

## Online "I Value" Survey Initial Report

03/19 – 3/25/2010

Total Responses (41)

### Question: During these difficult times, what do you see as a need vs. want?

1. I consider needs in our city as ample supply of police officers/security officials, good educational system, and safe water supplies.
2. Police, firefighters, trash pickup, street lighting.
3. During these difficult times we still need to try and grow and build so we can attract businesses from abroad. This is the only way we will be able to generate new funds.
4. Fully fund our public school system
5. Make sure that we have a top notch public safety program, primarily police and fire.
6. Do a better job of street lighting, particularly on Pembroke Avenue from Settlers Landing Road to G Street.
7. Need: Effective Policing/Citizen Protection is a major issue in these dangerous times  
Need: Increased interaction between local youth and local law agencies to keep our young citizens aware of the personal dangers of gang affiliation (2) ways they can help the public and law officers undermine gang activities at the local level (3) how they can significantly improve the quality and safety of Hampton's senior citizen community stay active and share their experiences and knowledge useful to our younger population - especially our high school and college level citizens.
8. Needs: Safety & Security (Police, Fire). Utilities: Trash, Water, Gas. Street/Street Lights. Good Schools. Wants: Parks, libraries
9. There is a need for jobs we want lower taxes
10. Refuse services, community drainage systems, emergency services, quality education and responsible/involved parents, controlling taxes. These are needs. Wants: Upgrading facilities and equipment, street cleaning, beautification programs, community improvements that have no impact on safety or health.
11. Keeping more of my income in my own hands versus paying it out. Costs are going up everywhere i.e. gasoline, heat, groceries. Give us taxpayers a break.
12. For those who rely on public transportation, work with HRT and others to make transportation more accessible, convenient, and leave the rider with a sense of dignity. Acquire covered bus stops where feasible and re-assess bus stops for pedestrian safety. Perhaps the City should petition HRT on a covered bus stop for high traffic areas such as the Hampton Wal-Mart where

numerous people catch the bus every day.

13. The proposed \$30 million courthouse is not need. It is a want by a few people, not a true need.
14. Traffic is a daily concern. It is not the most important thing in our environment but let me concentrate on that for this writing. We have trouble with daily commutes; so, what would happen in a real disaster? Roads are not large enough to allow for mass exit of our citizens. Further, traffic control does not appear to be very smart in our city area. Further, State Troopers appear to complicate any accident with their traffic clogging procedures of documenting the happenings of the incidents. Rubber necking is natural and I hopefully (but probably not) would be at a minimum during a critical population exodus. Light rail, more tunnel tubes, and who know what are needed to help make the community better. This traffic problem is not a nicety but cost our citizens uncountable dollars in business proceeds as well as inconvenience. We need help.....
15. Police, Fire, Public Works (trash pickup), Schools.
16. Safety, security, education and sense of city. I love the city 311 service. I understand we all must tighten our belts but let us do it with a sense of the future and be sure we are not selling our future for present gains.
17. The need for more youth enhancement programs to be started in Hampton is the most important aspect. The need for the city officials to work toward the futures of the citizens in Hampton, VA. I also think that the city wants to improve the South Hampton area by implementing this Kecoughtan Corridor project, which is a great attraction to this city, but by having citizens who can afford to work with the city in this creation is vital. It so happens that I am a person that is interested in working with the city on such an effort. I have established a youth enhancement organization that focuses on that very cause. In partnership with the American Legion Post 31 on Victoria Blvd. I can see where this organization could be one of the most productive efforts to fill that void in the Kecoughtan Corridor project and I am committed to excellence in that continuous effort to bring new and exciting ideas to the city in the form of sports entertainment and youth enhancement. The website for this organization is [www.stopandpop.com](http://www.stopandpop.com). It hasn't been updated in a few years, but the information is still good and hopefully refreshing to the difficult times that we all are facing.
18. Education and the Arts. The Charles H. Taylor center has done a terrific job of presenting wonderful exhibits and teaching art to all who want to try. Please don't limit its capabilities.
19. Wants: the teen center. From what I'm told by a neighbor of mine, her kid goes and he says that there are more staff members there than kids. I don't know the cost to run this operation, but it seems like a huge waste of money on a want that isn't being wanted by hardly any Hampton kids.
20. The public schools need more of the budget. These kids are the future of Hampton and the

surrounding areas and need the best education possible. Law enforcement could use a raise too, without them; I honestly believe the city would be chaos. They put their life in danger every time they climb into their vehicles to begin work for the safety of the citizens.

21. Obviously, needs are things that you cannot live without- police, fire dept, etc. Wants are things that are nice, but not crucial to our thriving and surviving. There are some wants that are more important than others though, because the quality of life of our citizens and the future of our city depend on them. Programs for children and teens are a good example. While they are not crucial to our immediate survival, our future depends on things like this, so they should be weighed as more important than some other things
22. Lower taxes to help families get by.
23. Needs: Public Safety (police, fire & rescue, courts, commonwealth's attorney) Schools (teachers, nurses, bus drivers, but please look at administration, too many high paid people there, stop cutting at the level that directly affects the children) Trash collection Roads and bridges Wants: I love the arts and history of this great city but unfortunately that is not a need in times like this. The neighborhood office Healthy Family Partnerships Special Events/Bay Days Again, I love these things about the city but right now, I'm worried if we can afford them. The needs have to be funded before the wants. Another want, the city owns too much land, stop funding what should be private development.
24. Need to support the schools and educational opportunities.
25. Core services such as Police and Fire, Schools, Code enforcement etc... And those services that generate tax revenue are a need.
26. In the lean times, the city needs to focus on basic services, such as police, fire, EMS, schools and critical Social Services Programs. Without full support of these needs, it doesn't matter what other wants we may have. These basic core services provide the very safety and security that make the wanting of other things possible. If people don't feel safe, they will not do anything in the city at all. Take a look a Detroit, crime is out of control, society has degraded there to the point that EVERY national brand supermarket closed EVERY store in the entire city.
27. We need to maintain most of our current services...we need not hire so many outside consultants and contractors when current employees are knowledgeable and professionals that can handle various tasks...save the jobs.
28. We need the best education system we can possibly afford and we need the best public safety (police & fire) to keep our citizens safe. We need solid neighborhoods, public facilities maintained (Buckroe Beach for example) and open communication between our leaders and our residents. We need to allow businesses the opportunity to grow and share in the expense of creating jobs, places to shop, eat, etc... Bottom line at this time we need to concentrate on the core necessities, take care of our own and in due time we will reap the rewards of being

conscious of every dime we spend to make sure it is spent wisely.

29. Need: critical responders/emergency personnel and education funding want less spending projects such as power plant, town center and boo Williams's complex. Hampton does not have the housing and schools to support further growth.
30. Why is there no community center in the fox-hill area? Seem that our kids are second rate.
31. Need is feeding my family so a pay cut is painful. Contributing to VRS is acceptable as it does not affect my salary which at the time of retirement, is reduced for my overall benefit/return.
32. I am quite concerned about the lack up upkeep on some properties, both personal and city owned, which are making Hampton look run down and sorry. As I walked on the boardwalk today, I noticed the badly peeling fascia on the concert stage pavilion and the roof shingles that were torn off and have not been replaced. On Old Buckroe Road there is a complex called "Fox Hill Mutual Homes" that are in bad need of painting and upkeep (replacing torn screens, rotten wood, etc) In my own neighborhood, Colonial Acres, there are homes that have been allowed to go literally to pot. #18 Sarfan has so many vines/shrubs growing up around it, it's almost disappeared. Same with a house on Coach (#5?). And there are many of these all over town. On Fox Hill Road, between Old Buckroe and Nickerson, there's another covered with vines and mold. Why are we allowing this? It used to be that if owners didn't respond to a request for repairs, the city would handle it and send them a bill. And, at Buckroe, I would love to see police actively ticketing litterers. My husband and I walk there most mornings and on the morning after a pretty day, we pick up all the trash that our citizens leave behind. Last week it was broken glass. Great for the little one's feet.
33. I think you should never forget your children and seniors when u make difficult decisions about budget. Your children are the future and your seniors are the ones we should respect for they are the ones who have given already to our future.
34. Hampton does not need to raise taxes because citizens of Hampton are strapped with currently higher economic costs. The value of real estate property assessments have decreased. Hampton does not need to develop new properties, use land with existing buildings such as on Mercury Blvd the Riverdale Shopping Center, the old Target building, wherever there are empty buildings, redevelopment them first. Do not close schools; education is important for our children. Public Safety is a continued need. We do not need to redevelopment Buckroe Beach. Keep the land available for the public to enjoy the beach.
35. Just like real life- if you have it you can spend it. But, if you are smart your house is in order all the time. My personal rules are if you can't pay cash for it don't buy it - with 2 exceptions a home and an auto. I don't know how that compares to a city but I would guess a rainy day fund equal to- like an individual's 6 month to one year income in savings would be a good goal. Want always exceeds need and always will. Education is a need, safe roads are need, and Public safety

is need. Anything else is want.

36. Strong Fire/Rescue, Police and Education support.
37. Police, Fire & Rescue are a must. Support teachers to provide a sound education to students of all ages. Support special education and other services to the disabled. Help for the elderly in need. Trash Collection.
38. Our primary goal should be to be sure that the young people in our city have a good education, they are fed and housed and they are safe. We need to address the apathy and anger that is expressed by those who are on the margin.
39. My son and I have to move from my home next month because I owe taxes this year and will have to change my withholdings to avoid this debt next year which as a result will decrease my income. I won't receive a raise this year as well....I can no longer afford the home I've been in for 8 years. My rent has increased as have most of my living expenses.
40. Road repairs are definitely needed. Enabling people to continue to live off of the working people because they don't want to work is getting old. We should definitely cut a lot of the freebies the city gives away!
41. I understand that the City has budget limits during this time. I am not a City employee nor am I married to a City employee. I do feel that Parks and Recreation needs to be funded properly whether it is in the various parks or at the athletic facilities. During these economic times many people are not able to go to restaurants, movies, or other places that require a sum of money. Our parks are a great place for people to go have a picnic and some free outdoor family fun. Even the fishing pier can be affordable compared to some activities. Sports facilities are also good and inexpensive places for people to watch soccer, football, baseball and other sports. I understand the importance of a new courthouse. I do feel that this is a want vs. a need. I am not saying that the employees do not deserve a better place to work, but it can wait a little. We are actually very fortunate. I have been to the Norfolk Courthouse and was quite shocked. Our facility looks brand new compared to it.

**Question: What do you value about our City?**

T

Total Responses (38)

1. I value the small town feel of the city and the virtually low crime rate.
2. How well it spends our money. That \$ 200,000.00 sign at the end of Coliseum Drive is a joke. Also, continually re-landscaping Mercury Boulevard that is another joke, too. I am sure if we knew how much some things have cost, there would be a revolt.
3. The diversity of our city.
4. 1. The real livability and quality of life. 2. The approachability of our elected officials. 3. The 311 call

system.

5. (A)The city's commitment to providing rapidly accessible information about the City (e.g. the 311 service which is wonderful! (B)I respect the city's obvious desire to continue to actively support business growth in Hampton even when we have to spend money to do so.....so long as the focus is generating businesses NOT DEPENDENT on city funding to do so....it least not for the next 5 year period...while the State tries to recover from the current fiscal crunch. Better to promote growth in supportive ways other than taxpayer funded ways C. I like the "small town feeling" //"big town attitude" that Hampton has when it comes to "dreaming about the future" as well as its very open relations with the military and obvious appreciation of how best to "partner with the services to provide a sense of "welcome to military families.....(very wise to do so)
6. Having the city by the water.
7. the attempt to clean it up, lower crime and bring more resources to Hampton
8. I came here in 1978 and decided this was the place to live. We have grown and improved our city immensely. However, I feel we have made some serious errors in growth. For example: The convention center, power plant project and those ridiculous coliseum central signs at Armistead and Mercury.
9. 1. Its history 2. Its central location to VA Beach, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Williamsburg 3. Hampton Coliseum
10. I value the rich history of Hampton and support efforts to share it through our museums, libraries and centers. I place enormous worth on Buckroe Beach and its potential as a destination and revenue generator for the current residents and future generations. Building mansions there is a hasty decision which ignores future potential for revenue which properly done can outstrip any tax dollars from a few mansions. Not building houses there always gives the city future options to change with the times. I place no value on this short term gain of houses for revenue there. I absolutely love the idea of building new schools and closing those that are not equipped structurally and technologically for the future. Programs aimed at diversity are of great importance, too. Hampton University is high on my list, and I am pleased with new partnership efforts being developed. I also value access to city government in Hampton. Though not always pleased with the results of my inquiries, I am happy that city leaders take the time to respond.
11. Much history has happened in this area. We are doing a lot to preserve it. Let keep doing that.
12. Focus of families - Community Centers, Healthy Families, etc.
13. Being part of a city that cares about its folks and presenting that city image for us who live here and others who may only see us from I64 and see no reason to stop, a lovely city is a place worth stopping and if I can get you to stop...I may get you to stay for a while.
14. I value the traditional institutions that have prospered in the city of Hampton. Such organizations like

Hampton University, The American Legion Post 31, The Hampton Coliseum area, and the school system. Everything has grown and stayed current with the times. Now the question is how does that growth turn into viable income for the city today and in the future? And always remember that the youth of any city or region is the future.

15. Activities and events that bring the community together for good causes like Bay Days
16. The amount of water access in the city, the Air and Space Museum, the Coliseum.
17. Lots. Friendly community. Good leadership. Low crime rate.
18. I value the people in our City. The Council and the citizens definitely do not agree on many issues. However, I am proud that the citizens care about the City they live in and are willing to fight for what they believe in. They do not just accept the pleasure of the Council. They actually get out and try to make a difference. I am not personally one who is comfortable standing up at a Council meeting and speaking, but I do try to attend to show support for those who do. It is very hard to keep from giving up when the Council clearly has its own agenda no matter what the citizens feel. Many citizens continue to plead their cause even when disrespected and ignored by the Council members. I admire these Hampton Citizens.
19. Nothing.
20. The people, the diversity, the natural resources, the history and I've been very happy with our schools. However the cuts to the schools need to be revisited, look to the administration before cutting the teachers. I love the Peninsula Town Center and love that it was mostly funded with private funds; this is how all development should be done in the future.
21. The beauty of public places like Buckroe Beach and historic places such as Ft. Monroe.
22. A City needs to be able to provide a safe, clean environment for their residents. Excellent school systems.
23. The fact that it is about the safest city in the entire region.
24. We care about our employees and our citizens, many of whom are one and the same. The employees really care about Hampton. (Why do some Council people act like City employees are their enemy when most of them really care about Hampton and live and raise families in Hampton and want only what's best? I've never understood that.)
25. I am a lifelong resident...I value our history, our small town feel, our teachers, our police & fire and the passion our residents have for various causes. Our established neighborhoods are awesome...Buckroe, Grandview, Wythe, East Hampton, Riverdale, Phoebus, Downtown...they all have a unique quality. I like that not every building/home in our fair city is sparkling new because the older homes/buildings add character to my hometown.
26. been here 32 years and can't say I really value the city, if it wasn't for my family I would have moved

years ago

27. Our ability to relate to our citizens.
28. The beaches are awesome! We need to protect these great tourist attractions. Ticket the litterers! The town center is super. I hope that it will bring more shoppers to Hampton (and more money!). The convention center complex has also been a great addition. We have excellent health care here (with Sentara) and the Cancer center should bring loads of folks looking for the best care available. We need to support that effort with HU and NOT cut it! We will be one of a very few centers like that in the Nation! I love the diversity of Hampton. When I moved back here from the Midwest, my husband and I chose Hampton over York County because we didn't want to be in a "one color" area. We love it! I love the Neighborhood office (one of a kind!) and the Diversity Office. I love downtown although I wish there were more shops and restaurants to choose from along Kingsway. And I would love to see Hampton do what Manteo has done and capitalize on the waterfront. In Manteo (NC) you can walk from one end of the area to the other (about 3 miles...?) on the water on a boardwalk/sidewalk. Hampton needs to extend their walkway to allow walking all around the downtown area. If you could start by Crowne Plaza and walk along the water past the carousel and space center, Amory's, etc, then cross the street and return via Kingsway, we might get more tourist (and local) traffic) in all the stores...making it more appealing for other stores to move along that route. Go see Manteo!
29. All the events and affordable things for families and children.
30. Our heritage
31. I value the fact that Hampton is the first English speaking settlement in America, proud of its Maritime history and the Chesapeake Bay. I like our 311 phone system when needing to contact a direct service or reference.
32. Hampton is a clean and welcoming community with small town values. We don't need to be Norfolk or Va Beach we need to be HAMPTON. Focus on things that make us a close and friendly place to live.
33. The water (living on or close to the water)
34. The history... Hampton History Museum The waterfront... the Hampton River NASA, Langley/Armed Forces, Police, Fire, Rescue, Fort Monroe, Hampton University
35. schools
36. Overall, this is a good place to live. There are a lot of neighborhoods where people do know each other and look out for each other. We could use more of that.
37. I love Hampton and the people that make up the city.
38. The city's history and many of the schools and teachers who have taught my children through the years. Cutting the budgets in the schools is, unfortunately, a necessary shame. Maybe some of the salaries paid to many of the overpaid top city employees should be analyzed to see where some



shortfalls could be made up.

**Question: What ideas do you have for how we can be more fiscally disciplined? Generate revenue?**

Total Responses (42)

1. I would be can be more discipline in evaluating projects that are not performing well and maybe ending or scaling them back even if they have been newly implemented.
2. You need to run the city like a business, showing a profit every year that is set aside for hard times - the way I run my household.
3. We need to get rid of high salaried employees that are able to retire. people who have been there for more than 20 years and are drawing a salary of over 65,000.00 need to be retired. That alone will save the city millions. Also we need to keep taxes low so people will be able to shop and invest in the community.
4. 1. Postpone the building of a new courthouse.
5. Tough area given the pressing fiscal times we are in.....recommend that that every dollar committed to a project (at LEAST for the next 6 years) see a meaningful payback within a 24 month period versus typically much longer reach periods. This is the only way to keep our recovery from the current fiscal pressures consistent with the realities on the current economy. Just like our relatives who lived through the 1930's we have to reduce our focus to a shorter timeline and be VERY tight with resources. Citizens will understand (AND APPRECIATE) that approach) Children must remain our first responsibility during this time.....not what the current Virginia governor sees as his current priorities. God forbid that we allow anything that even looks like off shore drilling to occur (as an excuse to derive State income) for we shall pay dearly in the form of a destroyed Chesapeake Bay and millions required to recover it after that proposed project takes its environmental and political toll. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Have a nice day! JD
6. This survey is a good start. I was hoping this would be a little more detailed. I don't have a good idea as to what the city spends. A survey laying out expenditures and asking me should the expenditure increase, decrease, or remain the same. For example: Police: \$500,000 a year. Would you like to A. Increase B. Decrease C. Remain the same Also, a list of services the city provides, asking me to prioritize them would be great. I think that would let me know what the city is supporting. I'd also believe that it would provide you a better idea as to what folks think is important.
7. we do not need more memorials that is a complete waste of revenue we do not need more shopping areas when many sit vacant we do not need more housing development when it currently takes 2+ yrs to sell them we do need to promote the resources we have, location, historical, waterways to bring more revenue to the area and generate more jobs
8. Reduce street cleaning to once a quarter. Conduct an internal evaluation of Social Services to determine if there are people living off the system and not trying to improve. You should ask every employee in the city one question: How can your job/tasks are done better? Don't hire consultants when you've got the talent in house. Actively seek senior volunteers to work in all cities supported operations. Do a marketing campaign in the Hampton enews and on channel 47. If you sell it right, you'll get the help you need. All the above will generate revenue because you won't have the expenses. Also, implement a boat tax. Every other

vehicular transport is taxed. Why not boat owners? Market the Buckroe Pier in your tourism package. Also include the camp sites at Gosnold Park. Most visitors don't know it exists. I would even expand the # of sites available. You've got the space! These can all be moneymakers. Just don't continue the "Build it and they will come" mentality that has been pervasive in the last fifteen years.

9. Without knowing the details of how the city's budget operates, I can't offer any solutions towards being more fiscally disciplined. I do offer a few suggestions below to generate revenue, many of which will require funds in order to execute, however can potentially provide significant new revenue streams: 1. Develop a strategy to get more consumers to Hampton's businesses and spend their dollars in our city. Newport News has a good model in terms of entertainment draws practically every night of the week during the spring and summer they have some free/nominal event "At the Fountain" and "Port Warwick Pavilion" in which vendors sell food, drink, and other articles. The nearby businesses also enjoy the increased foot traffic. Although Hampton is building new businesses it appears that there has been a lack of city planning and forward thinking to establish more attractions that will appeal to a larger demographic. I find that overall Hampton has established "pockets" by catering too much to select demographics. The Power Plant consists of businesses like Saddle Ridge, NASCAR, and Bass which appeared skewed to one demographic. I have visited each establishment once and have never returned. The new Town Center's featured restaurant is "The Pub" and the center wants to charge for parking when no other Town Center in Hampton Roads charges. The Old Town Hampton Phoebus area is in need of revitalization. Use Carry town in Richmond as a model or Ghent in Norfolk. People do like the small town, old charm. Take advantage of the older historic district by giving Mellen Street a facelift (in compliance with any historical preservation laws) and enticing businesses to set up shop on Mellen St. Overall I believe Hampton should begin to think about creating more diverse attractions that will cater to a larger demographic and investing in its infrastructure in order to attract an ever growing more sophisticated consumer. 2. Bring back the "green spaces". One great thing Newport News did when planning their town center is to factor in "green space." Mill Point Park is a mere fraction of space and parking is a nightmare. Think outside the box and look at the vacant retail space in Riverdale Shopping Center or the abandoned Target. Tear them down and build several "green space" attractions that will draw people. 3. Hold BIG businesses to a higher standard. The Hampton Wal-Mart is a sight for sore eyes. The store should be torn down. Although I live in Hampton, I (along with many other Hamptonians) choose to drive to Suffolk or Yorktown Wall-Marts because they are cleaner, newer, and appear safer when shopping at night. 4. Create an "educational" draw. Partner with local universities about establishing satellite schools in Hampton. Hampton is centrally located to nearby cities. Newport News Town Center has William & Mary and Strayer. Virginia Beach Town Center has Hampton University and University of Virginia. Suffolk now has a Tri-Cities Educational Center. As the City of Hampton faces the upcoming budget challenges, I believe our city leaders, urban planners and economic development partners need to cater to the needs of sophisticated buyers with diverse lifestyles. Appealing to a larger, broader consumer market by marketing itself as a city that promotes economic & personal development as well as a city capable of providing diverse, cultural enrichment events. Give more people a reason to come to Hampton and to make the choice to spend their hard earned dollars in our city. Kindly submitted by Renee Brooks 32 Cannonball Cir, Hampton VA 23669 757.850.3190 Hampton Resident and tax payer since 2007
10. Rethink how to develop Buckroe Beach. The new Town Center looks like a real winner. It will

bring new people to the city. Already I have had 4 guests return on their own to visit the center. Buckroe needs to become a selling point for families and tourists..Developed to help make Hampton a destination because it has something other smaller communities lack..a beach for recreation. Stuffing the space with million dollar mansions will not encourage tourism. In fact, it will dampen it once the new owners begin to complain about the (as one current beach owner said) "riff-raff" who go to the beach. ""RIFF-RAFF" WHO JUST HAPPENS TO ALSO HELP PAY THE BILLS FOR THE CITY OF HAMPTON. Often, cities place emphasis on rehabbing blighted neighborhoods. Hampton has "old gems" such as Riverdale, Willow Oaks, Foxhill and the Marcella area. These old neighborhoods, generally well kept for their age, should not be allowed to continue to deteriorate from their previous "heydays." When city economic conditions improve, the city should look at ways to offer grants to these homeowners to make (often minor) repairs and updates to sustain these properties. Assessed values would increase along with better curb appeal. Finally, an in-depth look at Codes and Compliances. There is rampant disregard for codes in residential areas...unless residents complain. Non-compliance often results in lower assessments because unkempt yards, oversized RVs, tow trucks parking freely for days in \$200-300,000 neighborhoods, exposed garbage cans in yards, trash cans left on streets days after pick-up, ugly, rusted chain-link fences, and much, much more devalue property and cost the city revenue. Codes people need to be more proactive in the residential neighborhoods. While not on life support, these neighborhoods and others in the city can dramatically be revived and up their ante to the city's coffers with a vision to save rather than tear down before the cost is too great. The neighborhoods around Coliseum Central will become desirable again if the city commits to partner with residents for improvements. Key will be what the Codes folk allow...and what they simply overlook because they are in their offices and not on the streets...as they are in Newport News. A "pound of prevention," please.

11. Fix the traffic problem for tourists. Who wants to go to a place where your sit in traffic jam. Summer should be fun. We need more tourist attractions in Hampton. It seems that VA BCH gets the tourist income because they have developed it. We in Hampton do not see to be taking advantage of our proximity to so much history and beauty. Buckroe Beach is grossly under developed. Hampton City Center is great. The Care Plex is great. Keep going with that effort but where is the tourist attraction with that? The area around Strawberry Banks could be built up.... Perhaps more later but I have other important things to tend to at present. Keep up the working for progress.
12. Focus payment of services on those who use them, families with children should pay more for schools than the general public. Higher emergency fees. Watch actual salaries, not just the salary ranges, and offer early buyouts for people near retirement.
13. Areas where we can consolidate with other local cities/counties to get a bigger bang for the buck, example same type vehicles for fire/police/EMT.
14. Please work with the cities of Newport News, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, and Yorktown to create a cooperative that would encourage professional sports franchises to come to the area. We are the largest market collectively not to have major sports franchises. For more information or input from me, please feel free to contact me at jamenmj@hotmail.com or simply call 912-433-5346. Thank you
15. Remove the politics and egos from the budget process and treat it like it was your own family's survival plan. Have more paid events that appeal to adults and children that involve music and the arts.
16. We have a diversity office? Really? Stop spending money on ideas like the teen center which is not being utilized by Hampton teens. To generate revenue, it seems like whenever a

citizen has an idea or suggestion, the city pays money to have a study done. Why not minimize the studies to things that a majority of people are interested in? Something I saw in the paper, Newport News's budget cuts. Not only is Newport News a bigger city, but they have a much smaller budget shortfall and only have to cut 14 people, some of whom might get their jobs back. Newport News was able to foresee the budget shortfall and plan for it to lessen the impact. Hampton on the other hand has a much larger budget shortfall and they keep wasting money on teen centers, studies that will benefit one or two residents or opening the emergency operations center when we're going to get 2" of snow. The city should have cut a lot of the programs that benefit only a few people and prepared for the budget short fall. Now I'm sure a significant number of Hampton employees will be laid off due to the budget and all that does is further hurt the economy that just means that many more homes are going to be foreclosures. The upper management of Hampton and City Council needs to get a grasp on what benefits the whole city and not just a few. To be honest, I believe that the leadership in the City of Hampton is blind to the actual state and needs of the city.

17. The roads need to be cleaned up. Potholes are everywhere. They are hazards to our vehicles, something that needs to be as safe as possible in order to prevent accidents, and sometimes even death. They create unnecessary expenses on car owners, such as alignments and tires needing to be replaced. Part of what creates revenue is a clean environment. No one wants to go somewhere that may cost them more than needed
18. People may not like taxes, but we are all responsible for our community. I also think we need to collaborate more on a regional basis and capitalize on our area's resources (beaches-not Buckroe only...most people are going to Virginia Beach, let's face it; tourism in Williamsburg and Norfolk, etc) Together we are stronger.
19. Being fiscally disciplined also means being fiscally responsible. The City owns a great deal of land that is vacant and not generating any tax dollars. I would like to know if the properties in the POH will generate any tax dollars as they sit vacant due to the current housing market. In addition, the deficit of \$570,000.00 that was lost on the POH lot because the City had a "deal" with Tommy Thompson is another indication of the Council's lack of judgment and fiscal irresponsibility. This also generates the public's lack of confidence in the Council and City as a whole. I hope that learning from past mistakes may help to generate revenue in the future. The fishing pier seemed to be a profitable endeavor this year and should again generate revenue for the City. We need to encourage new businesses to come to Hampton. I also understand that the City Garage can be wasteful which definitely does not generate revenue. I hope the City and the Citizens can work together to resolve some key differences.
20. Stop buying everything under the sun and allow families to live peacefully.
21. Generate revenue; thank goodness for the Peninsula Town Center. I think this will help a lot. I had a friend from York County go there last week; she loved it and spent over \$400.00. A good grocery store is needed downtown for all the boat traffic. Visiting boaters spend a lot of money. Fiscally disciplined, handle development like the PTC was handled from now on. Stop buying land. When times get better focus on all the great things but now really evaluate what is a need. Needs are not all that exciting but they must be funded first.
22. Fewer high paid administrators.
23. Concentrate on core services. Combine like offices and processes.
24. Raise taxes and fees. The problem with American society is that everyone gets elected on a platform of lowering taxes, to include city politicians. However, you can't keep lowering taxes while the cost of doing business keeps going up. Sooner or later you will hit the tipping point, which now apparently has happened at all levels of government. Our personal tax to

income ratio is about half what it was 30 years ago. It is time for the tax pendulum to swing back, so we can afford to keep our city safe.

25. Stop hiring contractors and consultants for tasks in which there are already professional and knowledgeable City employees who can handle the task--as well or better than an outside-hire. Market Hampton as the safe and exciting place that it is and people and their money will come.
26. We need to be mindful of public/private ventures and obligating our city to share in long drawn out deals where it takes decades to recoup our investment. Over the past 10 years Hampton has lost so many stores and restaurants and we have literally forced our residents to go to NN to shop. I try to support local businesses but there are many instances where I have to cross over to Norfolk or NN to get what I need. Let's either tear down or fill the empty shopping centers/strip malls before we allow any new ones to be built.
27. Levy even property taxes on all residents, residents of specific areas should not get tax breaks, such as willow oaks or Elizabeth lakes; this would bring in more revenue. Reduce non-essential travel and training for all city personnel. Offer incentives for early retirements or force retirements for those who have enough time in not to be penalized if they retired. Restructure supervisor system at some agencies, especially Social Services, removing non-essential positions and relocating those to other needed positions.
28. Stop trying to over develop everything. They screwed up down town Hampton with all those apartments, you tried to ruin Buckroe Beach, and the Salt Ponds. New might be nice, but not at the expense of the tax payer
29. Put off some of the programs that City Council votes on. Cut city services before, once again, asking our employees to pay the tab by affecting their salaries.
30. Tear down some of the severely blighted properties and replace them with new construction. We are landlocked. There is no more land to build on but there is plenty that has been left to disrepair. Use Eminent Domain to bring about the change. And yes, I'd say that even if it was my property if it was for the best of Hampton!
31. Put a cap on senseless spending and art OBJECTS AROUND THE CITY. Monitor upper management wages.
32. In the future: Stop spending money on ridiculous projects like the kayak park on Pembroke Ave! My understanding is that over \$1M was spent and I've yet to see a single kayak utilize the park. Boaters aren't allowed to use it at all and it might have (not necessarily) brought some income into the downtown Hampton area. It isn't too far to walk there. Another example, the old Strawberry Banks hotel property that was sold to Hampton University. Selling it to a developer that wanted to build something that would have brought additional taxes/monies into the city would have been good versus selling it at a reduced price to a school where you do not receive the same amount of property taxes that you would have if it had been sold for multiple waterfront housing (my understanding is that you are not receiving ANY property taxes at all from the school). The Public Piers in Olde Hampton - When a person comes to the dock to go out to eat in the Olde Hampton area, don't charge them for use of the dock if they are only going to be there long enough to eat (3-4 hrs). Make it more users friendly so more people will come to shop and eat! Make sure that when someone does a Google search for marinas in Hampton that the Public Piers/Docks comes up and advertise all the eating establishments and businesses that are available. Ensure that there cab services are easily/readily available if they need it (this is for boaters that are planning to stay overnight). Encourage more businesses to move into the Olde Hampton area--boutiques and etc. by giving them a reduced tax rate (or something like that) to get them to come--make it for 2-3 years or something like that. In the Buckroe area.

Allow the building of the condos or single family housing in the open area off Mallory because that will raise the value of housing in the area as well as provide additional revenue from property taxes on the new housing.

33. Turn off the lights in the City Hall at night - it's wasteful of electricity as well as funds for that power bill. That thing's always lit up at night and you know nobody's working in there - at least not the entire building. Need more money?? Try taxing all those second HOMES that are floating in the bay at all the marinas and behind the Radisson. Effective 2003, the personal property tax rate for all boats was .00000001 per \$100 in assessed value. If it has a head and galley, you can finance it for 30 years, just like a house: you can live on it, just like a house: and you should pay taxes on it - just like a house. When did the City stop needing that revenue, anyways?? Next idea - HRT contributions for the President of the company - since WHEN did it become a requirement for cities to back a business' executive? Does he not get paid like the rest of the employees? Why are we kicking in for a \$400 THOUSAND/year salary? This is coming at a cost to our teachers and schools (not like they're not suffering ENOUGH already). We don't see much/if any of the lottery money for our kids and now schools are being cut AGAIN, b/c we have to help foot the bill for an overpaid executive. Sorry - but if the company can't afford to pay that salary on their own, perhaps they need to re-evaluate the salary negotiations.
34. FY 2011-2012 should not include grants for neighborhoods, such as the 1ML Park at River St. which cannot be utilized because of its structure, it is not user friendly, try to sit on the benches during a hot day!! Hampton can be more fiscally disciplined by allowing Fort Monroe to become a National Park, not governed by Hampton. Well planned-organized Festivals offering something for everyone to enjoy is a revenue enhancer. Offering a nice Restaurant by the newly rebuilt Buckroe Beach fishing pier would help. I work for a city agency and haven't received a pay increase in a year, cost of living has gone up, and I do not expect a pay raise this fiscal year, City of Hampton could maintain at the same level for FY 2011 as in FY 2010 and save money. My ideas as mentioned in the first question about using existing buildings and land, keep existing land as green environment. To generate revenue, ticket those who litter, particularly those who throw out cigarette butts ---- terrible for the environment and storm drains.
35. I think too many people see the city as an entity with deep pockets, much like a teenager at home. I still think the only thing anyone can do is plan for the worst and hope for the best. Save when times are good. Don't stand for unfunded state or federal mandates.
36. Turn off every other street light to save money!
37. Cut back on the amount of workers that stand around with nothing to do but watch other workers. Better understand the big picture, two blocks of Buckroe Beach vs. 500 plus acres of pristine enjoyment at Ft. Monroe. Phoebus is the gateway to Ft. Monroe and Buckroe Beach. Stop spending money on developments that the city has no business doing, get top dollar for what the city owns as far as raw land, not sell to someone because they are connected or retired from the city, you know what I'm talking about. Sincerely, Someone from PHOEBUS
38. Do not spend any more of taxpayer's money towards new retail developments until current developments become soundly self-sufficient.
39. Don't let acts like "Phish" go to other cities by being renegade law enforcement
40. We probably need to raise the gas tax. I might be shooting myself in the foot with that suggestion because I travel around Hampton Roads with my volunteer work.
41. I'm not sure.....I'm sure though that I will be getting a second job to compensate for my income vs. expenses.

42. Has anyone considered doing away with some of the superfluous paid holidays that come around all the time? I know it wouldn't affect salaries, but if people want all this time off, they should be required to use their leave. While many people feel that Jimmy Eason is some sort of god, I wish there was someone smart enough in the city government to realize the mess and expense he has caused our city beginning while he was mayor and worse now that he is Director of Economic Development. He should be made personally responsible for some of the boneheaded things he has involved the city in. What idiot lets a builder get away with a substandard job and then pays for the repairs out of his own pocket? I bet he wouldn't do this at his own home. At best he's stupid and at worse he's a crook.