

- I think the first several layoffs are therapeutic, however now we are cutting the bare bones of the organization.
- Is there anything we, VPAR, can help you/the City with?
- Crowne Plaza- Has that debt been cleared from the Radisson?
- Was the Hampton Holiday Inn the same situation as the Radisson?
- Power Plant – Any new businesses on the horizon?
- I wonder about the logic behind building more townhomes like H2O because with an aging population who would lean towards this type of home, they are not going to be keen with climbing three stories. It might behoove the City not to approve these types of projects unless there are elevators. This way, these homes can become homes for life.
- Right now Hampton and Newport News do not have the housing stock to keep young families.
- When I was growing up, all of our neighborhoods had parks. I think that building without this needed green space is not the best approach for attracting these young families with children.
- Do you have specific numbers on the Peninsula Town Center? Whenever we go to the PTC it is packed.
- Does anyone know what will happen with the Marina at Ft. Monroe?
- I would like to see Sunset Park marina opened up with a larger ramp to allow larger boats.
- Please tell other localities how Hampton engages citizens so that other localities can be as inclusive as Hampton is.

Visit hamptonvalues.com to get engaged!