

CITIZEN BUDGET COMMENTS

These comments are printed as submitted, with no editing except to remove offensive language and potentially libelous remarks.

Comments from Hampton residents via web polling

Raise taxes to cover priority services.

Just raise the taxes a FAIR amount. Give the employees that have stayed with the city a real raise, one that will add to the VRS retirement program. Please spend our tax money wisely, and stop buying run down apartments. Look past the downtown area, and listen to what the people want.

We love living in Hampton and don't envy you the task of funding this fine city. For my family and I we find that the expenditures for leisure activities should be the first to go, in our house if we are having trouble paying our bills that's the first thing to go and believe that should be the same for our city too. Thank you for your hard work.

The staff has been cutting/merging for a long time , I don't think there is much left to cut. Let's not gut the city and go back in time...I support a one time tax increase, but I expect council to reduce the tax as property values recover.....ONE MORE THING-----
----- lets put a hold on acquiring property--PLEASE-----

1) ALL city employees pay maximum % allowed by law towards THEIR pension and health care costs 2)NO NEW COURTHOUSE 3)Reduce needs list it is not written stone \$) say NO to mandates especially in social areas 5) get rid of diversity council - whites are the minority in Hampton now 6)STOP ALL HIRING OF ALL CONSULTANTS 7) STOP HIRING OUTSIDE ATTORNEYS USE EXISTING STAFF THIS INCLUDES THE SCHOOLS 8)COLLECT TAXES OWED - IE. PENINSULA TOWN CENTER

Think twice about the use of high price consultants who don't really know the development history of Hampton. Call on retired city employees for the backstory.

Please provide more funds to the schools with the increase in taxes.

Please do not consider reducing the hours of the 311 Call Center because it is such an invaluable asset for the city.

Ha! Ha! Great Joke of a survey! I sure hope you aren't spending much on THIS process!

maintain existing services, emergency/parks/education, don't spend money on new projects which stretch the already thin budget.

Though my husband is 100 military disabled and as of this year does not pay property tax, we are willing to pay and support an increase so that services continue to support the community.

Continue to maintain what the city has and stop adding new projects and property. Please keep Sandy Bottom Nature Park open this is the best park in Hampton Roads, the facility and staff are outstanding.

Merge with Newport News. / Eliminate trash service or special pickups- go private.

Do not pay Board/Commission members, as they volunteered for civic/community service. / Stop the food/beverage breakfasts/snacks/lunches, as people know to eat or bring a snack to get through the day. / Do not pay consultants for what can be done through professional city staff (perhaps it will take longer, but it can be done without additional funds). / Stop sending notices to so many people for every action taken by a Board/Commission; if people are interested, they can check the web for notices. / Do not allow City vehicles to be taken home for lunch/dinner breaks during the day--the employee can drive back to City Hall if a break is needed. / Do not allow City vehicles and City-purchased phones to be used by anyone other than emergency staff (Economic Development does not constitute a need for a 24/7 take home vehicle nor for City-purchased phones or phone contracts). /

Cut services that only a few use. For example, I'm tired of seeing HRT busses running at night with no one on them. I assume the city subsidizes HRT?? /

When parking lots and ditches need cleaning, give the job to community service workers (either volunteers and or those who need it for court purposes). Stop building new stores and buildings we don't need and put those funds into keeping up and improving what we have already. The services for at risk youth and parents are important; they just need more promotion and perhaps better leaders, people who are more passionate about reforming parents and youth.

I believe that the city wastes a lot of money trying to be innovative and acquire new buildings and areas as opposed to using those millions of dollars to maintain what already exists in Hampton. There have been no raises for city employees for sometime which brings down the moral of workers however there was an acquisition of Fort Monroe. Architects have been paid to come to the city to see how to revamp what was just recently revamped. The employment rate is rising. Property taxes are dropping and crime is increasing. What is the city manager proposing that will benefit all people not just those in the highest tax bracket.

The most important thing to me is that no city employee loses his or her job. The city is already staffed minimally, and the level of service received by citizens is very high. With less staffing, services would suffer and citizens may lose the faith they have in Hampton's government. There will always be people who criticize everything and will focus on the negative no matter what, but I and most people I know think Hampton is well run. / I don't think we need to concentrate on tourism much. The history associated with this area will, I hope, attract enough people on its own. Instead I think the city should prioritize safety and quality of life for the people who live here, particularly children and their caregivers. All the programs

mentioned in this survey are important, but some can be streamlined for greater efficiency. I can drive around potholes, I don't mind doing without median flowers, I can do without the Sandy Bottom Nature Center as long as there are still park rangers, and perhaps people sentenced to community service can clean up the parking lots; you get the idea. / I wish I had more specific suggestions to help with the difficulties you face as you make your decisions, but I hope that stating my priorities has helped somewhat. This is a great place to live and what I've seen the city do since I've moved here is a big part of that. I look forward to the time when you are deciding what to expand, not what to reduce. Thanks.

Take care of priority processes for safety, education, tourism, retail and keep quality employees. Make tough decisions on trade offs. Keep citizens informed. I know it will be a tough job and we are depending on city staff and leaders.

I do realize we are in hard times. My fear is that Hampton will spiral downward in terms of vacant buildings, vacant homes, over run landscaping, unkept public areas etc...which will, in turn, bring crime and vandalism to our city. If we keep going in the same downward direction - Hampton will become a city that is truly undesirable. We will have very few people that chose Hampton as a place to build a family and feel safe in the process. I am willing to pay more in taxes (up to \$1.10) to support Hampton in becoming the wonderful little city by the water that it can be!

This is a tough time for everyone, but Hampton is a wonderful place to live. I would not mind paying more in taxes to keep the services that Hampton offers going during this difficult time, especially the Hampton libraries. They help so many people.

Make more jobs and offer more volunteer.

I believe that the services to youths should be preserved. It is in the community's best interest to promote giving them direction during these formative years. I believe that increased taxes are necessary on the city level to maintain necessary services for all citizens. I do not attend the American Theater, but, believe it offers an entertainment option for other citizens. The same is true of the Air & Space Museum and other venues. I support a diversity of options for entertainment and culture. I think it is imperative to continue to fight blight and maintain protective services.

On the subject of street lights, there is much new technology currently available, such as LEDs that can be leveraged to reduce the amount of energy consumed by the current street light infrastructure. The city should invest some time to research municipal lighting energy saving options.

You could close all libraries on Sundays. People only work 4 hours on Sundays. This is done in cities larger than Hampton. The library could open at 12:45-5:15p.m. on Saturdays instead of 8 hours. During the week, Monday - Thursday / open 9:45a.m. - 8:15p.m.

Decrease or eliminate things like parades that cause the city more money, because of police presence. Decorating for holiday's is nice but can it save money

Use minimum risk prisoners for services such as cleaning parking lots/ditches/etc. Must preserve youth & family programs.

I can not believe that the city of Hampton is thinking of reducing our PARKS where children go and learn and stay out of trouble. INSANE. The other thing is why would you remove after school programs, are you asking for at risk children to have no support, are we asking for an increase in GANG's in Hampton Roads. I understand we have to cover budget expenses so guess what. WHY IN THE WORLD is a person on city council or superintendent of schools making so much money when what do they really do. They sit on a board, WOW. I can do that, I do that for Pack 184 CUB SCOUTS, I'm the Pack Committee Chair, I do not get money for doing this BUT I DO GET PAID by the enhancement in the children's futures and the SMILES on faces when they accomplish their Badges, Ranks and community service awards. / I know one area where you can save MILLIONS that new school Andrews how about CLOSING the school in walking distance and move those children to a NEW SCHOOL. I just can not believe that you listened to parents to keep that school open right next door.

reduce the school budget!

the only city service I see that doesn't seem to have a purpose is street cleaning / it was hard to answer questions in reference to specific services/programs without knowing how much they are currently utilized (i.e. youth center, parenting education)

The city is draining citizens of their money. we pay for a decal we never get..this makes no sense..there is always a tax for something. Where is the money for our schools??? We have a lottery, so where's the money for crossing guards...

To offer programs for kids/teens you need to go where they are and not expect them to come to an out of location area like the Teen Center - the majority of the population visiting the Teen Center are from the Bethel HS area. The Bethel area also has Northampton Community Center. / / Why would you even propose closing Sandy Bottom Nature Park or reduce the hours? That is the most visited, best maintained park in the City of Hampton. The Park Rangers should have more jurisdiction over the other parks in Hampton and you would probably see an increase in participation and a decrease in negative behavior. / / The same thought goes behind why would you even propose getting rid of lifeguards? The liability of having a public beach and not having it maintain sounds reckless and ludicrous. Unless the future of these beaches is to go private like 95% of Hampton's shoreline.

I feel Sandy Bottom Park provides a nice area for outdoor activities. We are a society that needs to be more active to lower obesity. This park provides a number of aerobic activities to accommodate this. This is also a place several schools use for running activities. / I feel our teachers are being swept under the rug. We have had no pay increase and lowered several years. If you need to cut anything in education, maybe some of the 6 figure salaries downtown in the administration. We pay more for our insurance this year with less coverage. We have not had a step increase, the numbers of years worked, for several years.

We cannot sacrifice any more city services. Please raise the tax rate.

For 2012, maintain the current tax rates, as the economy is picking up. Citizens that pay the property tax are already over taxed by the Federal State and local governments while their incomes are stagnant or decreasing. Social programs and welfare based programs should be reduced in places like Lincoln Park, before tax payers are put on the hook for more income to the city.

there are more ideas out there for revenue generation. just ask the employees.

Contract out more services.. use a variety of contracting programs such as firm fixed price with incentives to obtain better services. There is no followup or oversight AND definitely no accountability of services provided. Look at Buckroe at all the broken sidewalks, weeds and blight for the remaining older facilities. We do appreciate the new bath house at Buckroe. The overall appearance of the City of Hampton is declining. Ordinances (dogs running around and loud barking dogs) even when called into Police -- nothing happens. I think charging \$5.00 for an adult admission into the tiny History museum is crazy. Look at the public soccer fields where weeds grow tall, trash is everywhere, and things stay like that for weeks.

I didn't answer a few questions - Teen Center - because I don't know how much it's being used now. If the teens are using it - then I support keeping it open. The same goes for the Mini Teen Grants - how much money are we talking about and who uses it for what. / I also think that people who work in Hampton; but who do not live in Hampton, should pay a city wage tax. There are a lot of people who work for Hampton City Schools as well as the City of Hampton who do not pay any taxes but they make their money here.

Preserve the garbage/recycling collections, fire/ems/ and police. Look at admin positions and adjust accordingly...some seem to have a lot more than others. Suspend some hours in community centers, libraries, etc. until the time that the economy comes back up, Don't outsource everything...the level of service and value will not be the same and then we are tied into 5 year contracts before we could go back to what we already know works. Some extra programs need to be suspended for now and we shouldn't suspend anything that is going to bring in funds from visitors. Citizens have got to take some responsibility in these hard times...taxes must go up...it's been a very long time since they have risen so we are past due. This is OUR City and we need to help support it just as we would with a close family member who might be in financial trouble. If we all work together, the load would be evened out. Better times are coming but it took us a long time to get to this position and it will take a long time see it turn around. We don't need flowers and mulch, we need roads/streets in working order, We don't need to be taught how to be a good parent, there is information out there if you want to find it for free, we do need to take care of those who can't take care of themselves: our children, our elderly, and our animals. We need our trash picked up, we need police, fire, & ems maintained. In times such as these, crime picks up. Our population is getting older (baby boomers) so we need to ems. Community Development needs to be put on the back burner for now until the economy picks up. The City needs to make sure that

homes, businesses, lots, etc. we have currently are kept up and not let them go to blight. We need to take care of the NOW, the past is over, and the future can be planned when there is time and money to do so.

Have schools maintain their own athletic fields. Sell off property of closed schools unless City has plans to renovate land for park usage. Charge \$1 per person to attend the childrens festival, summer movie series, groovin by the bay and downtown block parties. Charge \$1 to enter Blue Bird Gap Farm. Charge \$1 to enter the Boo Williams Sportsplex for walkers and youth recreation basketball games. Increase fee to use gyms at the community centers to include cost of taking classes making the gym memberships all inclusive like the YMCA or many other fitness facilities. Reduction of library services/hours or branches since the vast majority of people use computers or tablets to read and obtain research. Impliment a minimal boat tax because if you own property (house, land, car, motorcycles, RVs,etc.) in Hampton you pay taxes on it to keep it housed(pardon the pun) inside the City. Finally, quit offering services, facilities and resources for free. Times have changed and we are now in 2012 not 1960. No longer should someone get something done or giving to them because they know this person or that person. Micro transactions have become the standard in many business models and could be applied in certain situations in city government. Good Luck.

One of the reasons Virginia Beach has lower tax rates is because they taken in high tourism dollars and have a high entertainment tax rate. Why doesn't the City of Hampton consider raising the tax rate on entertainment venues (restaurant, movies, night clubs, etc)? It should be in the mix- not just real estate taxes.

Need to include more on ways to reduce social services, and options to reduce city investment in real estate.

Hampton has changed much in the last 20 years. Many new services have been implemented in furtherance of ill informed Council initiatives, others expanded due to state/federal mandates, and yet others modified in terms of supporting new social agendas. Hampton was a better government 20 years ago - lean, efficient, and effective. In this case, less is more. Focus needs to be on the core services of public safety, schools, and public works that are essential to the provision of government services. In recent years, supporting internal departments have been devistated and can no longer operate in a fashion that assures quality government can exist - specifically we need solid financial checks and balances on spending and better supporting administrative processes. Hampton has lost the ability to attract the quality employees it was once famous for and now many more need to be hired to complete the same work. Something needs to be done, and the incremental community based decision making that has driven Hampton into the ditch needs to fly out the window. Hampton really needs a leader who is empowered to set policy, allocate resources, and implement decisions - not a quasi politician whose consensus based leadership team spends a year talking about the relative merits and then asks an uneducated citizenry to make the tough budget decisions for them. Process should not be king. Hampton wastes too much time discussing and not enough managing and implementing. Council should look seriously at the City

Manager and the people she entrusts to run the organization. If Council feels Hampton is moving in a positive direction then keep the team you have. If not, clean house and hire a new management team. I for one predict Hampton is quickly becoming the next great Portsmouth. If I could, I clean house and get someone on board who is up to the task.

Be less politically correct by maintaining services that are really just for show such as certain commissions and let's do our own studies and not pay outside sources to tell us what we need to do. If we need to make cuts, let's cut where it won't impact the way we can effectively do business. Create (if we don't already) a position where the sole task is to eliminate the wants and focus on the needs. Just like any household, someone has to say no to fun, feel/look good things that cost, or no to the brand name popular items or eating out just to save extra money. We're doing a good job but only at keeping our head above water. We can do better so we can wade in the shallow end for a change. LH

Give your workers a raise.

Stop focusing on Power Plant and Shopping areas. Slow down on planting flowers, making brick walkways and planting trees. Encourage homeowners to take care of their properties. Stay OUT of the real estate business.

Amazed at how retirement and unfunded mandates get thrown into the city budget challenges (direct job at the people who have worked with no increase for years while direct costs are increasing). Overspending on the Lincoln St/West Pembroke apartment complex, and the various master plans are not addressed. It is my assumption that if citizen opinion was really sought...things would be a little different. (but I am bitter) / / On a good note: I have to thank all involved for their hard work trying to keep on top of the budget and trying to get input from the citizens on the numerous issues discussed within. As an employee of the city; and a resident I see the I value campaign as one of the best forums for direct input. Staff must be toiling over the decisions that must be difficult to make in these hard financial times. Keep up the good work...My first paragraph was venting out of frustration...but I trust and believe you are acting in the public good....STAY STRONG!

Protect the shoreline.

Combine like functions such as the Convention Center, the Coliseum, and the American Theater under the same division, managed by the City and not an outside company. I never feel they show the pride of Hampton as the Coliseum and American Theater do. Maybe a new Entertainment division could be formed where shortfalls in one could be covered by revenues of the others. Bay Days and like events could come under this new division.

The kids need the crossing guards (even the middle schoolers) so please do not eliminate those positions. I can live with the library hours being reduced, but please do not close any of the branches. We need our tourism, and we need to keep lifeguards on the beaches. Why have we been caring for Fort Wool?

Tax boats (do not think you should raise personal property taxes at all until boats are taxed) / use solar power on light poles where feasible / charge the salt pond residents to keep their channel open to the bay (after all it wasn't there till the ash Wed. storm in 64) / skip building a new couthouse / add a penny or 2 to cigarettes and alcohol / instead of annuals use low bushes (only have to plant once)

Quality of life and social/cultural services (e.g. libraries, museums, theater) should not be eliminated. Without these services it will be extremely difficult to attract businesses and people. Hours of operation should be reduced if necessary for budget balancing. That would be acceptable and I think people would adjust to the slight inconvenience rather than not have these leisure and cultural services available.

There are so many non-profit organizations, civic clubs, and business establishments in the city. Why not off to them to perform some service that city now does (i.e., crossing guards, after school programs, sports activities, etc.) and give them a tax break or other privilege for doing this service. Also, Hampton University has quite a bit of land in the city (many little plots throughout the city) that they are NOT paying any taxes on and do not keep up (cut grass, week, maintain) on a regular basis. perhaps, it might be time to have them pay something for taking up the space and not doing anything with it to improve the city.

although landscaping enhances the beauty of the City, I don't think that it is essential at this time and funding of youth oriented events is more paramount in learning and preparing for their future. As for marketing for tourism i'm sure it helps but Hampton has been here for years and people over time pass by word of previous visits and passing through helps in this regard. For a City of our size, we have two golf courses and if one isn't operating in the black, perhaps it needs to be closed. We spend from 1.5M-3M yearly for vehicle/equipment replacement but I see City vehicles purchased at auction over the past 5-15yrs still being driven on the streets. Our vehicles are well maintained and certainly I believe the life expectancy can be extended on the low mileage ones. The paving of some streets in my opinion was not needed as badly as others in some residual areas. We all regret reducing services but the absolute need only to be considered.

How about a reduced work week for each employee of 4 days with a rotating schedule whereby the city is still open 5 days/week with less staff but on rotating schedules for those mandatory/critical departments (police, fire and rescue etc). / NOT undertaking any new building and acquisitions...i.e. the new court house, Harbor Square...just stop the buying and lay low until this economy recovers and we can all afford to live here.

Put a .50% surcharge on all business transactions in the city.

No property tax rate increase. Cut departments such as Marketing, Inc.(this budget is way too high and not a need), combine more departments that share similar goals, cut some high paying positions in the city manager's office that have served their original purpose and/or reduce the number of assistant city managers, could increase the number of assistant city managers to oversee certain departments and

eliminate some high paying department head positions, eliminate minority business development--it should just be about overall business development, is the economic development office over staffed and over paid compared to achieved results, reduce travel expenses for essential travel only. Thought this survey was very limited in the questions/services addressed. The integrity of survey questions is essential to ensure that the survey does not produce skewed results. Many city services were not addressed in this survey for citizen input-- why??? Outsource city surveys in the future.

Might corporate sponsors be willing to underwrite any community center activities?

Not helpful with budget problems, but in case its useful: / / 1. As plans are made to rejuvenate downtown, maybe making the sidewalks teaching tools would be fun. They could have Hampton history facts put in them, or short poetry as Minneapolis did, or native animal tracks with identification, or leaf prints identified. And, / / 2. Is Hampton addressing sea level rise? / / Thanks for your service to the city!

Unfortunately our local and national economy is in a no frills state now. We should only be spending tax dollars on mandated services and requirements. The City should not be involved in the funding of private institutions or entities in any way. Tax dollars should only go to fund public requirements. Fire, public safety, and education should be funded at current levels. If current revenues will support all other public services at their current levels then continue to fund them. However, if current revenues are not sufficient, all other public services should be subject to budget cuts to avoid any increase in taxes.

First... how are you promoting this website? I never would have known had it not been for an outside agency telling me. I see this website touted as expressing the will or thoughts of the citizens of Hampton. This is not a representative sample and this is not representative of the will of Hampton residents. My guess is that highly-engaged employees and their families and friends know about this at a much greater rate than others.

Increasing the TAX rate on residences has a disproportionate adverse impact on the people who have the less expensive houses and who can less afford the tax increase. For example: Aberdeen Gardens area. / / Public safety services, (Fire and Emergency Services and Police) benefit ALL citizens. Additionally cutting their staffs puts the firefighters and police/Deputy Sheriffs at increased risk -an unacceptable consequence. / / Spending scarce revenues on tourist attraction / promotion is a glaring example of misplaced priorities; a waste of money. Let the businesses who depend on visitors provide the funding for that area. Additionally, Hampton has little in the way of inherent tourist attractions, save Fort Monroe and St John's Church.

Leave property values alone. Keeping them the same value and not raising the tax rate would be better.

When we get back on top, please, remember the past. The idea of the market taking care of the retirees needs should be a lesson learned. The city and state should have never have held back contributions. Be fair to the tax payer and provide the

information to make an intelligent decision. I am thinking of some of the all or nothing suggestions. ? Close the youth center? Do away with animal control, Citizens Unity Commission. How about cutting back 25% of the Economic Development funding, or 1% of Marketing? Everything seems to go up in cost, why shouldn't taxes? If no one contributes to their retirement fund; I am speaking of everyone in the nation, then they are unlikely to receive an increased in income when retired and are unable to pay an increase in tax. Think about that.

Revisit the need to build a new courthouse.

I don't want to see the quality of our city go down. I am in support of a small increase in taxes, if that would mean an improvement in the area.

It is important to maintain fire, rescue, and emergency services. I would like to see all prevention, youth services, and educational services remain the same.

Increasing tax rates while values decline is the appropriate move to maintain our current city services. When values increase we should reduce the rate to maintain the balance between service needs and the taxes collected. The focus needs to remain on core services that we should, as a locality, be providing to the community and the nice to haves need to be reduced or eliminated altogether.

Overall I support a tax increase to insure same/better level of service for public safety and all critical essential services. / that support our quality of life. I encourage the consideration of reducing/emination the operating hours of general services such as permits review and inspections, library hours etc. In times of economic crisis, free social service programs provided by government should be reduced or eliminated before the reduction or elimination of those services that are essential to our basic quality of life. Consider reducing the general work day of some city services to 4 days/10 hr days. This might result in general overall operating cost. but same time make services more available to the public being open longer day . I applaud those that are not afraid to make the tough choices even when its not the popular choice.

spend less money on unnecessary signs designating coliseum central all over the city. we don't need a new courthouse and an expensive parking garage. we did not need an expensive park built on pembroke avenue under the bridge. why doesn't city management think about increasing shops and restaurants in/around downtown and at buckroe to draw people to those areas? powerplant obviously isn't working out too well.

Raise taxes while reducing non-mandatory (Wants) services.

reduce police force by 20%, eliminate all spending on improvement projects, cut office staff in all city departments by 10%, reduce salaries of city workers by 10%

I want a transparent, smaller government.

1. Reduce the intensity of the park and Pembroke lighting in Buckros. There is no reason the lights need to be so bright that they can be seen from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge tunnel - they are, we've checked from CBBT. / 2. Quit relying on residential

taxes to sustain the City. More concentrated effort to bring in viable business without providing unrealistic incentives / 3. Stop unrealistic high priced residential construction by developers. Our assessment in Buckroe should never have gone down with a new Parade of homes. We told you the homes were overpriced. / 4. Bring in small beach businesses to Buckroe. There is no draw for tourists other than the beach.

I would consider raising the tax rate to help offset the budget shortfall in order to maintain the current level of services, especially protective services and youth services. To me, those are the key elements to maintaining a good community - and a good city!

I think we need to utilize green energy projects all over the city, such as solar collectors to help power streetlights, etc. When it comes to road repairs and upgrades, I think we should use better grade materials/methods even though they are more expensive because they will last longer and could significantly reduce the constant need for Public Works to maintain our roads. Filling numerous potholes every year is a waste of taxpayer money. We should look at the idea of using high-grade concrete instead of asphalt. The road conditions on parts of Cunningham Dr. approaching Von Schilling, Cunningham Dr. in the left turn exit lane from Wal-mart and in the area on P. Plant Pkwy. from Bass Pro all the way up to the stopbar at the intersection of Mercury Blvd. are all really coming apart. We could encourage concert promoters to do business at Walker Airfield at Ft. Monroe with high quality acts and reasonably priced tickets. Maybe form a Committee with people who have connections in the entertainment business. I've provided security and traffic control as a volunteer at Bay Days for 20 years and have worked every major public event in Hampton and Newport News. This helps to offset the cost of doing these things. We should have some meetings at Rupert Sargent and try to get people with professional level paid or serious volunteer experience to come to them and throw some ideas around and present them to the City. We have Gosnold's Park, as well, similar to Redwing down in the Beach. We have a wide variety of sponsors in this area and we have pretty good sponsor packages, like those used at BayDays. If we could get the best jazz and country artists scheduled here in Hampton, it would help greatly for advance ticket sales. Do some online polling and use a list of specific jazz and country artists for people to vote on as to who they would like to see come here, on this site and on the Daily Press site. I'd propose having 2 major shows a month from early June through October. You pre-sell tickets months in advance at \$10/person, sell 10,000 tickets, that's \$100,000. The artist could cost 20-25K if they're either regional name acts or if their agency has them within say 200 miles or so from Hampton at the time when we need them here to do a show, believe or not, similar to how BayDays books. At Walker and Gosnold's, we could have a bring your own picnic basket type of affair. Have a rain-date. We would need HPD, HFD and Risk Management at the meetings and do a cost assessment, of course. Though many artists cost upwards of 100K, there are plenty who don't cost a fortune and we should look into this. If we succeeded at this and the City makes money, I would like to see this money very carefully allocated and going towards City projects that will benefit us all. If we make money from projects like this, the money should be set

aside for awhile and the City should take polls online on it's own site, the D. Press and through the mail system. I liked your comprehensive list of expenditures earlier in this poll; we need more in the green. Let's have some music industry professionals, paid and experienced public event volunteers and others involved in some meetings. We also have the Coliseum and the HRCC as venues. If we can put on great shows at a reduced cost whereby everyone can be made satisfied, make money and do it in a highly organized way without charging folks \$20-\$45 a ticket and getting the right artists, we might succeed. If the City were willing or able to, this sort of task could be accomplished without Ticketmaster or even sponsors. Clubs book local band direct half the time, no agent markups. National talent does use agencies, but they can be negotiated with. Some of us out here know national talent personally and some of them can legally book themselves without their agents.

Cut hours before closing a facility or service. Get rid of Unity Commission. Raise tax rate. No real new ideas, it looks like you're on the right track.

Maintain consistent tax rate. do not lower tax based on assessed value because it will erode resources necessary to maintain and/or improve services.

I will share these later.

You can NOT close Sandy Bottom Nature Park or reduce their hours. That is UNACCEPTABLE.

Promoting more business and tourism to Hampton. Directly market to growing companies the advantages of Hampton. The high tech military=experienced workforce is a strong draw for private industry. Build a marketing/sales team that can leverage our transitioning military-technical population to get higher paying jobs to Hampton.

The City's number one budget priority needs to be restoring funding to the public schools. Cuts from recent years are having a negative impact on the system's ability to provide quality education for all students. Class sizes, particularly in elementary schools, are becoming too large and unmanageable.

The city of Hampton needs to find ways to bring business into the city.

STOP SPENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARD TO BUY PROPERTY, MAKE THE OWNERS FIX AND REPAIR AND PAY THEIR SHARE OF TAXES. / STOP GIVING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO COMPANIES TO RELOCATE WITHIN THE CITY , THIS IS FOOLISH SPENDING. THE CITY COULD'VE SAVED OVER 12 TO 20 MILLION DOLLARS, THAT IS A LOT OF TAX DOLLARS THAT COULD BE USED FOR CITY SERVICES.

Use the lottery proceeds to benefit our schools and education. Hampton does not have a competitive education program compared to other area school systems. When we voted for the lottery, we were told revenues would be solely for education. All I see are cuts and no significant improvements. Where is this money being used? Hampton govt should be accountable for explaining how lottery revenues will be shifted more towards education improvement.

Cut out the fat at the top. Salary cuts at the top till they get the city budget under control, that's what they are paid for. / Stop crazy projects like putting rocks in the medium on Commander Shepard Road, what a waste of money.

Spend less. Terrible survey. How can a person make reasonable decisions if you don't provide the budget for each of the activities you asked about, or even what some of them are? I could have looked it up but it should have been easily available. If you can't make hard decisions to cut programs just do a salami slice budget reduction across the board. Thanks for asking.

Regrettably some of the 'extras' like libraries, museums and community facilities must go in these tough times. An efficiency study should also be done on simple things in city hall and other city facilities on power use, paper consumption, utilities, etc. Perhaps a one time investment in new lighting (energy efficient), etc. would create some savings that go into the future.

Please do not take away from the arts and the parks. I go running at Sandy Bottom Nature Park at least 3 times a week. I love the staff there and enjoy going into the nature center. I always see other runners and families in there enjoying the animals and learning from the staff. I would be extremely upset if you took away anything from the parks.

cutting any safety programs or child development programs are unacceptable

The tax rate needs to be raised to preserve vital services in our City.

We should cut unnecessary services, but not education! Infrastructure, roads, etc. are a must and a responsibility of the city. A lot of these survey questions were difficult to answer without knowing the whole story, i.e. it doesn't make sense to reduce spending on tourism if the city makes more than it spends. If the city is losing money, we should stop spending to attract tourists or spend less.

Many city-subsidized projects to bring in new businesses to the area have ended up costing the city money, rather than increasing revenue as promised. While the intentions are good, the track record has demonstrated otherwise. Future proposals should be evaluated more objectively and contract mechanisms should be used to reduce risk.

Cut the waste. Quit buying real estate, leave it to the private sector.

Cut back on the Social Services!!!

Why is closing Sandy Bottom Nature Park even an issue. This park is the most popular with annual numbers over 750,000 and brings in large income with camping, boat rentals, shelters, and conference room. The only place where children can come see wildlife as well as the only place that rehabilitates wildlife in Hampton. There are parks in Hampton that were bought and was a waste of money such as River Street Park that is located under an inter-state.

Add a 1 to 2 cents tax increase on cigarettes, beer, dining, and entertainment. Use those in the jail work program to clean and clear ditches. If not already part of policy charge 200 to 300 dollars for ambulance transport and patient care due to the fact

that a large majority of the population is insured. install parking meters in certain areas to collect revenue. Increase ticket fees for DUI's, reckless driving, and other mistermeader offenses and use the increase revenue to fund public safety. To save money on fire apparatus purchase conduct a study on the feasibility of refurbishing the current apparatus at the manufacturer rather than purchase new fire engines or trucks. There are many great ideas out there to save money in different areas of the operating budget. Creating a panel of citizens, small business owners, and financial experts to provide ideas to increase revenue and provide exceptional city sevice.

not sure why you want to cut 911 services....they support 4 major city departments whose calls for service continue to rise, as do their staffing levels...yet you want to cut a position in 911 and not allow for any career development or hierarchy. 911 supports 311 seven days a week, 16 hours a day all holidays.....Public works 7 days a week, 16 hours a day, police 7 days a week 24 hours a day and fire/ems 7 days a week 24 hours a day.

Many of the questions in this survey were skewed by the very manner they were presented. Who wrote these questions? Someone that already had the results they wanted in mind? For example, elimination of after school programs at schools, this wording implies to those not familiar with the program that it is presently being funded by the taxpayer. When in fact, the participating family has to pay directly for these services just the same as if they choose a private organization. Therefore, the responses can not be accurately assessed. Also, other questions such as eliminating street lighting to reduce engery expenses were just plain silly, what about options such as more effcient bulbs and a slight reduction in hours or perhaps even a dimmer feature. Again, the lack of details being presented with the question leaves a feeling of the City has already pretty much decided. Should we reduce.....yes; eliminate....yes -block parties; special events; fireworks; two parades - even though Colisuem Central pays for their own, isn't that enough? Why create should an unnecessary expenses when we the citizen's already have a very nice parade option! Those are the kinds of programs and services that need to be looked at in reductions and eliminations not services that individuals are participating in are paying for as mentioned earlier in after school programming. Why cut something that is bringing in revenue. I and others that use this program pay for this service and not the greater citizenship. Unlike, my tax dollars that go to fund services that I currently do not, nor may never use.

Put more money back into our children's education. They are our future and we are failing them!

We have got to start giving back to Education. So many people complain about our youth and being delinquents. However, we have to step up and stop taking money from Education and after school activies. If we do not put more into our children they will not be able to grow. Why is it that it seems as if Hampton does not care anymore what happens to our children. If you take away our crossing guards you are asking for an accident waiting to happen. I sure hope that after living in Hampton for 38 years that I will see our money spent better and take a notice at our youth. After all they are OUR THE FUTURE OF HAMPTON!!!!

We should allow greater transparency and community involvement in all budgetary decisions from the beginning, not after deals are made and the money is paid. I want to see our money spent where the citizens want it to go. There should not be a monetary decision made without public input. NO MORE CLOSED MEETINGS.

maintain popular areas like sandy bottom, buckroe, maintain police and animal control. don't add new projects and stretch the budget to cover them as in years past.

I ask that you please DO NOT reduce the hours of operation or close any part of Sandy Bottom Nature Park; doing so would end the joy and solitude of the great outdoors in Hampton. Thousands of people come to this park each day to relax and get away from the daily grind. The Park is well maintained and the staff is outstanding not only at keeping the facility clean and safe but also about teaching wildlife conservation to Hampton residents. Please leave Sandy Bottom OPEN.

Stop trying to turn Hampton into a destination. It really isn't, and it never will be. The grandiose plans for downtown Hampton and Coliseum Central are just silly. Hampton will never eclipse Williamsburg or Virginia Beach as an entertainment, shopping, and night-life destination. Let's instead plot a course for Hampton to be a good place to live and work. How? Simple: good schools, good roads, safe environment, low taxes, and encourage businesses to take root here with less regulation. We spend our time regulating how long a dog can be on a leash and charging people to own animals, cars, and any kind of productive business. Let's stop that nonsense and focus on what matters.

Don't cut youth and library services.

I find it absolutely appalling that no where in this survey was there concern expressed for the shortfall the Hampton City Schools are facing for next year. The primary budget concern for Hampton should be to ensure the youngest citizens are well equipped when they graduate high school. Yes the economy has taken a toll and we have grown accustomed to a number of services that were developed during a thriving economy. But there are a number of extras, I am sure we can do without. What we cannot do without is an excellent school system that meets the education needs of all students while meeting the national and state requirements. It is time we get back to basics. First, make sure our schools are funded properly; let's not repeat the mistakes of the eighties where art classes weren't heard of in elementary school, and P.E. and Music were every other week. Second, make sure our infrastructure and safety services are funded properly. Thirdly, fund other community services. It is time for Hampton to focus on Hampton's citizens, not try to attract every one else. Take care of what we have now, so that when the overall economy improves Hampton will be ready.

I believe that things that do not affect public health like cleaning ditches should not be eliminated. Existing services should have hours reduced to put the money where needed.

Get rid of programs that do not perform as intended (community centers).

Not to buy any more property until the budget starts to come around.

You can not close Sandy Bottom Nature Park or cut the hours. Our family loves visiting the park, Nature Center, and renting the boats.

I home school and we do our field trips to Sandy Bottom Nature Park. The Nature Center helps us see nature up close and we can safely observe snakes and other animals and learn about them. You can NOT close Sandy Bottom Nature Park or reduce their hours.

i would support the reduction of streetlighting of public streets to reduce electricity spending for major streets only (collectors and minor/major arterials). residential and pedestrian areas would need to remain lighted for safety/security purposes.

Give Hampton City Police Officers raises!!!

Please do NOT close Sandy Bottom Nature Park or reduce the hours.

My home is worth less and therefore I should pay less to the city. Learn to be more efficient. I see a lot of overspending by Hampton. One of many examples is your marketing dept - they just redid their office for the 2nd time in less than / 3 years. Another example, the Teen Center. A lot of money spent on such a small segment of the population that doesn't even use the facility. Learn the difference between a want and a need and apply it to your budget. When real estate values shot up you should have saved that money for now instead of foolishly spending on projects that couldn't be funded longterm. Everyone knew the values would go back down eventually. I have to budget in this economy and I expect my government to have to do the same.

Real Estate Taxes in previous years were based on an exaggerated VALUE = Paying MORE Tax than REAL Value of Real Estate. Real Estate Value now is more Accurate AND Tax Rates should NOT Increase since WE have been OVER-Charged for past Several Years! Increased Real Estate VALUE has also Increased Insurance Costs. Charge TAX on BOATS, which Now is almost \$0, to increase Revenue. Boats are almost the ONLY vehicle NOT taxed considering its VALUE!

My home is worth less and therefore I should pay less to the city. The city needs to learn how to budget and be more efficient. I see a lot of overspending by Hampton. One of many examples is the marketing dept - they just redecorated their office for the 2nd time in less than / 3 years. And you want to raise my taxes so another department can do the same? Yet the city is cutting jobs due to a lack of money, no jobs would need to be cut if city management would think before acting. Taxes wouldn't need to be raised if the city would be responsible with the money it has. You start out your survey talking about the wants and needs, the city needs to learn the difference between a want and a need and apply it to your budget. I have to budget in this economy and I expect my government to have to do the same. I expect that the city should be able trim operating costs to support the changing revenue due to the decline in property values, as i have had to do with my budget. I have trimmed my operating costs due to a lack of increase of funds available to me in my budget. /

To reduce employer pay for health insurance try to get on the state's plan the city of hampton is already on the VRS

Please do not eliminate any youth services if anything increase our services to our youth.

Keep up the good work! Hampton is a a great place to live. Pursue emerging businesses and put more Federal land on the tax roll.

Quite buying property

Citizens can step up to the plate and help with some things, like helping to maintain school grounds, picking up litter, and reporting problems to 311 to help supplement public efforts with these and more. But at some point we have to invest in our community and make it the best it can be. Knee-jerk reactions against tax increases are like knee-jerk reactions to earning more money for your household. This city is our home, and we need to put our money and our time into it. / / I don't think it would be unreasonable to ask city departments to develop some sort of vetting process on some of their expenditures. For example - do we need slick, professionally produced print materials for EVERY purpose, or would providing basic information be sufficient? Do city employees need to use city or personal vehicles as much as they do? It never hurts to ask and to question. I feel certain our employees are doing the absolute best they can, but they should be lead from above to question their expenditures and to think out of the box about expenses.

* Is there any way to sell off the Hampton City Schools that have closed? / * Can Hampton City Schools do their own lawn services? /

We need cut services that are not even being used by most citizens in Hampton. I have been living in Hampton for 12 years and haven not even heard of half the programs offered. During this economy we need to focus on what important and necessary like our education, and safety. We need to come up with ways to bring more money into the area. I few years ago I heard talk about turning Ft. Monroe into a tourist area. Maybe some government officials should take pay decreases instead of increasing property tax rate. Like a lot of people right now we are already paying too much for are home because we bought it before the market dropped we couldn't even sell are house for what it is assessed for.

Please protect our schools and police and fire.

Have people who are collecting welfare but are physically able do some of the simpler tasks that the city is now paying for do as part of training them to support themselves. You know the saying about not feeding the wildlife. We want them to learn to be self sufficient.

We should be prepared to pay to keep our investment in the city's people and infrastructure. City parks are very important. 311, budget outreach, libraries, community centers and hampton city page/eneews are all vital. Don't overlook the value of volunteers associated with such functions as the Clean City Commission (litter prevention! green business! storm water control) and VA Cooperative Extension (Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists).

Keep the same tax rate (\$1.04/\$100), but raise the value of the real estate back to July 2009 values. This would be a simple and fast automated process. The city should never have lowered land values, land never depreciates but rather due to the shortage of developmental land it is becoming more valuable.....especially waterfront property. The housing market and Hampton home owners have taken enough hits through the fault of the banking system and individual irresponsible actions. The city has aggravated this situation by following the market place when the home prices increased beyond normal/acceptable growth patterns and then following the market place down this current devastating slide. Not raising the tax rates would maintain Hampton in a competitive mode with its city neighbors when home owners make these comparisons.

Residential property values have been reduced by the economy AND Hampton's perception (another web survey you had in the past). We may pay less tax because of the reduced value of our homes...but we also have lost money for exactly that reason. We will not be able to sell our homes at the price we paid for them if we purchased in the recent past (we only bought our home last year and we are already underwater. To sell our little starter home with all the fees we would be lucky to break even.) The perception of Hampton is a bad one because of the schools and certain neighborhoods. We like PTC, being close to 64, Convention Center, etc. All great for young professionals or families without school aged children. People buy houses because of the school districts. That is the only way Hampton will come out of this with growth even if there was not an economic downturn. If we agree to 1 cent or 1.00 you have to prove there is a definite plan to raise property values for the long term or it is throwing money away. I would be happy to pay a lot more extra if there was some strategic plan to fix schools, problem neighborhoods, after school programs, at-risk programs, etc. I see the schools have reduced drop out rates, great parents survey, great teachers. The only reason I know that is because I just now looked at the website. I think that there needs to be way more publicity on the improvements to the schools to encourage residential growth and to change the public's perception. I have never heard anything about Hampton schools except for bad things. I also like the low cost loans etc. for homeowners improving certain areas...although I think the Pine Grove area could also use that. Some houses are well-kept and others are run down and look like junk yards and should be given citations. I have noticed many of the people are renters so that may be the reason but landlords need to be taking care of their properties! Creating more community area improvement/watch dog task forces with something as simple as facebook pages for each community and email and mailing lists run by volunteers would be great to bring together neighbors to improve their own communities. I am positive that encouraging citizens to join together and empowering them to improve their own neighborhoods would be the best way to increase property values (some apartments have a flower planting day, where they give away a few flowers to residents who come to get them - Hampton City could find a sponsor and have them come to the neighborhood on a specified day and give away 2 flowers for planting per home (address on license) and give away their company's promotional material and information on the neighborhood's community task force and any other

sponsors/city notices. Also Hampton has some unique small businesses and I have never heard of them being promoted except when Obama visited Wood's Orchard. Some kind of promotional piece on small businesses could work wonders improving the perception that Hampton is a unique place to live, not just to visit.

cutting after school programs will make the parents have to take off work before their day is done...which results in less money being made for you to tax...

I answered unsure to many of the questions because I do not want to cancel services, but I believe they do not have to be paid for by the city. Many of the services for recreation and youth programs are already provided by federal and state agencies and funds, as well as private and religious programs, and do not have to be city-run programs. For example, other cities in the region have after school programs run by the YMCA. School crossing guards in other parts of the country are volunteers and/or responsible school students participating in a safety patrol program. I am not against having street lights, but they do not have to be as bright or as close together as the ones at Buckroe Beach, and I think there may be solar lights that may be more cost effective in the long run. Thank you for allowing the silent majority to have input instead of only listening to the few vocal people who like to stand up and complain at meetings or send letters to the newspaper! /

Services for children and families are critical. These will influence what Hampton is like for years to come, as kids grow up. That being said, we do have many things that are maintained at a higher level than we used to find perfectly acceptable, such as public groundskeeping, and fancy athletic facilities. We need to focus more on content and not glimmer.

My main concern is the after school program. Most working parents cannot afford going elsewhere. We recycle slot in our house and at the end of two weeks we never fill our bin up more than halfway. Cut the pickup times to every three weeks or once a month. Also curbside debris pickup last week of each month. I have seen them stop to pick up a small branch. Gotta save in fuel there.

Home values go down because neighborhoods are poorly laid out. Like little islands, walk out the door and where can you go? take your family down high speed roads, dangerous paths or narrow sidewalks? Stop the stupid annuals; they look awful; a waste of time; get a new horticultural person. stop the mulching at schools and in the city. it is over-used and kills trees and shrubs. do not nuke ditches; just trim back and let the wildlife, birds, insects nest + overwinter there. we lose our biodiversity. who cares?

Whatever you do. Please do not cancel before and after school programs!

School grounds maintenance provided by families of students as private schools do. School repairs, painting, etc. also. / Parking Lot clean up offered as inmate work details. / Community Volunteer Adoption programs for downtown cleaning. / /

-Plant perennials instead of annuals-sustainable landscaping. / -Encourage more people to pick up their own trash. Enforce fines for littering and code violations. / - The Virginia Cooperative Extension office supports a large number of VOLUNTEERS

that donate thousands of hours in programs that help educate their fellow citizens. /
-Sandy Bottom Park and Bluebird Gap Farm provide invaluable educational opportunities about nature and wildlife and should be treasured. / -Who is benefiting (\$) from the acquisition of Ft. Monroe? The citizens, the budget? Let's not give our resources and/or property away to developers unless we get a substantial return. /

Put more money into the schools

I think getting rid of the after school program is a horrible idea. I am a single mom and needed these services because I am not making enough money to afford daycare and pay all the bills I have. The after school program is helpful for a lot of single parents on a tight budget. I hope and pray that you don't stop this program that keeps our kids in a safe environment.

Review City positions and eliminate redundant positions

We need to quit spending money on things we do not need. These new flags coming into the shopping district is a joke. Buying the apartments was a big waste of money. I think we need to look at moving the school offices to one of the closed schools. Renting a large expensive office building while we have empty schools is a waste.

Education is our future. To rob education of its needed funding, is to rob our children of a future! How much did this survey cost the taxpayers of Hampton? Could it have paid someone's salary for a year?

How about fee for service (or raised fees) for some items that are truly optional? For example, American Theater, Teen Center, Golf Courses, Woodland Tennis Center, marinas. How about more sharing of services among sister cities and military bases? How about push back on state/federal mandated, but unfunded programs?

To overcome the budget challenge you should charge more for the services like After School Child Care and performances at the New American so they become fund raisers to help offset the costs for repairing roads, keeping street lights on, and maintaining Fire Department and other Public Health and Safety Services. I am glad to curb the number of hours for libraries and museums and increase turn around times for plan review and code inspections but can not support an increase in taxes.

Look to privatize services such as after-school, youth/teen, lifeguard, park-cleanup services through a competitive bid process. Solicit more volunteers and adopt-a... programs for beautification efforts. Leverage web/social networking media and business partnerships to promote and incentivize community involvement.

Allow the Criminal Justice Agency personnel who are at risk the same as the police to retire with full benefits at 20 years. You would create jobs for people and wouldn't have to pay the higher salaries. This should have been done years ago anyway.

As much as it is against human rights. Start putting the death row inmates to death. Just before that happens do another separate investigation to conduct quality

control on this. If same results, done deal. People are deliberately going to jail for 3 hots and a cot. They get medical, education, dental and other benefits that we the people who have not done wrong don't get. Three strike your dead. Period. Listen, criminals are put away because they do harm to our community in some fashion or another. They should have no rights like in other countries. Once, that news gets out. Jail over crowding will stop. Crime will come to almost nothing. And business's will look to being here increasing the revenue of Hampton because it is safe. Stop giving us this bunch of worthless ideas and loss of jobs. Get serious and do the job that you have been elected for. I fought for this country and expect that the citizens that I served, take care of matters at home. If you don't do the cleaning your house will get dirty.

REDUCE THE SALARIES of HAMPTON CITY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND ELIMINATE SOME POSITIONS. ELIMINATE ONE ASST. PRINCIPAL AT ALL SCHOOLS AND AT ALL LEVELS WITH A SALARY REDUCTION. ADMINISTRATORS DO NOT WORK WITH STUDENTS AND CONTINUOUS TEACHER REDUCTIONS ARE NEGATIVELY IMPACTING STUDENTS. WE NEED MORE TEACHERS, NOT ADMINISTRATORS. PASSING STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THE MINIMUM STANDARDS ARE LOWERING THE RIGORS OF A HIGHLY EDUCATED SOCIETY. IMPLEMENT A SKILL BASED PROGRAM (AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL) FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO DO NOT PLAN TO GO TO COLLEGE OR TRANSFER THEM TO A GED PROGRAM. LET'S PUT ACTUAL EDUCATION BACK INTO OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Agree taxes need to be raised. I do not agree with taking money from public schools. How does the city benefit with recycling? Is there a way to make money from it? If so, I really believe picking up recycle every week would be a benefit, in that most people just throw recyclables away because there recycle bin is full. Can you make more money from fines? Plenty of people illegal parking, speeding, littering, ect. You could reduce the unemployment by training personnel (meter maids per say or mobile stop light camera) and make more revenue than their job. Like the stop light camera fines, these could be just fines with no points involved.

Eliminate unnecessary, high paying positions. Cut city officials pay commencerant with any cuts to public employee pay.

You need to cater to the tax payers! Not the public assistance crowd. Keep programs important to the educated and the military, and values will increase. Do not waste my tax money on those already hurting the city just by living here! Decide, Hampton! Are you a ghetto or a decent city? People are not going to buy a Home here when they compare taxes! Keep taxes low and cater to homeowners, and professionals!

Children first - period. We must support our children's education, development and safety. I'm appalled to see that we maintained public communication and increased 311, but cut Public School funding and Teen Center Operations. We must prioritize. Is there any hard data available that can speak to the effectiveness of each program, outreach, service, group, etc.? Hard data is needed when dollars are involved, not

subjective or soft data. Honestly, I'm not aware of some of the services noted in this survey - the citizen's group and Outreach on Diversity, for instance. What do these groups and programs do? To give you some better feedback, I'd like a description of some of the services mentioned throughout the slides. That might be a good use of public communication! The bottom line for me and my family is, KIDS FIRST, starting with no more cuts to Public School monies that DIRECTLY affect the students: instructional assistants, for instance, shouldn't be cut before division administrators and their staff(s) - particularly those that do not support the overall educational program.

Many of these questions should be answered honestly by the individuals involved in the situation. Asking the public if we should reduce the number of firemen on duty at a certain station is a ridiculous question. Wouldn't the employees at the station know if the services can be reduced. Hampton has very little to attract new citizens or visitors. / We should work with neighboring cities when planning holiday parades and events. For instance why is Hampton paying to support 2 holiday parades with very similar participants. Schools plan sporting events and activities with neighboring cities yet the cities themselves do not seem work together. / If we are having a hard time supporting some of the youth and leisure programs see if volunteer organizations can help take over some of the activities. Get the community involved with helping the youth and community center programs. Work on changing the culture of the city to have pride and participate in the activities. Use the community forums to gather volunteers instead of trying to make the community feel they have a voice.

I think that volunteers need to be used for more clean up in the city. There is no reason businesses and neighborhoods can't be responsible for keeping their areas clean. Would it kill some of the HCS employees to take 10 minutes out of the week to pick trash up outside their facilities? My son and I have been maintaining the gardens outside of his school for the past 3 years. Replacing landscape timbers, planting flowers, weeding, and trash pick-up all on our time and spending our money. Last year we spent a weekend bagging leaves that had accumulated outside the school so kids wouldn't be injured on buried trash. I think if you let things get bad enough someone will step up. / / There is also no reason to plant flowers in the medians multiple times each year. Plant something that will last for numerous years. And what's with the unused flag poles?! Talk about a waste of money.

Schools make the city, be sure to maintain schools and provide funding. Cuts should be made to services that help the least amount of people. The city parks are what I love most about Hampton, please don't cut funding!

With real estate assessments decreasing, the rate should increase to compensate; however, there should be a mechanism in place to prevent taxes from increasing rapidly if assessments go up dramatically as they did in the past.

I live in Hampton but I work for the city of Newport News. I know there is massive waste in the NN local government and I am sure this is true with Hampton as well. I

do not support cutting workers wages but do support making do with equipment and vehicles as long as it is financially reasonable. The city also needs to stop buying up property. Eliminating blight is important but now is not the time to purchase anymore property.

Value items include School system completely funded, History Museum at current level, Street lighting for safety and security, Cable Television services is vital to keep public informed, street repair, flood control. / Could reduce some family services, community centers, addition of sidewalks in neighborhoods (people walk in the road in my neighborhood and we have sidewalks. Sidewalks are not much of an issue at some schools where almost all students are bussed or brought to school (example: Eaton Middle). / Police and fire could still manage if they cut back a bit in general like everyone else. Also by not leaving vehicles running all the time when stopped, etc. A lot of lights are left on in public building which do not operate at night.

Why spend money on Collesium Central Flag pole and signs. That money could have been used for schools or police or 911 support. The problem in Hampton is the tax breaks you keep giving to business that either don't pay their taxes or close shop as soon as the tax incentive ends. Hampton has wasted a lot of money that doesn't make sense. You can not not clean ditches less. I still remember the flooding in my area during the storms when the city wasn't cleaning the ditches. We had to go out and clean the drains ourselves to keep houses from flooding.

Stop wasting money it's that easy! The schools can get parents and the community more involved in saving box tops. But tax payers can only do so much we are also struggling in this economy. I personally have a B.S. in Accounting from a well known University and only make \$11 an hour only \$3 dollars more than I made before having a B.S. We are being sucked dry by every angle and the government is too wasteful and we can't be supporting those bad habits!!

We need smarter contracting with our vendors. Hampton has been taken advantage of over the past few years, in how we build our hotels (downtown Radison) and our new schools (Phoenix). We need to get more industry that is sustainable and permanent. We need to educate our students so they will become productive citizens, and not juvenile/adult offenders. I am willing to pay slightly more in taxes, but I would rather see us make better use of what we have.

After school programs are very helpful for working citizens. Making it possible for citizens to work without the stress of finding reliable care for the children.

(1) Has the city considered outsourcing any functions? Unsure if city maintains fleet of vehicles but would it be more cost effective to contract for the work to be done rather than maintaining infrastructure/tools/staff to do it in house so to speak? If already contracted, principle applies to many functions. / (2) Hampton can get a double bonus....public safety and budget...if more law enforcement is done to ticket drivers who speed and run red lights. The running of red lights is probably the worst I've seen in the country (I'm ex-military and have been all over the country). Get surveillance out, issue tickets, and levy fines. / (3) Tourism dollars are

important, hate to see a cut in that part of the budget. / (4) Some of the questions were simply about stop doing something...like cleaning parking lots. Instead of stopping, how about reducing frequency? Street sweeping...same thing. / (5) How about a review of business operations to identify any functions where there is overlap. Combine and then eliminate extra overhead for savings. / (6) Was surprised about the question regarding the American Theater. It should be self sufficient. / (7) Sponsor some events.....a fishing tournament (charge a fee), a marathon/1/2 marathon (like VA Beach does) (charge a fee), a golf tournament.....come up with events that could turn into a tourist draw to get some spending going on in the city. / / Riverdale Resident,

Non violent inmates to clean city parking lots & act as crossing guards. Ask retired citizens and unemployed to step up and volunteer for their community. Reduce frivolous police & court interference and harassment...I don't care if someone has a joint or their seatbelt isn't fastened or they are going 47 mph in a 45 mph zone. What is the budget on tasers? Get rid of them. Have police patrol areas on foot and develop a repore with the citizens that they are supposed to SERVE. This will serve a dual purpose...save gas/wear and tear on vehicles & keep the officers in shape. What do the pensions for city employees look like? Pretty bad I'm guessing. Tell your members the truth...don't to expect 8% returns & have them pony up more for their own retirement..I pay for my retirement...why should I pay for yours as well? Increase city retirement age to 65. Firemen and police officers can't physically work til 65? Fine, give them a city desk job. **AND MOST IMPORTANT, PASS A LAW SAYING THAT IF THE CITY ASSESSES PROPERTY AT XXX VALUE AND THE OWNER DISAGREES, THE CITY MUST BUY THE PROPERTY AT THE ASSESSED PRICE.** The City of Hampton is telling me that my property went from 302k to 270k...yeah right. I couldn't sell it for \$240k if I tried; yet you'll be trying to jack up my property taxes even more. You think it is worth \$270k? Fine, you pay Suntrust Mortgage & I'll even throw in the extra \$10k to pay off the mortgage & the City of Hampton own the house & do whatever the heck it wants to with it. You raise our property taxes? You'll have another foreclosed house sitting, collecting 0 taxes.

Stop spending money on stupid projects. Why did the city pay all that money for those apartments on Pembroke Ave that will be torn down. Stop kissing the ... of these developers who build crap, make money and then can't sell the property. Rebuild and renovate older structures, bring it up to code and provide affordable housing and jobs for people. What about tax breaks and incentives for small businesses. Too many dead shopping centers in Hampton. Work with the banks to support small business. Promote the hell out of the convention center by using that electronic billboard at Mercury and Coliseum. Don't know when events are happening. Figure out a way (long term) planning to get a profession sports team. Why did the city spend money for signs for Coliseum Central. Stupid move. Again, stop listening to these developers who don't help the city. Give people a reason to visit Hampton. Right now there isn't one. Be careful of developers plans for Fort Monroe. If you carefully balance community and visitors you could attract lots of people to Hampton. If Hampton wants to get a better handle on the budget then stop the stupid spending.

I would like to offer advice to look at waste, fraud and abuse issues... how much revenue is being wasted or lost due to incompetence or poor decisions. An audit could tell the story on some issues and other issues well; I site the building of the town houses out into a wetlands off Armistead Ave. across from the HomeDepot. I am sure the decision and approval of a building permit into an obvious wetland (how the wetlands board approved is beyond me) was based on the notion of more revenue from property taxes however I wonder how it will all play out when the first hurricane plows through and destroys those town houses. This area is a jewel because of the wet areas and the flora, fauna and wild life it could host if protected and given a chance. This could be a destination for many people to come and enjoy this place with many safeguards in place to protect the natural assets here instead of plowing them over; long range planning should protect what you have here for the future and for financial stability. We can't keep hoping if we keep on developing that somehow development will save the day. Be wise and good stewards. Get advice from the Ext Office on what would be the best and most economical ways to keep the public green areas besides the roads and parking lots looking good and perhaps using native plants in lieu of some of the other choices to help the beneficial insects as well. I don't know how much it cost to do all the land scaping around Hampton but so often land scape folks have no real training. So you end up with mulch volcanoes or mulch donuts around your trees etc, and the trees suffer for their uninformed actions.

Attract new businesses... that will require excellent school systems, police, fire, libraries, parks/beaches. Inspire neighborhoods to take care of their own green areas.

Phoebus and Fort Monroe is an asset that needs to be responsibly managed with a balance of retail, business and neighborhood management. There should be land/space provisioned for Civil War and the Watermen Museums. The proximity of Downtown Hampton to these historic assets and the prestige of HU would make it a prime area for a Black History Museum, possibly the best in the country - I would think HU would have an interest in sponsoring this. Fort Monroe needs to be very carefully maintained and minimally developed with Phoebus as an attached asset. An outdoor amphitheater would be a source of revenue for the area - it's proximity to the Interstate and Bridge Tunnel make it a natural destination for visitors from the south side as well as farther up the peninsula. The Peninsula Towne Centre Is a good initial effort. Although occupancy is slow due to the economy, steps need to be taken to be able to quickly expand into the old Riverdale Shopping Center property quickly. A robust planned retail/business area adjacent to the Convention Center/Coliseum area would be a major draw for the rest of the city - perhaps tax credits for developers would spur the initiation of this action. I would like to see a Farmers' market as part of this development. Values on homes will continue top fall, as my home has, but it has not yet reached what I would expect is a fair market price considering the economy - so tax revenues will be lower. Taxing the residents excessively will not help. Bringing in visitors and retail customers from outside our city will. Another un-tapped source of revenue is the Langley Speedway - there has been great improvement in the road system nearby, and if they were to expand it

would attract additional revenue to the area. I think increased anti-blight measures in the Buckroe area would accelerate the attraction of newer homes and higher income families. As much as I would like to see the King Street Beautification program move forward, it should wait until there is more cash flow into the city. Maintaining our parks may have to be done on a reduced budget for the time being with the exception of Buckroe. The business corridor on Magruder does not need city money at this time.

Institute a boat personal property tax. Boat owners expect city services. / Homeowners shouldn't bear the burden of paying for all city services. Renters want schools, fire, police, etc. protection too. Do they pay a fair share in their rent that then comes to the city? / Stop some foolish improvements like those road changes (new medians?) at LaSalle and Kecoughtan. / Have city retirement and benefits run more like those of a company. / Let business developments happen on their own merits, not with city investments that end of having little or no payback. / /

I believe we as a city need to promote the attractions that we have in order to increase tourism. This would bring in outside dollars and build business. Promote the city as a long weekend destination, for tour bus companies bringing passengers from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. / Raise the extremely low clearance bridges (King steet, Lasalle Ave., and BOTH Mercury Blvd. Especially the one we just dredged under because now the water depth is there.) This would increase the boat traffic and raise the incentive to improve on a waterfront property by adding docks and bulk heads. This would increase property value and resale appeal, as well as building permits and potentially reduce shoreline erosion. / I am a boat owner and I think we should have a minimal boat tax. Make it the lowest in the area, but have something to designate to dredging and maintaining the waterways and access to those waterways that are unique to the city.

Don't raise taxes, cut the Programs that don't affect 75% of tax payers, give teachers the raise they deserve.

The Teen Center is a waste of tax payer's money. Teen Center management is disorganized and out of touch with the real needs of Hampton teens. Many of us are shocked to see the wasteful spending at the Teen Center when so few teens are actually using the facility on a weekly basis. This money could be much better allocated to the local recreation centers, the libraries and the police and fire departments. Thank you for all your hard work in these trying times.

Keep the after school programs open! / Everything listed and at risk for closure is vital to our community. If some of the head haunchos took less hours at work and a decrease in pay maybe the city wouldn't be in the situation we are in. Minimum wage employees for the city get less than those who work at McDonald's. Why is that? Fix the roads! You are tearing up our cars.! Instead of attracting tourist lets keep our local citizens. We can't stay if we aren't getting paid well enough to pay for our homes.! Don't expand and congest town center put the money from that into things that we NEED! Use the abandoned areas in Willow Oaks shopping center for a

place for kids to go a new community center. Build a mall in Riverdale shopping center or where Sears is. How bout you take volunteers within the community to help you delegate what goes where and how much of the budget goes to it. Maybe then your job will be at risk and you can understand our frustration.

Offer incentive pay to your maintenance crews for cost saving measures as a percentage of verified savings they create. Much the same as what you are offering outside agencies! Keep the money in the city! Enough waste to outside people who take the money and run leaving Hampton holding the bag and looking like hillbilly idiots!

Development of renewable revenue sources should be at the fore of our efforts in Hampton.

Sometimes we just have to pay more to keep things going. I think we should increase the tax on alcohol and tobacco products to help with the budget. I also think that the city needs to look at the salaries of the staff and the leaders. There should be a flat rate salary for ALL employees that is based on experience and education. Also, if the city is closing schools, the superintendent will not need as many employees and will not need as large a salary. The city needs to bring tourists here by having more festivals at public places with a small entrance fee.

Make parents pay school fees, book fee and pay for programs ie sports etc. Eliminate transporting children to different school zones. Check more into about who gets McKenny Ventos and who actually is homeless. Drop transportation fee for superintendent. Eliminate city wide drives by maintenance personnel in work trucks by monitoring milage.

charge outside agencies a fee to use school facilities which is truly reflective of the cost to run those programs such as basketball, etc. The current school rental fee is a small amount and that causes an impact on their operating budget. The same is true if we rent the shelter at Buckroe for events, there should be a fee which is affordable, but covers the cost of clean up, police/security, etc. for the events so that it is not a burden on the City. Keep city taxes at the 2011 level rather than the reduced amount recently sent out for most homeowners. While a reduction is nice for the homeowner, it creates another problem for the City and school division in less income to work with in the budget thereby reducing available services. The City and school division have had tremendous cuts in the past few years and it's now at a level near the 2007 funding. How can we attract and retain people if we continue to decimate the City and it's infrastructure?

STOP BUYING PROPERTY! Cut administrative staffing levels at both city and school levels. If we can't increase the productivity of our workforce, then we should change those in the workforce. For example, the staffing level in HR at One Franklin Street is now 8 people - it used to be 4! ?? There are many other examples of this creep up in levels. In the private sector, productivity levels are increasing and cost are decreasing. The public sector should be no different. It is my belief that the school system could cut levels (especially admistrative) at least 10%. The time line in this

survey is unrealistic. I have owned a home in Hampton since 1998. My taxes have gone up considerably in that time. The population has not. Service levels has not had a comparable level of increase. The city should not be in the business of buying and developing property. Harbor Square was a huge mistake. Revenue producing property was taken out of the income stream of the city. A developer was willing to buy, invest in, and create more revenue for the city. This recent action makes me wonder about the motives or maybe the competence of those we have entrusted to be the stewards of our city.

Raise taxes

We need to stop trying to attract tourists. This is not a tourist town. The idea that we put up these big signs and lots of flowers is pretty, but when times are tough we need to stop wasting money. The money needs to be put in the fire department, the police department and the schools, not some bunch of flowers or silly projects to encourage people to come to Hampton.

Suspend paper publications (ie coliseum magazine), eliminate cosmetic but nonessential roadwork (Lasalle & Kecoughtan, multiple Coliseum Central signs), The whole budget needs someone that's not on the committee to take a look at it and scrub things that are a waste. Things that should not be looked at are anything that has to do with the youth. That is why our children get lost in the system because there is not enough effort to help them.

Close River Street Park, sell Greenman property. contract out the fishing pier at Buckroe, Keep Sandy Bottom Nature Park fully open, reduce pay or eliminate positions to those who make over \$70,000 and charge more for people who break the law and are ticketed. Teens need stricter punishment and jails need to cut back the high life styles prisoners get.

It is vital that we keep all youth programs & services

I think we need to raise revenue. Citizens cannot expect to pay less and get the same or more. We cannot keep cutting valued services.

Donating more revenues to Hampton City Schools

Public schools & their staff/teachers should be a priority over flowers, ditches & juvenile offender programs. Classes are already crowded. We need more teachers & smaller class sizes! / / /

What happened to the VA Lottery supporting the schools? That money was to support them and the city is being an indian giver. You gave it to them then took it back.

This is what we elected YOU to do -- stop letting small groups of residents influence your decisions -- you have all the facts and most of them do not plus you are concerned with the ENTIRE city's well being whereas those smaller groups focus on issues only important to them. I do hope you continue making Hampton a more attractive place for new businesses to locate. Good luck! You have your work cut out for you!

less spent on development projects.

City officials can take a cut to help offset some areas, stop cut areas for our youth, when you cut programs for the youth, crime will increase. Give our youth the programs that will help make them successful.

The city should focus on supporting public safety and compensation and retention of current employees. Current employees have gone almost 5 yrs without merit increases, that means they are making \$8000 to \$11000 less annually even though they have met all criteria to receive those monies in merit increases!!!! Thank you's don't pay the bills!!! The lack of financial gain for the city employee causes them to consider to seek employment in other localities and private industry meaning the city loses many talented and dedicated employees. It's time for the city to take care of the people that take care of the city.....

I understand the need to cut the budget but my biggest concern is to keep the programs offered for our youth...i.e. before/after-school programs.

Keep youth programs, or we will pay for it later.

School support and public safety budgets should NOT be cut; rather, shift allocated funds to support needs of the community

Please close one of the city's golf courses. 1 public golf course is enough for any city! / Increase the sq ft and lot sizes of houses being built in Hampton. They are attractive to incoming businesses and pay high property taxes while needing fewer city services per acre.

Put our youth first. Invest in all of our future. What we do now, will determine our future and its quality. Cutting youth programs is the last thing we need to do.

Nobody necessarily likes the idea of raising taxes, but if we all give a little, we can get a lot. I'd like to think that if the non-essential programs were reduced/eliminated that the community would step up through volunteers/sponsorships to continue ones they feel are still worthwhile (Arts/Diversity, etc). Critical programs such as infrastructure maintenance and community safety should always be guaranteed through City services.

The few can not support the many. Hampton as a city has so much to offer, but continues to operate business as usual for the past 60 years. Many business owners complain that this is the hardest city to start a new business. Why hasn't the downtown corridor developed with shops and interesting venues...the new building that is visible is pharmacies and apartments. Stop allowing developers to come in and continue to build apartment buildings for rental purposes. Get rid of the blight should mean the Lincoln Park corridor - any new visitor to the area exits off the interstate and the first impression of the city is squalor and depressed housing. Partner more with HU to include the city in its sporting venues...the assets of the city are not being used. Build it and they will come...in other build quality and provide quality and they will come. This is a wonderful city, very diverse, beautiful location we should capitalize on that.

The future in Hampton depends on the children. If the schools were better, it would attract more people to move into Hampton. More funding is needed for schools. Kids need quality teachers, programs, & facilities to thrive. They can't do that when the school my daughter goes to doesn't even have a gym - they have a trailer. The teacher to student ratio should be better too. How can a teacher effectively reach out successfully to every student when there are just too many? We undervalue the educators in our community and it needs to stop. My daughter is in grade K @ Forrest Elementary - seems to be an ok school - needs upgrades/maintenance, but you can tell that most of the teachers really care for the kids and they are struggling to use what little resources they have. The way the whole system works needs to be completely redone/revised.

Raising taxes is very unpopular, even more so today with the existing fragile economic factors. However we must as citizens of this community be mindful of the need for services mandated or not and conclude we have to contribute to the good of our community. I don't want to pay more taxes, but am willing because I know in the long run we are investing in the future of our city and our children. Not much comes free, to include city services. Thanks for asking for our input.

Money can be saved by not purchasing and installing ornamental flag poles in medians around the city. Why do we need these? Also, perhaps we could consider requiring high-salaried city employees to actually live in the city in which they serve.

Please do not raise any more taxes. Its not the tax problem but rather the spending problem. We need to learn from other countries and tax less and let the people to keep their hard earn money. All the government program can not solve all our problems. We can not have everything that we wanted. We needed to adapt and change to the time.

Reduce staff.

Where did the city get the funds to put cobblestone surrounding the entrances to Hampton Roads Center Parkway off Rt 134- that seems like an excessive expense when you have not given city employees a raise in 5 years.

Reduce the number of higher-paying positions at the top. Take a very close look at the spending of some departments such as Marketing INC, Parks and Recreation and Healthy Families Partnership. There appears to quite a bit of duplication of services. / / Consider raising some fees that we charge for services. Raise the cigarette tax substantially. / /

If we want to have quality service we have to spend more!!! We can't want more for less, it doesn't work in this economy.

Why is so much money being spent in Hampton on beautification and unnecessary improvements: brickwalls for Coliseum Central, flagpoles in the middle of medians that will only be eventually hit by motorists and cost more to repair. / / Take a look at the state of the roads. I am not able to drive to work every day and avoid a pothole. Driving on Hampton streets are like driving on a patchwork quilt. If you

look at some areas, the same pothole has been patched 12-15 times. Why not spend the money the right way the first time and repave the whole street. / / Why has city council allowed builders to come in and build so many apartments that do not generate revenue? Why not build low-cost housing to attract residents who will pay a mortgage and contribute taxes to the city. Who can afford all the vacant high-cost houses at Buckroe Beach??

I have lived in Hampton most of my live, and I love that I can call this city my home. There are many unnecessary services that could be curtailed to assist with budget restrictions such as mulching the school yards, planting annuals in the medians, elaborate fireworks displays (other than the 4th of July), and the artificial snow that accompanies the holiday parades. Additionally, by recycling/cutting down on waste within the city offices, and eliminating some of the paper corospondance from the schools a few dollars could be saved. Some of the services mentioned in the survey are essential to our city and provide needed services to our citizens. Things like school crossing guards (even at middle school level) are essential. Have you ever tried to get out of Syms middle school around 8:30am? Its impossible without those crossing guards. Youth services such as the Afterschool program, the teen center, and the various community centers should under no circumstances be tampered with. In such a tough economic time, these programs are important to kids needing an outlet. They should have a place where they can feel safe and free to be themselves. Many parents can't afford traditional daycare, which is why the afterschool programs have been so successful and are necessary. Could you imagine how many children would have to go home alone without this service? I'm almost positive that there are many areas in which cuts could be made to preserve the most vital resource within our community- the children. The final area that I wanted to mention is the Virginia Cooperative Extension. As a recent graduate of the Hampton Master Gardener's Training program, I am excited about the opportunity that I have to be a steward within my community, and to help others explore nature and beautify our city. Without the VCE, that would not be possible. This department provides so many services, horticultural, nutritional education programs, as well as consumer awareness, not to mention 4-H. While it may be true that a lot of citizens arent aware of the VCE office and what services it offers, its impact on our city can be seen in every beautiful yard, as well as in the wonderful displays maintained at Bluebird Gap farm.

IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THINK ABOUT MUCH LESACT UPON CHANGING PROGRAMS FOR THE CHILDREN. ACTUALLY WE NEED MORE OF THEM. WE HAVE PEOPLE IN OUR CITY AND STATE GOVERNMENTS MAKING DECISIONS THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT. TODAYS SOCIETY AND FUTURE DEPEND ON OUR CHILDREN BEING TAUGHT AND GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO BE SUCCESSFUL REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CITY AND STATE FOCUS IS TO DESTROY THE YOUNG AND SUPPORT THE RICH. EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY TO AVOID CRIMINAL ACTIONS.

Raise Taxes if its going to keep city services at or beyond the current level. School programs including after school care programs are very vital for our youth and is affordable.

We as a City need to raise Real Estate and Property Taxes to not only maintain the services that are much needed for the upkeep of the City. Not only do we need this raise in taxes to maintain the upkeep of the City, but we also need to look into pay raises that are desperately needed for our City Employees who have been without for the last five years. If this continues morale will decrease and we will lose key employees that are what make Hampton The Most Liveable City that it is.

I think this was a good begining for me. I intend to stay more informed; I intend to be more informed on what programs are a waste of time and money.

Please do not take any money from the school systems or the youth system. The kids of today are the future of tomorrow. If you take money from these programs, it only shows how focused you are for today instead of the bigger picture. We need to spend more more money on fixing the pot holes through out hamton roads. The average citizen spend over 20% of there income on fixing damages to their cars from pot holes.

Cuts should be made at the administrative level of Hampton City Schools. It is appalling that the Superintendent makes more than then Governor. Also, school administration should be moved into one of the closed schools. It seems we have 4-5 administers for every department in HCS. /

1. Quit buying plants and mulch. Plant Perennials / 2. If the mayor would have thought about the closure of Ft. Monroe and the loss to Phoebus retailers, she would have foreseen the future of Langley coming.

Several of your higher salaried staff members need to consider resigning or retiring and hiring new younger persons at a lower salary. Surely they could more frugally decide how to manage this City better. City revenues need to be spent in the older neighbors to upgrade those areas to perserve and improve those communities so that this City will not appear old and run down. The more affluent resident will not continue to choose to live here if City leaders continue to ignore the up keep and aesthetics of the City. So many bad decisions of the past has caught up with this City. It seems as if you all are considering too much of the wrong things too often. Reduce street lights and school crossing gaurds? Are you clearing bight now? Stop clearing ditches? Seriously!?! So now you will allow the City go to the rats? This is a survey designed for the Simpson's Springfield. Sandy Bottom and the public beaches are the few good things about Hampton. There is some thing wrong with this City's Leadership and it has been for a very long time. This City has all the potential to be a great revenue maker, beauty, history, natural resources, involved citizens. Come on you guys. You are the ones in charge, if you cannot make this work then look at your selves, there are those of us out there with the answers.

Reduce the number of top level city positions especially in economic development dept. Teach the city manager and city council members how to live within the citizens means. Stop buying everything is sight and start selling properities that are

sitting empty. Reduce the school budget and force the school board to make decisions to reduce their operating cost, Have students pick up more of the cost of athletic programs.

Get rid of some of the top heavy management. Get rid of much of the wasteful spending such as away conferences, at least, until the economy improves. Ask high paid officials to take a pay cut or don't give them raises until the economy improves. You can't keep raising taxes on people with stagnant incomes: and expect them to not forfeit eventually. It is better to get something rather than nothing, and the city is in up with more houses to get rid of.

eliminate take home vehicles for all department heads and personnel except MARKED POLICE CARS and under cover. this would include all fire take home school and public works. in other words ONLY marked police and under cover go home all others don't. this alone would save the city millions over 1 year in fuel and maint. trim dead wood from school board offices downtown and down size equipment at public works there is a lot they have they really don't need the fire dept also they don't need the latest and greatest and stop sending a fire truck on an ambulance call if more personnel is needed send in a car it's cheaper. do away with the street cleaning trucks all they do is move dirt from in front of one house to the next the trucks they use are worthless they don't do a fair job. do away with all the unneeded paper work in all dept. on the other hand we need to increase public safety by hiring more police to put on patrol in the neighborhoods.

It would be nice to be able to see usage statistics for all of the libraries, community centers, etc.. to be able to make a more informed decision on these subjects during the survey. Increasing taxes is just going to make people move outside of Hampton. I work on Langley AFB and I have co-workers that choose to live in Chesapeake, Suffolk, and even North Carolina because the taxes here are so high and the services do not match the price we pay. If you keep increasing taxes, Hampton will eventually lose people, jobs and ultimately become a ghost town. We should get rid of services that are underused and try to attract more businesses and families. Hampton City could have volunteer clean-ups for parking lots, parks, the beaches, etc or we could use prisoners to clean things up.

Stop wasting money on city center signs and landscaping around coliseum. Plenty of other places in Hampton are not getting those services. I see a set of flag poles going in on Mercury, then a survey about cutting Sandy Bottom Park. Arggravating and stupid set of priorities for a bad budget year. Keep sandy bottom park open.

Hampton City Schools has produced Engineers, Educators Computer Scientist, Minister, Business Leaders, Musician, and Athletes. These are just a few of the many great people that you have sent out into the world. Why not have several Bring it Home activities that are advertised through social media and other sources. Use the events as fund raiser and ask them for a big donation. Or Honor all those and let them say THANK U to the city. Have them pay and give them something to make the event a great memory.

Eliminate the high-pay do nothing executive positions. Keep essential (life-related) services at the same level. Eliminate youth programs and depend on parents doing their job.

Sell the city owned properties and put them back on the tax rolls. / / Stop purchasing properties for high amounts and selling them for less than purchase price. / Stop borrowing money for things the citizens tell you they do not want. / Stop using the city's checkbook for things you would not use your personal checkbook for if giving the same set of circumstances, i.e. lower to less income yet contracting to remodel or build or purchase a new home.

Please preserve the school programs for the sake of the students.

Reduce the number of high paid Department Heads. Cut the City Manager's Salary. Being they are only having one business meeting a month, cut the Council Members and Mayor's pay in half. Put a moratorium on the buying of land; especially where people are making money from the taxpayers. You are reducing the tax rolls. Stop spending money on so many consultants and lawyers; if the people we hired cannot do the job, get rid of them and hire someone who can. If you don't do this, then cut their paychecks by 25%. Stop the frivolous spending to your friends and developers, and special interest.

the city needs to realistically look at increasing its revenue by increasing taxes by at least 5 cents to insure we have adequate revenue to continue the services that the city provides and to give it's workers an increase in pay as they have not had a raise in the last 3 years. We need to maintain good schools, youth activities, social services and roads.

cut the big salaries. starting with THE mayor and city council. give the money were it's most needed and leave the schools / alone the big government is doing enough damage. education we need it for everyone. a mind is a terrible thing to waste. / let HAMPTON SHOW THE WORLD WE TREASURE OUR KIDS AND PARENTS EDUCATION.

First if you want to raise the tax rate to 2008 levels then you need to cut spending to 2008 levels. There is so much frivolous spending in our local government that if we just cleaned that up and held programs accountable (i.e. just spending money so they get the sum budget next year) then the city would find lots of money. Also there are a lot of services that should look to private funding vice the city. The city should only be funding essential services i.e. infrastructure, education, police, fire, etc. Education of our children and parenting should be PRIORITY #1 but this does not mean an increase in funding. Let's follow the money and see where it has all gone. State funding for education has gone up 47% in 10 years while enrollment has only gone up 6% that is a HUGE disconnect! We need to look at every program on a case by case basis and determine if it is a city requirement or if it should look to privatization.

We have to take care of our Seniors and our youth.

Services that already exist in a PLACE should stay...library, nature center, etc. But the city should not be outreaching to people in their own homes, traveling to do so, or running programs anywhere but in established community centers like libraries, rec centers, and nature centers. Let the people come to YOU; they can go to the existing places if they want services. I support consolidation...such as moving the Cooperative Extension people into the nature center's upstairs rooms. / / Sandy Bottom camping reservations should be online; there should be no need for people to be constantly there ONLY due to campground reservations. The state parks do a great job with their online reservation system. That being said, cutting park rangers and park personnel who interact with the public is a bad idea, because park users will still be in the park. You should charge a MINIMAL fee for groups to use the nature center building or library rooms for large (over 10 people) meetings. Like \$5 or something. I am a member of a nonprofit group that meets at Sandy Bottom after hours, and we could certainly swing that fee. And then publicize to others that meeting space is available!! / / The nature center is a nice central place to go for park information, but it makes more sense to staff that by volunteers (if it MUST be staffed...) and have the park rangers and park personnel OUTSIDE as much as possible while the park is open, providing a visible presence and visible assistance. Even to the point of making it a self-serve nature center with displays that do not involve live animals. Park rangers should NOT be cleaning snake cages and feeding captive snakes; they should be OUTDOORS in the park HELPING people and providing a friendly presence and deterrant to crime. Installing an emergency button at the nature center or parking lot, plus trail maps and park info brochures would do the trick. Restrooms are important at the park, too. I want my tax dollars to provide restrooms and assistance in a park, but NOT to feed & house caged animals that few people even bother to go look at. Unless you can get volunteers from organizations like the Va Herpetological Socty to adopt these animals and pay for their care. Most sandy Bottom visitors do not visit the nature center, except for the bathrooms. It's dark in there, depressing, and the ranger always looks bored. / / I would support a small real estate tax increase. I do NOT support parenting, etc classes that are free. If the city cuts things like that, there will always be the efforts of non-profit orgs to fill that gap.

Organize and advertise a system for local citizens to volunteer their time, under the supervision of a city representative, to perform some of the more mundane tasks. Instead of having the city do it for us let's develop some community spirit and cohesion by letting the citizens give something back to the city. Ask not what your city can do for you but ask what you can do for your city.

Increase code enforcement and Fines for code violations, increase fines for criminal offenses, increase cost of building permits (these things would both increase the standard of living in hampton while raising more money, also while making Hampton a safer and more enjoyable place to live therefore increasing home sales and value within the city) eliminate crossing gaurds for all but elementary schools and eliminate crossing guards at non-busy intersections where speed limit is less than or equal to 25mph, freeze city employee pay (no raises), eliminate the 311 call center, if people need to get information put it on the website or a recording not a

person, if they need to talk to a person they can call during normal business hours and talk to someone in that office. Also 311 does not work from cell phones and since most people use only cell phones it is pointless. Another way you could increase revenue is charge a dollar or two to use city parks the state does this for its state park system and it would definitely help. Impose fines on companies that own retail centers that have vacant store fronts (ie. strip malls, peninsula town center, etc.) Also, city council members should not be paid! This should be a volunteer duty that they do on their free time from their job. I grew up in a small town where this was the norm, you volunteered because you cared and wanted to perform a civic duty and you didn't get paid. Also in order to save money do not buy land outside of Langley AFB that seems counterproductive to trying to save money, Langley has many features that would keep it safe from BRAC (ie new facilities including a full service military Hospital). Also it would save money if there was not someone being paid to call me at 8:30 PM to ask me about raising the real estate tax rate. I get it the economy is in a slump and the city needs money, well here's a news flash, the economy is in a slump and the residents need every penny they make and can get to survive these times.

Hampton has no support for middle school and high school age kids it is very disappointing. Newport News has a ton of activities available for their youth. The after school programs are vital for working families to keep the children safe and off of the street and you all would be willing to cut those that is really disappointing.

Be bold, raise the Tax rate by 10c and make some real investment in the community. Increase the Capital spending and give Hampton a face lift. We continue to spend as little as possible instead of ponying up a good investment with a good partnership. We need to think creatively like how to connect the Air & Space Center better to the NASA community as an economic generator for downtown. We make an investment in our boating tourists and create a vibrant waterfront with festivals, activities, and events that feature the waterways (Make Bay Days happen on the waterfront, on the water). We have to dream big and find our niche in the region. We have to work as a region to see our community thrive.

Moneys for schools need to be increased. Monies for local/neighborhood pools need to be maintained.

For the Sandy Bottom center I believe can be raised if they rent facilities out to the public for different types of events.

If we just focus more of our dollars on children - the younger, the better - then we'll ultimately be spending LESS on many of the things mentioned in this survey - police responses, at-risk teen programs, even cleaning up ditches (children taught good citizenship from an early age are less likely to be dumping trash from their car windows as teens and adults!). Let's focus on prevention here, so our bad financial problems don't escalate into horrible financial problems. Thank you for seeking the public's input!

I understand that you all are in a position to make the best decision for the city as a whole, but all I'm asking is that you put yourself in the citizens shoes (after all you

are a citizen) and think of how you want things to go for your family. Not all families are financially stable or had the resources to know how to become financially stable so please just be sure that any decision made will not alter a families life so much so that one would want to move out of Hampton because they can't afford to live in this beautiful city.

For those departments that offer extended hours with little participation from the public, it would be best to cut back on those hours to possibly maximize costs.

Are these really the only things that can be reduced by the City? There are 8 floors of City Departments downtown! Everyone must do their part! and why are you considering eliminating some things altogether and only reducing others? How did these decisions get made???

More thought needs to be given before budgets are cut that affect our youth. While many of the officials in charge are not using the word gang or gangs watch the local news and the crime most days lets me know that it is gang related. Continue to take away positive activities that our kids can do and you leave them to easily be attracted to the gangs. Kids need to be involved in positive activties that promote team work, growth, oportunties to lead, and where they can be infulenced by adults who care and will help them become productive citizens.

I like Hampton. I think the budget should be viewed as a dartboard, with the most important services located in the center. It would be safety,security in the center, then infrastructure and so on. When it comes to cutting, there are certain services you need to trim, and the cuts should be from the outside in. I really like the 311 service. I personally have used it 3-4 times in the last couple years. Police, animal control and fire are all critical services that we really need to maintain. I also think that a lot of services can be exponentially improved by ensuring supervisors get out from behind their desks, and really bolster their quality control and oversight on their departments.

Be consistent and get some continuity going with the City's planning initiatives. Since I moved to Hampton in 2001, all I've seen are fragmented planning projects, from Buckroe Beach to the city's border with Newport News on Mercury/Jefferson Ave.....that Riverdale Plaza shopping center is so unattractive, why wasn't the renovation of that eyesore tied into the new PTC, the Power Plant Parkway development, the convention center development and those new 3-story townhomes being built behind the coliseum? Riverdale is bustling with business, but so old and outdated with a parking lot that needs major resurfacing, particularly the entry/exit points on Mercury. The fragmentation of projects makes the City very uninviting and unattractive, particularly when the size of Hampton's primary commercial areas are geographically small in nature to begin with. Preserve the City's values, but not the eyesores and planning fragmentation that has become the norm of Hampton City development.

^This survey is not definitive/detailed enough to provide adequate response.

None at this time

DO NOT RAISE MY TAXES. I WATCHED DR.SHIFFLETE CRY FOR MONEY, BUT SHE IS RECEIVING 180,000 + . ALSO IF NATIONAL BOARD TEACHERS ARE STILL RECEIVING MONEY FROM THE STATE, WHY DO THEY NEED TO GET MONEY FROM THE CITY? DO NOT RAISE TAXES MY TAXES FOR STIPENDS.

most of these problems would not have happened if the city would stop buying property and take care of what they have already bought. spending is not done wisely in the city

I would like to see the City of Hampton assisting Hampton City Schools with additional funds to prevent the loss of essential positions and services.

I am ready to leave the city of Hampton. I am over-taxed in a neighborhood where there are no sidewalks, low crime rate, (the lower crime rate is we look out for our neighbors.) I am tired of calling animal control only to be told I NEED TO TRAP THE ANIMAL that just bit me. My roperty continues to flood with NO CITY OR STATE assistance. The abundance of sectin 8 housing. Our schools have more money thrown their way and little to no accountability for the uneducated the graduate.

During the mid 2000s, property values increased so much that many home owners ended up with tax increases of 40 to 60 percent in just a few years. Hampton city went on a spending spree. On the positive side, we now have great service from the city hall and public works departments. On the not so positive side, we saw the school budget increasing above the inflation index year after year yet our schools are not ranked any higher. We saw economic development in hundreds of millions of dollars in a decade, yet the tax revenue from all these business developments will take many decades to pay back the investment. We saw a restaurant tax that punishes the single residents who eat out more than married couples. We saw the public safety budget skyrocket to pay for all the additional police for all the over development of residential and business areas. The developers did not have to absord any of these costs -- it was the owners of existing homes that financed all this development. The city should be able to maintain services and find enough cuts to not burden the homeowners. When I see a corporal in the police department with 3 vehicles and living in Willow Oaks, I begin to wonder just how much money we could save in unnecessary overtime pay. Why do we spend money on overtime pay in the public safety department when we have 10 to 12 officers a day out doing traffic and speed checks?

Increase Volunteerism by doing something like an online campaign to get people active and concerned about particular issues and/or programs that would otherwise need to be cut. Use the people, Hampton's greatest resource, in more creative and friendly ways.

Eliminate paying for consultants and required the Planning Staff to do the job they were hired to do. If they can't, find new people. Cut back on travel to conventions, etc. Discontinue applying for state/national awards when fees are involved. Turn lights off in city buildings above the first floor. Discontinue feeding new teachers during their orientation week.

I think that schools should cut back. City employees and teachers should contribute more to their own retirement and health plans.

Lower salaries for some of the offices in the city. I had to take a pay cut for my job a few years ago in order to help their bottom line and then went 3 years without a pay raise. I finally got a 1.79% pay increase. Some people in the city are making ridiculous salaries. And I'm sure there have been business lunches and other expenses eating away at the city's money. I have to buy my own lunch, why not everyone else?! The value of my home went down, therefore increasing my debt. Why should the city take more money from me? All the little people are having to suffer and it seems like all the people at the top, just want to keep piling it on. Those homes at Buckroe Beach are ridiculous by the way. Who wants to vacation in Hampton, when you have Virginia Beach nearby?! And I certainly wouldn't want to live right there with the nuisance of people walking and driving by constantly.

Have Upper City Management take a serious paycut. It appears to me that they do not deserve it.

Increase property taxes AND GIVE OUR CITY SCHOOLS MONEY TO OPERATE WITHOUT ANYMORE CUTS!!! Thank you.

stop spending money on studies

Entertainment is an option and obesity is a problem with children and adults. I feel that we need to charge more taxes on events at the coliseum to those acts that come here. Increase the tax on lottery so that you can get the additional funds for youth and school programs. We do not need to cut after school, at risk, community center or cooperative extension agency programs. Community centers are used more and more by youth and adults. Our youth are our future, if they are in jail, what happens to the future of our leaders in the community? Stop building new places instead of remodeling the old places, what is done in one part of the world is not always advantageous for Hampton Roads. Use more eligible inmates to take care of roadsides (trash, snow, etc.) not for pay but as an incentive for early release. It makes no sense to place shrubs on the hillside of an overpass or flyover alongside intersections. The road that leads to the coliseum is pretty enough, stop adding and removing things-it looks like we can't make up our mind while wasting tax dollars, don't overcrowd the city, less is more.

We need to raise taxes. The youth fo the city need education, support and opportunities to enhance their futures

I think that PEG Tv should get more finacial backing from the city seems there are more city programs produced or made then School projects..Cut all these free handouts to people who have not put a dime into the system..Those of us who have put in and can't even can get help because of the freeloaders that think we owe them something..Get off you butt and get a job and stopp makeing me work to support you..!!!!!!All these after school programs and at risck programs are a waste of my tax dollar this all should be done at home by the parents/parent stop popping them out if you can't support them!!!!!!

City jobs at the Teen Center are a waste of money. There are six adults working and at most 20 students in the building. This is a waste of money. Close the teen center. Put a hold on city beautification projects.

I believe that everything should be fair, however I know that that is not likely. The youth of our community are the ones that we need to ensure are taken care of by ensuring a safe place to go, to learn and to socialize, we do not need to cut anything in regards to public safety and we do need to ensure that tourists find our city enjoyable. (preserving our values) coming up with feasible ideas to overcome the city's budget challenge will take more time to think about as outside factors are in the equation.

I am willing to pay higher taxes as long as the extra revenue is used to make sure our public schools' budget is a priority for preservation or enhancement. We need to show the state, potential industries/employers, and our community that education is a priority. That value will attract investment in Hampton by future homeowners and employers.

Consider looking for savings from the top heavy administrative staff, how many personnel earn > \$100K/annually??? How many youth are being served at The Teen Center?

First you need to take care of your employees. I utilize your centers and see what they do and how they don't get anything in return, not even kudos but are only blamed when youth and teens go astray. You have a teen center but there is nothing going on there for my teens, they would rather go to Northampton or Westhampton. And why try to cut the things we need most like fire fighters and police officers. Why not cut the 8th floor where public knowledge tells us what everyone in the city makes. Then you have working parents in the field who can't even afford the daily necessities for their children and I mean new shoes and groceries, not McDonald's and brand name shoes and clothes they don't need.

Please do not cut funding or eliminate funding for the before and after-school care program. This service is in the best interest of our youth and working parents.

How about imposing a higher tax rate on rental property so that absentee owners are more concerned with the type of tenant they rent to. Rentals are flooding our neighborhood and making it a much less desirable place to live. Figure out a way to put an inspection program in place and assess fines against absentee landlords who fail to maintain their property. // What about using more non-violent inmates on work details, grasscutting, cleaning up litter, maintenance at city buildings. We're paying to take care of them, why not get something out of them. // Charge some type of admission to our museums and recreational parks for non residents. I realize it is important that educational programs be available to all localities, but if Hampton residents are funding programs, why are they free to those who are not residents of Hampton. // Stop spending money on consultants, we should have people on staff who are capable of planning and making recommendations regarding moving our city forward. Same with hiring panels to fill high level positions--if our city managers and department heads can't decide who's the best fit

for a job, then maybe they're out of their league in the job that they hold. / / From the top down, everyone needs to realize they have limited funds available, and thinking they can just ask for more from taxpayers is ridiculous. Taxpayers have a budget and they don't have anyone to go to ask for more money. My household income has not increased in over 2 years, but I'm paying more for everything.

Stop buying things that are not needed APARTMENT COMPLEXES!!

The bad economy affects everyone, most of all the people. My family has had to change our lifestyle and make cuts to our budget in order to pay our bills. We don't go out to eat anymore, we rent movies instead of going to the theaters, we don't go on vacations, we don't waste money. The city should make cuts as well, there are a lot of programs that aren't necessary and should not be paid by the city. Another way to help your budget is to fine people with codes violations, there are homes all around this city with unsightly yards. There are better options than charging the residents more money and by the questions in your survey I feel that the city knows where they could make cuts.

We need to consider a plan whereas everyone is paying the same across the board;taking into consideration what's the most feasible way to benefit all and not over burdening anyone, irregardless to anyone's financial status.

I believe citizens as a whole would be willing to pay more in taxes if we were assured that the revenue were not being wasted. Transparency is key. Please ensure the money is paying for the services that city management says the money is being used for. / / Please don't cut services to education, youth and/or parent programs. Less money spent on education translates into reduced revenue from productive, educated, employed, taxpaying citizens and more money spent on jails/crime. / / GREEN ENERGY - can we please concentrate on reducing energy costs everywhere we possibly can? I loved the idea of using more efficient street lights. I've seen stoplights, flashing school-zone lights, etc., that were solar-powered in other cities. I've seen city buildings with solar power panels on their roofs (even the White House has solar power panels). Switch to motion-sensors for in-room lighting in all city offices/buildings. See if the transportation dept for city vehicles (like the police) can switch to fuel-efficient cars/trucks or hybrids/electric for the next scheduled upgrade. Why aren't there recycling bins for aluminum/plastics in every city building and on the streets? Has anyone checked to see if the city can benefit financially from turning in recyclables for cash? Our elementary school does this, why can't the city? / / MORE CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT - We (the citizens) can help pick up the slack for programs/services that may be cut if only we had direction and training. Civic associations for many neighborhoods can assist with cleaning if we know what to do and how to do it. We can cut grass and plant/maintain our own flowers/shrubs in our neighborhoods and at our schools with only occasional help from the city. We can start our own neighborhood watches and require less patrol from the police as long as we have support. Tell US what we can do to help the city and WE can try to make it happen.

Save the tennis center. Increase costs if necessary. It is a great source of recreation for seniors who are healthier when active. The facility is known around the state for its unique public clay courts that are kept in good condition. It is a small part of the budget to bring such benefit for its citizens, both young and old. / /

Try to match the incoming grant funding to the services that the grants are supposed to fund. Instead of closing community centers and parks, investigate privatizing after hours operations to keep them open longer. I love living in Hampton, and support a real estate property tax rate increase to provide the services that are necessary for my city.

My main thought is my safety. My kids go to Phoebus, at this point I am just trying to get them to graduation without a stabbing or shooting. I am over the way my city is headed. We seem to thrive on becoming a ghetto community. If I were renting I would have already moved, but we bought. I do love my city, I was born and raised here, as was my husband. I hate not feeling comfortable going to the grocery store after dark. I feel we have the urban crime and disadvantages with none of the advantages. We don't have a subway system, fine dining or good museums. Most restaurants are chains.

I think we spend too much money on non-essential items. In lean times, we need to be leaner. If it's not vital to the operation of the city, it needs to go until we can afford it.

We are currently renting and sending our children to public school in Hampton. We will be purchasing a home in Hampton this summer. I was just informed today that Title 1 funding will be reduced next year resulting in 3+ schools' funds being eliminated. This is COMPLETELY unacceptable. Our children attend Burbank Elementary (Kindergarten). We have been impressed with the work that the PIF and other Title 1 funded staff and programs have been able to provide for the children of Burbank. We were even willing to ensure that we purchased within the Burbank district and/or attended Burbank out of zone for all of their elementary years. We have one child who struggles with fine motor skills and developing academically. She has been greatly helped by the Title 1 support received by Burbank. I have also personally seen the incredible difference it has made in many other children from the parent programs offered, reading support, math support, parent resource center, educational material support, PIF involvement, WatchDog/WatchMom programs, etc. Burbank is old and looks run down, but the family atmosphere and educational support provided by Title 1 has made the school what it is. They are a choice school right now, but it has failed the reading SOL last year and is struggling with math and reading this year. Behavioral issues are certainly present, but have improved as a result of Title 1 program support of students and parents. If you remove the Title 1 support of Burbank Elementary I GUARANTEE you that the school's performance will deteriorate rapidly!!!!!! The WatchDog & WatchMom program has been a massive hit and works so incredibly well to support the students, staff and admin of Burbank; as well as, build up the connection between parents, students and teachers. Burbank is also one, if not the number one, school district for military families and their children. As a military family, I see first hand &

can assure you that the military children need the support services supplied by Title 1. We have, personally, moved every year for the past five years and know the challenges that come with the lack of consistency in teaching, programs, education support, etc. PLEASE DO NOT discontinue support of Title 1 to Burbank Elementary!!!! All of the children and military need this support system to continue to thrive!!!! I willing to talk to anyone necessary to continue this cause. As I mentioned, we are looking to buy in Hampton this summer, and are completely willing to pay a slightly higher property tax rate to support these services if necessary. Thank you for listening to my concerns.

As taxpayers we pay a lot of money to businesses in town center to keep them there and on buying property. Please think about spending our money wisely instead of paying businesses to stay in town.

While it would be wonderful if Hampton could tax at the low rates seen in Virginia Beach and Williamsburg, we will never attract enough tourism to make that possible. I selected I can live with reductions many, many times in this survey. With higher energy costs and slower growth likely to be the new normal for a significant period I believe it is vital for Hampton and her residents to adjust to this. I hope to see a balanced approach with cutting and reducing non vital services along with a modest tax rate increase. / / I have been a Hampton resident since 1992. In that time I have seen Hampton grow and feature very attractive landscaping in public spaces almost to a Virginia Beach resort level. We will never be Virginia Beach and yet can still attract residents, businesses, and yes, even tourists. I suspect landscaping and landscape maintenance is very costly. Recently I have noticed a new entrance with multiple flagpoles at the start of Power Plant Pkwy. Is this necessary or helpful? Maybe, but maybe not. When and if we return to a prosperous economy I really hope Hampton will keep the past few years in mind and not return to excesses. There was a great example in this survey relating to upgrading from Office 2003 to Office 2010. 2010 has the latest features but still produces the same product as the 2003 version 99% of the time. I think many would find the upgrade a challenge to justify in times of financial hardship. Innovation is very important, but the Office upgrade is more incremental than innovative. / / People are one of Hampton's and the economy's biggest assets. Whenever possible please try to maintain staffing while reducing costs for non-vital things such as landscaping, street lighting, and optional programs. Surely there are innovation solutions here as well. / / Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Perhaps it's time for EVERYONE to pay, not just homeowners to preserve our schools and values. What about cutting off all the lights that surround the two empty lots at Buckroe Beach? If they're not solar why are they on and so many? Since Buckroe Beach is now considered a City Park and closes at sundown, why not switch burning half the lights that are on in the area to a set number of hours like to 10pm during the summer and 7pm during the winter? The schools waste alot of money and should reappropriate some back to departments in need. The days of use it or lose it should be eliminated. Cut at the TOP not the bottom!

I think moral is down amongst city workers with budget cuts and threats of outsourcing entire departments. I think the moral of employees are just as important as using money to acquire new attractions and new land. I agree with the increase in property tax. However i am also hoping there will be at least a cost of living increase for employees gas is nearing four dollars a gallon. We are losing valuable employees to our sister cities and replacing them with individuals who are not as compassionate about the work done for the city. This is also a precursor to how outsourcing services will be. Those contractors will not take care of our streets and trash the way our city workers do mostly because many of them live in the city and do their work with pride. It is being said constantly how much they are appreciated and valued if that is the case something is going to have to be done. Increase business tax maybe. I am not sure but something needs to be done that meets the needs of the city and those who work for it and who it serves. A lot of the reason the city can not keep city dollars in Hampton is because the workers can't afford to all of the thrift stores are in our sister cities and we are barely making enough to make ends meet. It's just a suggestion happy workers do more work harder and do not have to pick up extra jobs that take the focus away from their main job cause the city to actually lose out. My hope is that the city manager will see this comment. Though I am sure she won't.

I support tax increases if the money is spent wisely. Unfortunately, the leaders in Hampton aren't being good safeguards of our money. How is it that we can't contribute to schools, but we can spend millions of dollars to buy property? Until our school system improves, no one is going to want to live in Hampton. Our schools are known as being the weakest in the area, yet the city continues to cut away at what is contributed to schools. / / How is it that the city can afford to hire someone to serve as the city spokesperson at a salary of over \$100,000 a year? Seems to me this job was being handled well enough. When the survey was taken last year, a large portion of the responders said PR was an area that needed to be cut or have no increase. The TV show is ridiculous and the spokesperson doesn't present a professional appearance for Hampton.

My opinion is always the same. I do not understand the concept of decreasing educational budgets when there is an impossibility of decreasing building funds. Education is needed to build prosperous futures and leadership, Without it none of us will have our careers. My suggestion is always the same. There needs to be a way to increase education funds and decrease in other areas that is not as significant. How can we make that happen?

Close all community centers nothing but a hang out place / do away with ALL after school programs and summer programs (make parents be responsible)

If increasing the amount we pay in taxes will help to eliminate the need for cutting programs, especially those that are designed to assist youth, families, and at-risk juveniles, my vote is that we raise them.

/ STOP KILLING THE SCHOOL SYSTEM!!!

Audit the number of employees working at the Willow Oaks library. Three employees are working at all times. That is too many employees for the amount of traffic the library sees. Audit city workers. Just this week a city employee was doing road work on Fox Grove Drive and slept on his tractor for close to a hour. We do not need to cut programs for our youth. Children are our future.

I would support an increase in the property tax as long as none of it is given to the schools to offset their gap.

Channel 47 exercise programming can be found elsewhere. Keep local programming and eliminate programs that can be found elsewhere. Regarding after school programs, if this can be done as well by the private sector, eliminate it as a City service. If not, and we can show that low income youth would otherwise be poorly served or not at all, then I will be glad to help pay more to keep it. Thanks for this survey and asking citizen opinions - a fine example of democracy in action!

Restore full funding to the school system!

The City of Hampton needs to prioritize their funding for schools. It is terrible that money is spent for things such as FLAG POLES around the city or BRICK crosswalks and the City is compromising our students' education with high class sizes and their teachers being under paid or constantly having pay decreases. Fund our School System!!!!

Freeze number of city employees. Change retirement plan for any new employees to a defined contribution plan. /

decrease money to social services and increase money to schools

Please do not remove the School Age Programs from the schools. Having Before and After care in the school not only provides convenience to families. It also provides the families with a cost effective way of caring for their children when they have to be at work during the hours before and after school. In addition, it prevents the need to have an outside group transporting your child to school. Extra vehicles transporting to and from schools causes additional back up in parking lots during arrival and dismissal.

I support a small increase in real estate tax to pay for continuing services. I would not support a real estate tax to provide additional monies to the school system to reinstate their proposed cuts. I feel their budget is fair and that there are other things in the city that need to be maintained first.

I value living in a city that believes in more than just trying to get by or survive. I value living in a place that truly wants to be special, fun, active, attractive, gives visitors something memorable, and has people with options choosing to move to and invest in it.

Williamsburg school system recently ended Preschool services at their schools. Why can't we consider this? It would help with budget issues for Hampton schools. PreK is not a required grade.

Our top priorities need to be supporting our schools, our police and firefighters. The safety of our community and the education of our youth need to be paramount. We will not be able to attract more people to visit or move here if we continue to go in the wrong direction. We are a less attractive city than many of our neighboring areas and as a result we cannot sell homes, attract families with children, or attract/retain strong employees who will contribute to our economy.

Put the Master Plan on HOLD for this next year. Take all that money we spend trying to entice people to come to Hampton and try making the people who already live here take additional pride in their city. If citizens are proud and involved in their city they will entice others to come here. We need to market Hampton to the citizens of Hampton. / The way money is wasted within the city it is no wonder the employees cannot be given even a cost of living increase.

I cannot support any tax increases when my property values have declined so much. I work in the school system and again am not getting a raise so increasing taxes will mean I make even less money.

You should keep putting money into teachers salaries to get these kids better educated.

I feel the supervision of city employees to ensure taxpayers are getting the full benefit of their dollar on salaries is much needed. Too much waste in time on any particular job is money not well spent.

I think outsourcing city services would be a dis-service to the residents of Hampton. Private sector is only after the money and will not take the same care as a city employee would nor will they know the history of a project. Furthermore, complaints would fall on deaf ears because they know they have a 5-year contract and when their time is up, it's up but the city will suffer in the long run. I am not a fan of outsourcing any jobs or departments, causing our own people to lose their job. I understand it would employ someone else but causing people to lose their job because you want to outsource to someone else is never a good thing. Please do not outsource city services.

Don't be penny wise and pound foolish, make good long term investments which will last and provide the most benefit, even if initial cost is higher. Explorer more grant opportunities for infrastructure and service, maybe a grant manager to find/apply for grants would pay for itself (Newports news is getting grants/funding for a light rail terminal, and new 64 overpass, and LED streetlights) . Explorer sponsorships of public facilities. Update codes and ordinance to shift more requirements to developers and property owners. Rezone properties and update ordinances to encourage/require development in accordance with community vision versus buying property when the city doesn't like proposed development. Rezone property along mercury and other corridors to reduce excess strip retail/commercial and encourage redevelopment. Cut funding to school system to encourage them to get rid of excess/unused property and to stop serving as landlord (with the city subsidizing there leases with grounds maintenance by parks and rec.)...put these property back on tax rolls. Invest in technology (i.e. GIS) to

make permitting more efficient, accurate, and open to public. Don't build community centers (i.e. Little England center) to serve narrow community interest of small groups when facilities are available down the road at the library or the empty building at sunset creek. Convert teen center to a full public community center. Step up enforcement of property maintenance codes and zoning to require/encourage property owners to reinvest in property versus milking the properties as cash cows in order to recourage reinvestment and make the city more attractive (therby attracting more reinvestment).

This is a tough situation. My first thought was to drastically reduce the City's beautification budget, however, the visual appeal is what attracts tourist to the city. Not to mention it retains the residents that are already here. Eliminating the Youth programs is out of the question because we cannot be shortsighted while attempting to overcome the budget challenge. As we know...children are our future. / / So what do I propose? eliminating tax breaks for residents and businesses alike. If the City could devise a plan that would allow a very flexible payment plan (perhaps a monthly payment plan) in which the impact of the increase wouldn't overwhelm...I think this could work.

Cut back on grounds maintenance, plant bushes instead of perennials and annuals. / Cut back on services that are wants, as you said, like library services, community programs. If people want to come together, they will find a way in tough economic times.

I was talking to people from Newport News and they were saying Newport News waste's money but Hampton waste's more. A good example is the money wasted on the park on Pembroke and 64. It is already in, but why was it put in. It looks nice but who is going to use it right beside 64. It was a waste of money. I could agree to the canoe ramp but they went overboard on the rest of it. Putting in all the plants and deviders going toward the Coliseum and messing up the traffic and wasting money doing it. I realize it was a long time ago but it is an example. When they put in the Settlers Landing bridge and then a few years later the cut the sides down. I realize it was mostly state money but it still was wasted money for the city and state to cut off the sides. The extension service is well used. Sometimes the city spends money like it has no value. Clean up the crime where it is rather than chasing it around. At Buckroe why did they build the new houses. Pretty soon there there will be no Buckroe left so it will be sold to the developers. There is no place to even get anything to eat or drink down there.

1. Decrease the pay of senior management. No one in City government should earn over \$150,000 per year. This public SERVICE.
2. Manage employees effectively, know where they are and what they are doing.
3. Manage the expenditure of funds on fossil fuels. Setup an effective program that would manage engine idling time in city owned vehicles, by example, and for the public. If an employee is not paying for gas, they let engines run when not being utilized just because they can. The pollution of the air is detrimental to all.
4. Ensure adequate safety especially in schools by having an effective signage program which enables anyone who enters the premises to navigate the facility. Each and every entrance and exit should be

labelled. Security Cameras are also a necessity. Know where the children are and what they are doing. / 5. Engage the citizens by being transparent and utilizing their skills to help the city with gaps in services. Hampton is becoming an older city. House the older citizens effectively and plan for their successful living within the city. Work with what you have, not what you want.

Stop spending \$ on tourism, people are only going to come to Hampton because they are visiting VA Beach or Williamsburg. Stop planting flowers along the median, it may be pretty but when your broke you cut out the frills. We need parks and nature areas otherwise my son isn't going to know what a tree looks like since we have developed every other piece of property in the area. Don't cut anything that could have an adverse effect of safety. Teen centers and youth programs may help the kids that are already on the right path with a safe place to go; however it also gives the hoodlums that go there a place to start trouble and deal drugs. Biggest suggestion: allow for school vouchers so that my tax money can go to the funding of the school I am sending my son to. We could close some of the public schools if parents were allowed to utilize private schools at a reduced cost with vouchers.

I have been playing tennis at the Hampton Tennis Center for years. The clay courts are wonderful and are enjoyed by a lot of tennis players. Please do not close the only tennis center in Hampton!!

Convert all your processes to paperless. The savings in paper, toner cartridges, printers and their maintenance are astronomical.

Increase fees for golf and tennis center use. Potentially sell golf and tennis center to private investor with provision it must remain a golf and tennis center. / Use Fort Monroe for high income housing.

Taxes are going to have to go up. Hampton has one of the lowest rates in the area. I don't want to see the quality of our city erode. We need to take try to hold services at the current level. Reducing educational and youth program and closing Sandy Bottom are terrible ideas.

There is not much already in Hampton compared to the other 4 cities that make up the choices for business and families relocating here so further elimination of leisure, social actives would be detrimental - especially closing the tennis center. More needs to added rather than reducing in these areas. Otherwise, existing residents will continue to exit to nearby more diverse neighborhoods offering a wide diversity of activities.

The Kids and park and rec most stay running for the sake of the community. We have to be more frugle.

Surprised to see American Theater listed. That venue should be self-supporting, like the Coliseum. To really evaluate some programs mentioned, I'd need to see stats on the effective return. Reducing operating hours could be effective, depending on the stats on use at various times or days. But some programs are obvious; those that effect at-risk juveniles are valuable, even if only a small number are steered away from criminal activities. Playgrounds, the tennis center, and any others that allow

physical exercise are worth more than programs that result in people sitting around playing video games or not getting exercise. Those that charge fees, even if fees don't cover 100% of the operating cost (golf, tennis, museum) are worth more than programs that are completely funded by city budget.

I would take a long, hard look at the salaries of upper level administration across the board. It's insane when high-level administrators make a six-figure salary yet entry level employees risk losing their jobs because of budget cuts.

BELIEVE THE CITY WASTES MONEY WITH REDUNDENT WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS THAT ARE DUPLICATED ON THE INTRANET. IF EMPLOYEES DON'T HAVE INTRANET ACCESS, SUPERVISORS CAN SIMPLY PRINT AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS. EACH DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY SPENDING ON UNIFORM ITEMS AND UNNEED ACCESSORIES. NEED TO BE PROACTIVE ON WANTS VERSUS NEEDS. TO MANY CHIEFS NOT ENOUGH INDIANS.

Plaese keep the Hampton Tennis Center Open. It's a class facility that means a lot to this city.

City should aviod buying property and under-writing business eg Powerplant, Ex-Radison, purchase of the large apartment complex on Pembroke and King St at over-inflated price with little public input.

I feel that the salaries of all the city employees should be gone over again and have to where the lowest paid employee and the highest paid employee be only a 10% difference in their gross income. / / How would this help the city budget? By cutting the gross income of the higher paid to bring the figures down to no more than a 10% difference. For example, the lowest paid gross income is \$ 40,000. Then that would make the highest paid gross income \$44,000. Yes, this may upset numerous employees, but look at the money that would be freed to help with the city's budget challenges. And then the challenges would actually, in reality, not be challenges at all. / / I strongly suggest, as a citizen of Hampton, to take a look at the numbers before crushing this idea entirely. Rethinking this portion of the budget would be surprising to many as to how much money could be cleared to go towards other items that are just as pressing.

none that i CAN THINK OF AT THIS TIME

Please invest in our children. Make a decision after much prayer and consideration and put yourself in the shoes of those that are around you. Gather information from those who may be affected by services and even ask those who dont have access to the computer or transportation.

Eliminate the Planning Commision since the City does not follow the plans anyway. Get out of the real estate business. No more sculpture until econommy turns up. Keep rec facilities going to keep kids busy.

1) On Closing down programs or sites, what is the cost effect difference? Total number people serviced to cost for time open. / 2) Sandy Bottom: If hours are cut for the center, will it change hours the park is open to walk or to photograph? It is one of the few really Natural places left. Even the citys wetlands are being remove for progress. / 3) What cost?? for the 5 'FLAG poles' now on Mercury Blvd. Have heard there are more on other streets. Added cost to/or for ground mainatence around them, not to say the saftety factor involved. / 4) Need to add a FEE or FINE to companies doing Lawn/Yard cutting. Would or should these companies (people) be required to Bag or Remove cuttings, etc from the site. They seem to cut and then blow the remaines into the streets, fast and no responsibility. Whereas, the cuttings then clog the city water ways. Adding a high cost for FLOODING the areas. Flooding is bad enough now without it being added to when not necessary. / just my 2cents . .

Please do not close Woodland Tennis centre.

I would move away from Hampton if I could. The value on our home has dropped to where it would be impossible to buy another home somewhere else without moving to a bad neighborhood. As for city services, we do not use the community centers due to the open hostility we receive when we enter. It is obvious by all who work and participate there that we are not to be there. We never see a police car in our neighborhood. We do love our street sweeper guy though. My youngest child attends a private school in another city, my other children did as well. The work on the pot holes is shoddy. I would love to have that contract, do a bad job in order to come back later to fill the same hole again and again. Job security. I do not see the need for the American Theatre, only a select few see the programs there. The community at large is not interested in those programs. Average families don't have the disposable income for the arts. The history museum is important in order to understand who were are, Sandy Bottom is important because of the opportunity to find a restful place from the daily grind. The public libraries are really nothing more than homeless shelters and free child care centers. Athletic fields are for a specific group only to use and are of no use to others. I agree with maintaining parenting programs, I would like to see some of the training put to use. Hold parents responsible for their children and their well being. Social programs are supposed to be for SUPPORT. Not a way of life. The ideas of bringing tourists here is a good one, but what is there to come to? Downtown isn't safe. Peninsula Towncenter isn't safe. I used to love Hampton. I was proud of how we all got along and race didn't seem like such an issue. It is an issue now. Thank you

Suggest using Community Service hours to maintain city parking lots and Ft. Wool maintenance.

No raises for the city employees, let everyone income stays the same. or even take a pay cut (for high paying postion)

Our police officers are grossly underpaid and have not had a decent raise in several years. Many of our best are forced to seek employment in other localities. Hampton needs to be competitive. Taking this survey served to point out unnecessary areas

where money is being wasted while crucial services such as those provided by police and fire are suffering.

I don't remember seeing anything about the businesses and what they are paying or doing to help reduce city budgets. It looks like the Power Plant project has stopped (temporarily I hope). What is being done to draw new businesses in to this area?

The city should try to contract-out a lot of the non-priority services. Things such as the Fire-fighters and animal control should stay with the city. Others, such as landscaping, repairing roads, and fixing city lights could possibly be contracted out to local businesses, for a lower total cost than having the city do it itself. It would help boost jobs in our area and supporting local businesses will look favorably on Hampton City.

Eliminate bonuses and surpluses to city employees. When dealing with tax dollars, there is NEVER a surplus; the money belongs to the taxpayers and should never be redistributed for purposes other than what they were collected for.

Please do not close the Hampton Tennis Center - for many of us this facility it is often the only recreational facility that we use! Many of us don't enjoy other types of exercise! This facility is key in keeping us in better shape!

Make it work! That's what I pay YOU to do. Are you REALLY asking me about funding leisure type services when it is obvious that the City can't even afford to keep the street lights on???

The value of my property continues to decline. Taxes on same never decrease. Mortgage increases ev. year. Low income and single parent of 2. City of Hampton needs to make wiser decisions and stop biting of more than it can chew and swallow. The City of Hampton and Hampton City Schools both have big time deficit issues. Both need to cut the fat from their top paid employees. This would save millions. Too many folks are struggling to survive and others are being paid 4 and 5 times what they are worth. Something must change!!! Like yesterday!

I realize that the economy is bad and that the city is working hard to do everything it can for it's citizens. I am very interested in keeping the Hampton Tennis center open. As a senior citizen I have been playing tennis there since it opened and would be devastated if it closed. It is a marvelous facility for our youth with camps each summer, and for tourists. The clay courts are an asset to the quality of life in Hampton. I would be in favor of raising the rate for court time. It should have been raised years ago to offset expenses. Please consider raising the rates and keeping the center open. The seniors of Hampton need this recreational facility.

Going to a four day work week will save money for the school district, parents and teachers. Requiring parents to bear some cost for their child(rens) education, reducing the number of students riding the bus, reducing the number of buildings that the city tears down and rebuilds. SAC can move its operation to one of the closed schools.

To cut vital community services like after school programs, community centers and especially library services is absurd! Our youth white and black are in need of

these critical programs to help fill the void that is not there if there isn't proper nurturing at home. These services provide uplifting, encouragement, insight, hope, education, forges positive bonds with community leaders that care. Closing a library should not even be on the table. I am sure that there are other avenues that can be looked at that will ensure that all of the librarians can keep their jobs, kids will still be able to attend programs. Stop trying to cut the youth out and dedicated workers out and find another solution for the hampton budget!

I fully support paying more in taxes to facilitate funding for the services that are most important to keeping our community's vitality. Education and public safety should be the key priorities regarding budget expenditures. Many of the other government programs are nice to have but are not essential to keeping residents here and attracting outsiders to visit and live here. / / Are there any other taxes or fees that can be increased to help offset the budget shortfall? I understand that they may be minor in nature but every little bit can help.

Have city employees contribute to their retirement and health plans. / Promote the Woodlands tennis center to draw visitors to Hampton. Seniors find clay courts easier on their bodies. Most clay courts are only available at clubs and restricted to members use. Hampton has missed a great opportunity for not having promoted the courts as an attraction in Hampton

Require city employees and teachers to contribute to their retirement and insurance cost, as the federal employees do. Trim number of employees and teachers according to their effectiveness, not their longevity. Use any surplus to reduce deficit, not give out bonuses to questionable employees. Give citizens input on large purchases/expenditures; city council has long thrown money away on poor investments and outright fraudulent schemes.

I didn't see any mention of the money being pumped into the Coliseum Central area. How much money has been wasted on the Coliseum Central signs and flagpoles in the city?

reduce funding requests to all the outside programs from 3% to 5% the same as your asking from city departments. Get back the \$600K we gave to Old Point to build in downtown. Has the city stopped the \$1 million a year to HU? Ask for data from all those youth at risk and Healthy Family programs to give some indication they're making a difference or eliminate them

Hampton has been avoiding the inevitable for the last 4 years and now in an election year, the budget will include a tax increase? And is this expected to pass? Why did these survey questions only target certain positions and certain functions? If you want to look for cuts then quit targeting the same easy targets and critical functions year after year and look at everything and not just critical functions? Codes and Master Plans were targeted in this survey but why not planning and neighborhood? My understanding is the Planning department continues to hire and replace staff yet there are several months that there aren't even planning commission meetings? These staff should be fixing the ordinances and plans versus having economic development and HRHA buy our way out of problems. How much money does the

City spend tax payer money on private rental an slum property with curb appeal grants? - why not cut that money? The end result of the curb appeal has not increased the assessment value of any of the properties that have participated and the results have been very superficial like replacing wood windows, siding, and wood fences with inferior vinyl materials. As far as the lighting question, instead of reducing street lights and increasing crime, why not just install LED's like NN? And why are schools asking for more money when they are having the tax payers subsidize the maintenance and utilities on all of their excess property? Are they landlords or are they educators? There is money left sitting on the table for properties they are not using. Also, school employees should pay their share of group life insurance just like city employees have had to for years. Let's also look at the storm water and buiding, site plan and permitting fees. We still have some of the lowest fees in the region. And please quit targeting parks and recreation, economic development, tourism, and public works in these surveys. These are all services, functions, and long term investments that make Hampton a disrable place to live, work, shop, and visit which is what results in more revenue. / /

Reduce to one city run golf course.

City services are stretched to the maximum, it is time to step up and pay whatever it takes to get the job done.

Fund the schools. You cannot attract and keep homeowners in hampton if schools are not getting the funding they need. This has a ripple effect that impacts property values, retail, etc, etc...

Close the air power park on Mercury Blvd. Close the air and space center in downtown hampton. close community centers. do away with bay days and all the festivals in downtown hampton

Spouse works for the City of Hampton and has not had a raise in 3 years. Is told there is not funding. But, they are creating positions at higher pay. Fire and Rescue is creating new assistant chief positions at over \$50K per year. I know for a fact my spouse provides a terrific service for this city and hasnt been awarded anything for it. And you wonder why these folks look for work in other cities. Just sad. You expect people to put their hard earned money back into the city. Town center is a joke and will not get a dime of anything she earns. For one she cannot afford it. Look at the people that are working for those that are taking all the credit. It is those folks that make this city run.

In times like this we need to become more self reliant and not look to our government for services. / I think we could do a lot with smart and efficient volunteer work. Landscaping jobs could be done by Master Gardeners if organized properly. / Support more businesses coming into the region. Have small to medium size buildings available for rent. We run a small business here and I have been looking for a space (3000-6000 sqft) for more than 5 years and there is NOTHING out there. Clean up the industrial areas we have. They look horrible, nobody from outside will move into these areas. / Fort Monroe should be a good place to promote to bring more tourism to Hampton.

When we take care of our people, that in return will more to the city

The City's budget should not directly affect the children. If cuts have to be made, that's understandable but do not enforce rules or policies without prior experimentation of new policies, ideas or strategies. Closing down schools should not be an option. Also, the percentage of lottery funds that support schools should be higher.

We need more public safety less flowers! Reduce recycling pickup to every 3 weeks. Switch to a 4 day work week on non essential offices to conserve electricity. Shut down streetlights on interstate. Consider energy audits on older public buildings. Raise a alcohol and tobacco tax.

It would be beneficial to see the outcomes of programs when determining the amount of support I am voting for.

In positions where feasible try a telecommute program or work a flex week 4 days 40 hrs & close office on the 5th day.

Cut expenses. The city became bloated during Kearneys tenure as mayor. Get rid of the planning department. Contract the work through professional planners. They are doing most of the work now so what do we need those people for anyways? Same with economic development. Those departments should at least be merged into one. That would save a lot of cash by eliminating one director and a few other overlapping positions. That one move could probably save .01 tax.

I support an increase in the tax rate but reduce the amount of money spent on minority related programs.

I believe the city manager has done a great job in cutting the fat from city staff. I support a tax increase of 3 cents providing a reduction occurs if the economy improves. I also believe that the state car tax and the city's decal fee has always been a ludicrous way to force residents to pay dumb fees. Since we still have both, I recommend the decal fee be placed in a fenced fund to support education and emergency services when shortfalls occur. I do not support any taxation increase to support education. They get too much already! I also suggest that some one undertake an evaluation to determine if property renters pay their fair share to support educating their children. I don't believe they do. I know parks and rec has an agreement with the VMRC for year round operation of the Buckroe Fishing Pier. However, since most data supports the lack of a fish population Jan-Mar you should get the agreement modified to close the first 3 months of the year. Especially, since the Fort Monre Pier is available to anyone who wants to stand out there in February to fish. I believe you ought to offer the convention center for sale to one of the investment LLC's. It won't be a money maker until we are all dead. It never has attracted the big money events and those folks that can still afford to have them will go to the big cities. We're between williamsburg and virginia beach. A good stop for half a day. We certainly will never be a destination. I totally disagree with consultants who want you to spend millions to turn the waterfront into a mini san antonio tx. Look at their population base and other resources. We don't compare.

Look at our median income. We can't support this type of dream. Thanks so much for the opportunity to express my views.

Stop sending fire trucks to vehicle accidents. / / Stop sending 3-6 firefighters and a fire truck to pick up groceries. One person and one van/light truck is enough. / / Stop putting money into developments that should be strictly private. / / Sell off all the vacant city and HRHA properties.

Try reducing and not eliminating street lights, ie. every other one. Do not cut things that will detract from attracting business or high end housing development

Thanks for allowing me input. the problem I had with the survey is that it basically was all or nothing. There may be opportunities to provide hybrid services; partner with non-profits or re-think how we provide a service. Unfortunately, the choices provided were either eliminate or reduce. Additionally, there is the option for example to close a community center or library but actually increase the quality of services at the remaining centers or branches: quality versus quantity. / / Also, some questions such as economic development, education or public safety standing alone may garner strong feelings from the public; however, as part of the fabric of the city they need to be looked upon holistically. / / / Thanks again for the opportunity to participate.

We must find a way to make individuals pay more for the services they want. Charge more for the Community center membership and monthly fee. PPL will pay for the use of the services they want. Charge a fee for using the Youth Center. We believe that ppl who r poor can't afford these services. Make it a part of life and we find a way to come up with the fee. We r not making ppl uncomfortable in their poverty as Ben Franklin stated. Rather we feel uncomfortable because we have.

1.) Eliminate 3/4 of Economic Development office. 2.) Stop inviting outsiders to come to Hampton, by luring them with financial incentives... let's take care of the local businesses that are (and have been) here. More residual dollars from local trade will remain in the city. 3.) Let's identify quality of life needs/desires, then seek funding for such from within the community. 4.) Eliminate Section 8 housing in the city. It does less than nothing toward boosting local economy, while adding undue burden on Public Safety services, Social Services, and the judicial system. 5.) Sell the Air & Space Center (and move it to a suitable location, if possible)... it is 2 decades past becoming self-sufficient.

Get ride of the diversity programs, we don't need them anymore, and the programs that no one but certain groups use, for enstance: Parnting, afterschool, 311 call centers, libraries, liberal arts, cut williams center. Keep basic needs strong, Steet repair, fire protection, police, more on traffic! and get rid of extra taxes like the one in city center.

Increase the fees at the city golf course. Does the city have any say in the Fort Monroe Marina? It is one of the few floating docks in the area and when I had my boat there, the fee was low. There is an epidemic of speeders in school zones and on Fox Hill road. Reduce this safety hazard and create revenue by giving out more tickets. Contract out as many jobs as possible. / Competition drives down the cost of

the service, eliminates cost for employee health care and retirement and often results in better performance.

raise the taxes. spread the increase proportionately between real estate & personal property. also, have city elected, appointed and employed leaders MAKE A DECISION already instead holding public hearings and chats over and over and over...

We need someone who is willing to go out and get new businesses into the area. Make businesses pay their fair share of taxes on time. Crack down on businesses or people who are not paying their fair share immediately not wait or give allowances. I have to pay mine on time!!!! Reduce people in Hampton government who are not needed. Look carefully at programs and ones that are not working and do not renew. At times like these just increasing taxes is not always the answer. Combine programs and areas where they are offered.

City leaders have failed to stay in touch with the citizens of Hampton. The dollar amount of city workers is embarrassing, this is one reason workers are leaving the city and that they feel as if they are not appreciated. Hampton is the oldest English speaking colony and yet none knows where we are. We have the region named after Hampton and yet how many people know where Hampton is. Developers are not beating down the door of Hampton to come build here, why you may ask? To many restrictions on what can not be built. Million dollar deals have failed because Hampton leaders have refused development unless they have everything. The Planning Department has too much control of the development within Hampton. The city spends 10s of thousands of dollars for building designs by leading firms to only cancel the projects in the end. How many people's jobs could have been saved by better planning?

Attract more business by providing a competitive business tax, / Give tax breaks to business that make Hampton their headquarters

The City needs to add more to help the people of Hampton. There has been too much taking away not a lot of adding. Youth/ Teens need programs that help them with school, life at home and the real world.

I believe that the city should raise taxes in order to continue with the services it now provides and other services it wishes to provide for. I believe that in order to keep Hampton, clean, safe and an area that attracts tourists the taxes should be raised. In terms of the beaches at Fort Monroe and Buckroe, one of them could be a beach that requires a payment of about \$7.00 or so for family. This will allow for the pay of lifeguards as well as the clean up and maintenance of the beach. Also, Sandy Bottom is a great place and the Nature Center is an important part of the visit as well as a treat. Closing the Nature Center or limiting the hours will be a bad idea, especially if tourists were to want to visit the park. Buckroe Beach is a nice area if we allowed it to be more family friendly and invited a fair to come and pay to set up there, that would be revenue as well. It would not only attract more residents of Hampton but visitors from elsewhere as well. I believe that home owners would be willing to pay a little more property tax in order to maintain or add more services to keep our

Hampton a good place to raise families. Also, the Libraries are an important part of Hampton. The libraries provide internet and books and movies to families that may not be able to afford those. There are several branches that close early or are not open on Sundays, and so the ones that close at 9 and are open on Sundays are more attractive to go to. The libraries should remain as is.

City needs to reduce the purchase of property and start selling property owned. The choice of taxes versus services is smoke and mirrors. Some services do need to be reduced however the reason services need to be reduced is that many of the other line items of the budget are considered fixed or can not be touched. Examples as noted the purchase of land or buildings, salaries, number of employee's and the pay ranges of those employee's. I would like to see a comparison of not only number of employee's but number of employee's in the surrounding cities broken down to pay groups. I can think of at least five pay groups. part time, 20,000 to 40,000, 41,000 to 60,000, 61,000 to 80,000, 81,000 to 100,000, over 101,000

I am sure you don't get much feedback from this survey because it is poorly done and is very time consuming.

Thank you for allowing me to take this survey. I am an education major and feel it is vital that we increase funding for schools and public libraries or at the very least, keep it stable. Please do not diminish these areas, so students and parents can feel confident that they are receiving every possible opportunity to enhance their lives through reading. By doing this, you are investing money into future citizens of this wonderful city.

I believe the Teen Center/Aquatics building operation is consuming more money/resources than it is worth. Can the city find other profitable uses for the property. These resources can easily be combined with the existing community centers.

It seems if things we are in a financial bind, why are we spending so much money on this coliseum central and putting pavers down / in various streets. Why is not something done on Pembroke Ave. between the bridge and King Street the road is very bad.

We do not need so many Property Managers with the HRHA!!!! We need to lose one Property Manager and consolidate their accounts to other Managers.

Privatize parks (e.g. Sandy Bottom) and community centers to allow for-profit enterprises to run these services. This would eliminate the costs in the budget, allowing a for-profit company to streamline operations and earn profits from the services provided and provide additional tax income from the private enterprise running the services.

The City is missing out on approximately \$500,000 (if not more) on pet ownership revenue! Of the 53,000 households in Hampton, I'll bet at least 95% (most likely more) have a cat or dog, both, and/or multiple. I'm curious to know...how many cats and dogs are actually registered in Hampton? NOT A FRACTION OF THEM, I'M

SURE! At \$4-10 for each cat/dog, the City should be collecting hundreds of thousands in pet licensing revenue. This law needs to be enforced.

What does Hampton have to offer? We have to keep local attractions to bring more people in. Save Buckroe Beach the only true family fun resort in Hampton. STOP building homes near Buckroe beach. STOP selling Hampton land to drug stores. We do not need a Walgreens, Rite Aid, CVS store on every corner in Hampton!! / How about some parks, bike paths like they have in Northern Virginia? I hope you Listen to the public, not just pretend to with some survey.

It is difficult to answer these questions because they are so black and white - when in fact the concerns are really gray areas. As a non-government employee I am offended that I must pay so much to keep employees shares of their retirement low or zero when I have to completely fund my own retirement. Why is that not an option - to have a reduction in what the city pays for retirement. Many city employees are very well compensated when you account for wages and benefits - far more than many or most of those who do not work for the government. I imagine many of them would take a reduction rather than having their job eliminated. I work in the private sector and have not had a pay raise in 4 years. Yet, I continue to pay taxes which support the benefits for city and school personnel. To comment on some of the specific questions (it would be nice if there was a comment section for each question): It is totally unacceptable to increase the time the city has to pay vendors. Services are rendered and should be paid for ASAP - I am sure the city would not consider increasing the time we have to pay our taxes. Re: Public outreach on the budget - do you really consider what people say - it doesn't seem like there is a true representative sample in the replies - so how valid and how much weight you confer to them - I don't know. Re: Parenting education classes - leave that to private groups. Re: Eliminating street lights - I think that is a public safety issue in many areas, but you probably could cut down the number in some areas to reduce the light pollution. Mulching school grounds: You need to continue mulching the playgrounds as a safety issue; perhaps the mulching of the flower bed and treed could be adopted by school or community groups - we did this as a PTA at two schools our children attended - the city just provided the mulch. Re: 311 elimination on nights and weekends - NO that is the only time many of us who work can use it - maybe reduce the hours, but don't eliminate. Re: Eliminate school crossing guards for all grades and middle schools - Absolutely not - this is a safety issue for our children. I appreciate being able to give input, but it doesn't seem that there is much out-of-the box thinking in the options given. I realize there are great challenges, but that needs creative thinking to come up with new ways to run the government, not just eliminate services or increase taxes!

No bonuses and salary freeze to those who make 100,000 and more, will increase revenue and save the important programmes.

I feel as if some of the things up for being eliminated, can be reduced rather than eliminated. For example, the lifeguards being eliminated is an outrageous idea to me, but I would have no problem with them being reduced because I feel as if there are too many, but getting rid of them all together would affect public safety in a

negative way. Moreover, There is a lot of confusion around, about why the Sandy Bottom Nature Center needs to be eliminated. Clarity should be provided in this area. Serious consideration needs to be taken about budget cuts in the area of public safety.

Please do not get rid of the libraries or close sandy bottom. I along with other people need and use these services regularly, and enjoy going to these places. Sandy Bottom offers a great place to relax, enjoy nature, and then with the library, it is a great way for people to rent books when they do not have money to pay for new books. It is also a great way to get help with research, papers; internet concerns and other things. I also think that the teachers should get a pay increase since they work so hard - both during and after school hours - not only that many teachers have to take up a summer job and work 2 or 3 jobs during the school year to make ends meet. As for the lighting of street lights, I think those need to stay since my street only has 2 lights on it as it is... when I get home late at night, even with my porch light, having the extra light gives me a little more reassurance. Thank you for reading my comments.

Let's implement the Personal Property tax for boats at \$1.00/\$100 instead of the current \$1.00/million. We are the ONLY city in Tidewater that doesn't. Let's make use of our inmates inhabiting our city jail to clean out ditches and maintain city parking lots. In the future, let's not give employees a \$500/\$250 bonus in the Fall knowing that there'll be a budget shortfall in the coming school year. Stop enticing companies to our area with tax cuts only to have them pull up stakes and leave when they have to start paying taxes. That hasn't worked too well in the past.

Please define at-risk teens, please define prevention services? / How can you ask very general question then some very specific? / Please list other centers to cut besides tennis center. Golf courses lose more money, please list those facilities as well. list community centers and receive feedback on each. / Spend money or strengthen partnerships in areas that will attract visitors to Hampton. Boo Williams facility brings in thousands of families to Hampton that spend on hotels and dining, good tax revenue. Expand soccer fields enough to host tournaments so more families will visit and spend money. Look for their entry into ft Monroe green space to attract visitors.

Governments are funded by taxes. Taxes come from the people. The people cannot expect services- especially the degree of non-vital services available in Hampton- for nothing. It is an easy thing to say that budgets must be cut and staff must be reduced or that services must be contracted, but the repercussions of those paths must be considered. To reduce or devalue the city services that keep the public space maintained, that keep neighborhoods from decline, that promote the general health or contribute to the quality of life that make any city a comfortable or desirable place to live, work or do business defeats the goals of us all. We, as vested members of a society, have a responsibility to ourselves to keep what we have in good condition and to leave things better than we found them. It is the responsibility of the government to unify the individual interests and act for the improvement of all.

I do not want taxes raised to support the school divisions budget. They can make some much needed cuts in their budget.

We need to take care of items that everyone needs. Roads, Schools, Fire & Police. Flowers, flagpoles, walkovers, dredging needs to be put on hold. Dredging the salt ponds should be left up to the people that want to move there boats thru there. I would like my storm ditches covered and was told I would have to pay. Let the people that want to play with there big boats pay.

N/A

I think this survey was a great idea to get input from taxpayers. I really liked it. Thank you.

The bottom line....the city needs to charge more in property tax to enhance services. The city needs to continue the efforts to revitalize Hampton and offer enhanced services. As a new homeowner in the area my warm and fuzzy feelings about the city are changing for the worst, the blight needs to be addressed, new developments like the one my wife and I bought into will fail if the surrounding areas don't share the same clean safe environment that we are providing for our family. My neighbors and I are willing to pay more in taxes to help the city achieve its master plan and maintain the services needed to keep Hampton Safe and Clean.

The simple fact is with time, costs rise. If we (citizens of Hampton) our proud of the community and want it to improve, tax increases are the only way to go to ensure quality and safety. As citizens we vote in our City Council members and they are responsible for hiring upper city management; both have the responsibility of educating the public and ensuring proper steps are taking to address these issues. The simple fact is the real estate tax rate needs to be raised to keep up with the statis quo. I don't want my city to take a step back, but a step forward.

As long as the city are good stewards of the money collected, I don't mind a property tax increase to provide those services. I think most of us realize that we can't expect the same services at the same levels with less money coming in.

Libraries could be open from 1:00 - 5:00 on Saturday and Sunday. OR Closed on Sundays. They could reduce their evening hours and close at 8:00. / Reduce hours of Teen Center instead of closing it IF the center is being used. Usage information was not available. / Usage information was not given for 311 number. That info would be important to know in regards to reducing their hours. / Are Youth at Risk programs highly used and successful?

i would like the health services to stay the same.

Citizens Unity Commission: Consolidate these efforts with the People to People organization in Newport News which is a nonprofit - this is a regional effort so address it through a regional nonprofit with required communication on a semi annual basis with leadership from both Hampton and Newport News. / Vendor Payment: This is unacceptable. It will put a burden on small businesses and nonprofits that do business with Hampton. These organizations/businesses have less capability of extending cash flow than the City does so it is not fair at all. / DO

NOT eliminate afterschool programs. Providing quality out of school time experiences is critical for youth and contributes to educational achievement which is a core service of government / Consider reduction the amount of funds for the Youth Commission mini grant programs - however outsource this program to Alternatives, Inc. Alternative has been the contract provider for youth civic engagement for over a decade. Outsourcing to a nonprofit would make it easier for Youth Commissioners to raise funds which can contribute to the overall mini grant pool. / DO NOT cut Youth Civic Engagement. This is a critical component of quality out of school time activities for high school youth. It has multiple benefits to the city including, increasing educational achievement, engaging older youth as active citizens to enable the City to make better decisions, reduces the risk of negative behavior such as violence/gang activity. All types of youth are currently engaged in civic opportunities. It is a penny wise and pound foolish to consider this option. / Review the utilization rates of the 311 Call Center, Tennis Center and Sandy Bottom Nature Center. Reduce hours based on the non peak hours. / Eliminate streetlights in areas of the City which are already well lit, such as Mercury Blvd at Colesium Center Business District. / DO NOT eliminate clearing/cleaning ditches. Maintaining clean ditches is important for stormwater runoff and this strategy was discussed at length by the Waterway Management Steering Committee. It directly impacts clean water. / Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

I would be willing to pay a moderate increase in city taxes to maintain our services

First, the immediate effort should be attracting businesses to occupy the empty retail and commercia space. Examples include the buildings on Cunningham Drive, in Riverdale, Willow Oaks, and Buckroe. The businesses sought should be of the type not currently available on the Peninsula, or in some cases Hampton Roads. Second, more events need to held in the Coliseum and Convention Center. Virginia Beach has an auto show, why can't Hampton have an international book fair for instance? Third, cooperation with Norfolk and Virginia Beach to bring more region wide events. Attracting tourists requires having more such events in concert with tour operators which will cut down on vehicular traffic. Hampton has a lot to offer, but the time has come to stop keeping the tresures of our city a secret.

As much as I dislike paying property taxes I think Hampton's economic situation is dire enough that I could support raising the rate by up to 6 cents per hundred to help ensure vital services are maintained. Bottom line to me is Hampton has no significant industrial or manufacturing tax base so, therefore, individual property owners must bear the brunt of generating much needed additional city revenues given the significant decreases in federal and state financial support. I just ask that the City of Hampton remember that its citizens agreed to help the cause when the city was hurting financially and then make appropriate reductions when the city's economic outlook improves.

Stop building medians everywhere that make travel and visibility more difficult and waste money and use the money to pay Hampton employees who need to feed their families. With fewer medians there will be less need for annuals, saving even more money. The brick crosswalks are also unnecessary in a time of economic hardship.

A lady walking in front of my house broke her nose while walking her dog because she slipped into a pothole. That pothole is still not repaired nearly 3 years later, but a lot of unnecessary work around Hampton has been done.

Upper level officials/Managers need to take a pay cut just like most of their citizens have had to do in this economy. Everyone needs to sacrifice.

City lighting is essential to cut crime in neighborhoods. / Clearing ditches avoids water collecting where mosquitoes breed; not clearing these areas increases the possibility of illness in people and animals. /

Protect our safety and schools

Please give School level funding

Eliminate the Citizens Unity Commission! (Everything I needed to know I learned in Kindergarten!!!!!!) The city doesn't need a unity commission!!!!!! / Too many employees receiving 6 figure salaries and their work DOES NOT justify the salary!!! / Too many employees sitting at a desk doing nothing but answering a phone! / Too many employees sitting at a desk doing nothing but receiving a paycheck! / If an employee has time to be on Facebook, they are not needed and their job should be eliminated or they need to be replaced! / Reduce the City Manager's salary! Ridiculous! / / / /

I just like everything to stay the same, cause...Hampton is a very good place to live in. Sorry, I just don't know any of the answers to those questions. / / But what will be nice is...when it comes to movies...the movie called Where The Wild Things Are, which is directed by Spike Jonze, and based on the book written by Maurice Sendak...I'm hoping for a sequel to happen for his book and for the movie as well, cause...I bet everyone is curious to know on what happens next in Where The Wild Things Are, and then...Maurice Sendak, the author of Where The Wild Things Are, when he says something about a sequel, he tells people to go to hell, and tells people that a sequel is a very boring and stupid idea, which I believe that he's wrong for saying something like that. / / Reason why is because...I like his book; Where The Wild Things Are and Spike Jonze's movie of Where The Wild Things Are, and I believe a sequel is very good idea. If Maurice Sendak hears this, I believe he owes us a huge apology and that I believe he should give his book a chance.

Repurpose programs and facilities like the Teen Center and that have low membership and are costly to maintain.

City council should not be deterred from making the difficult choice of raising taxes. Failure to do so will be a detriment to the citizens of Hampton. Why go backward...which is what will happen if council chooses to keep the tax rate the same. I value Hampton and the services it provides. Lets keep moving forward.

Hampton has become a very ugly, dirty, litter-filled city occupied by ignorant, apathetic, rude citizens. It seems that if we were able to increase the knowledge base of our community we could then effect generational change and in 10 years Hampton could be a place one could be proud of, instead of an embarrassment. We need to provide a better education for the citizens so that they in turn have better

educated children, and so forth. We simply need to invest more monies into the schools.

increased funding for public schools

cut administrators' salaries substantially & consider hourly wages rather than salaried positions

1. Maintain the current real estate taxes to support our School District...and PLEASE reinstate the National Board recognition and encouragement to keep our top performing teachers at Hampton!!!

We need to preserve our schools! The loss of revenue that our schools are facing is going to eliminate key positions and benefits that keep our schools running smoothly. There is already no pay increase indicated for the 4th year in a row...to lose more, get paid the same, and expect more from our teachers is both unjust and unfair!

The city should be supporting the school system. They are running on bare bones. Not fair to the students and people are fleeing the city. Why should people want to move to Hampton when the schools are suffering from a lack of support from the city and state government.

Fully fund School System. Do NOT spend funds on sidewalks in neighborhoods. Most people in my neighborhood walk in the road and not on the provided sidewalks anyway. Keep street lights burning for security purposes. Continue to broadcast Council meetings and city news on cable TV outlets. Maintain History Museum to greatest degree possible.

The real estate tax rate should be constantly indexed. In the way it was reduced as home values increased, the rate should somewhat be increased in a small way as values go down. The need now would not be so drastic. Homeowners have jobs to afford a home and are blessed. If you broke or lost your job you probably losing your home and no longer paying the tax. Seniors under a certain fixed income level should lag behind in the rate increases. / Cars should not be taxed. Luxury items over a certain amount should be taxed, those owners are blessed.

We need to do as much as we can to protect services provided to youth. They are the future and need to be nurtured through programs and after school activities that keep them in a constant learning environment and off the street.

focus on waterfront re-development to include downtown Hampton.

I am appalled that so many of the programs that focus on families are targeted. Even more so that you all would suggest the elimination of crossing guards. I pass by Kecoughtan high school and watch on a daily basis as high schoolers are narrowly missed being hit. I drive by 2 elementary schools on my way to work and cars zoom past me. So much so that the police are a staple sight and still they catch people who break the speed limit daily. A crossing guard was hit and killed and you would suggest such a thing! Families are who we should be attracting to keep Hampton growing prosperous. Eliminating libraries, family programs, lifeguards, etc is a step

terribly in the wrong direction. I am very disappointed in this questionnaire. Schools are suffering, families are suffering, and this questionnaire suggests that we as a city are going to continue to move in the wrong direction. We cannot expect Hampton to continue to rise if we are not putting money into our schools and family programs to help our children succeed.

We can't have less services and if it means we have more in taxes then it is time to have the increase.

I realize the City Mgrs are trying to balance the budget and it's not an easy job. I feel the funding to Hampton City Schools should be reduced. The school system needs to do away some of the programs they have adopted over the last 4 or 5 years. Also they have shown no desire to reduce some of the high dollar positions at 1 Franklin St. Fifteen years ago there was a much larger student load and a much smaller staff at the aschool Board Offices and they were much more effective.

Consider the economy. As the job marketing is decreasing it is not possible to allow a tax increase that would cause the public to suffer more loss and foreclosures.

The stipend for National Board certified teachers is being eliminated from the proposed Hampton City Schools budget. Teachers earning NBCT certification might consider teaching in another district that values them. Hampton would be losing some of the top highly qualified teachers in the nation.

I am a city employee and citizen. I feel it is crucial for the City to implement efficiencies rather than cuts. There is still a lot of areas that don't need to be cut, but that could be a lot more efficient. Cutting technology is a huge mistake. It's not cheap, but technology pays in the long run (most of the time). I also feel the City should take advantage of more young people. They may not stay, but there are a lot of bright, tech savvy, young people that could make a world of difference. I am proud to live and work here, but struggle with the current vision and path we are on.

Riverboat Gambling... Major Tourism draw

You must adequately fund teacher salaries or more teachers will leave the profession.

The safety of the community should be a priority. If crime increases, we cannot attract business. We should make it easier for businesses to move into Hampton. The schools should be a priority. They can serve all of the youth through their after school programs such as arts and sports. The care of grounds other than for safety should not made a priority for at least one year.

It would have us all if the people at the top of the salary chain would opt to take a pay cut, it would prove very helpful to us all. It's time to stop making the lower level people have their salaries cut and have the top money makers willingly sacrifice some of their higher paying salaries to help those people in service jobs such as teachers, fire fighters, and police officers keep their jobs.

Tax the churches. Liberty Baptist is sitting on 10 acres. I'm on 1/3 acre and LAND value is 78K. You do the math to see the revenue stream from ALL of the church

property. Let those that attend these churches support their church, I'm sick of the free ride they get.

To the extent that you have ANY control over this, please stop building new restaurants & drug stores. We do NOT need any more restaurants or drug stores. The Walgreens and Rite Aid across the street from each other in downtown Hampton makes no sense to me. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Why update Microsoft Office when Open Office does the same things and it's free? / / My suggestion would be to look for ideas on how to control costs before you spend millions on speculative entertainment, tourism and business ventures. The key to good management is to save in good times and spend it in bad times. This strategy is backwards.

look at the fire dept it has got completely out of hand look at all of the wquipt it has around look at the juk yard behind station 9 and all of the unnecessry equipt it has t he management here is out of control i no ad as a 60 year member

Why not use inmates to clean parking lots and ditches. Planting trees and flowers in medians looks nice but the maint. cost may not be worth it.

Provide equal opportunities for all, and share the resources among all groups(that pay taxes) equally. Honesty and less contriving practices such as doubling a late tax that is two months late, without consideration...

tax increase while maintaing things that attract people, clean city, recreational ammenities (woodlands golf and tennis center), police responce, etc.

You need to be creative enough to find a way to adjust the budget, so that the Community programs don't get eliminated. They are essential to the development of our children and adults and promote Family Values.

4 day work week for most city services. 10 hour shifts or 8 hour shifts. / 32 hour work week with full benefit package would allow or some cost saving on terms of manpower cost. /

Set a tax on gas in Hampton. 1 cent a gallon. There will be some outrage at first. THose opposed can go into Newport News and get their gas. Some may in the beginning but in time people forget and convenience will set in and they will buy gas in Hampton. Easy revenue! / / Then focus on school's infrastructure and effectiveness if you want to improve housing. People with resources choose where they live. They choose what will promote their family life the best. Our schools are some of the worst in the state and look outdated. People with resources choose to leave and people without resources stay. The people without resources many times (not always) have to work extra and so spend less time with their kids schooling. That is the recipe for further decline in schooling and also housing. Hampton must become and offer the best in education. We have an historic African American University with a great reputation to build upon. We can do this and I believe we must!

In a time of hardships cut flower and tree planting and other things to beautify the city for at least two years or until the economy improves. / Raise the property tax rates 6cents to improve POLICE, FIREMEN and TEACHERS WAGES and add some to the school budget.

On the street improvement at the intersection of Lasalle and Kechotan WHY did the city put the 150 footer trees under power lines and a tree in front of a route sign. I ask the people who installed the trees, Winn Nursery, why and they did not answer, what did I expect it was job security for them and a waste of Hampton taxes because one day those trees will have to be taken down. What a waste.

Schools should be your major priority regarding the increase in the tax percentage. The schools need the help to be able to continue doing the great job they are doing. Dr. Shifflette has done a phenomenal job by preparing us for this for the past few years. If anyone has a complaint about how the schools are managed all I can say is look at VA Beach..they are in such a bad position right now and ours is minimal. Stand behind your school system and do what is best for the children in Hampton! They are after all our future!

I love living in the City of Hampton. The crime rate is not as high as it is in other parts of VA and I think it's basically because we have so many programs/places for our youth to go. From after school programs to the teen center and the community centers, there almost always something to keep them busy and out of the streets. I work for CCD & Pretrial Services, so I see a lot more than I would like, the differences in the crimes being committed in Hampton vs other cities/areas in the state. I would not like more than a 2 cent raise in taxes, but if it comes to choice between closing/reducing something that benefits our youth and a 5cent tax increase, I'd pay more taxes. You all are doing a great job and I'm I love some of the changes that have been made in Hampton since 2003.

Any increase in real estate taxes over 3 cents should be split equally between the City and the School Board to cover anticipated State revenue shortfalls. Increase the meals tax and direct funds to essential services. Stop using savings for one-time expenditures. Place a moratorium on such expenditures for 3-5 years until revenue outlook is stabilized.

Please do not close or reduce the Hampton Public Library Hours, or close a branch!

While we are working through this budget we need to be mindful of our schools. We cannot as a city let our schools suffer. It will hurt us financially with real estate. We have to keep having reasons for people to move to our area. Schools have and will always play a big part in that.

I am willing to do what ever is necessary to help our youth in Hampton. Our children have to suffer more and more every year when it comes to school, activities, and other services. Monies are cut that go to the schools, this results in cuts that affect children more than anyone. Our children should come first! They are our future and without proper training and guidance, which includes money, what will they become. The city must step up and help our children and if it means raising taxes then that is what we have to do.

Spend some money on shoreline protection before it is too late. Tax the churches like everyone else!

The fact that there is no mention in any cutbacks that could be made within city council speaks volumes on where our city council stands for our city. Remove all lifeguards from public beaches? Remove crossing guards? Closing community centers? The amount that the city is giving to the schools is diminishing. How much farther down are you all willing to push our children? To add further insult, it is proposed to close the teen center. Could it be because it's not used very much? I wonder could that have to do with the fact that it is in the middle of nowhere. Everytime I drive past I shake my head at its location. There are no housing areas or apartments nearby. I realize that it is difficult to find a budget plan that will please everyone, however, in my household we all are making sacrifices to help make ends meet comfortably. Never do we compromise on our safety, which you are asking us to do. My wife and I don't compromise our children's education, which you are asking us to do. We also do not sacrifice our well being, which you are asking us to do. My wife and I make sacrifices as the head of our household, I think that it's time the heads of our city does the same thing without putting their citizens at the top of the chopping block for once.

Please keep services related to public safety such as streetlights, police response, lifeguards, etc. We can do without services that are not effective and not utilized by a large amount of citizens (ie-Teen Center, Community Centers with low attendance). I know the City has some tough decisions to make and thank you for seeking our input. / / Add a space for comments after each section rather than the end.

Code enforcement is helping slow the spreading blight in Wythe, but if some funds were available for low interest loans to homeowners to maintain or improve the homes that are falling into disrepair it would create an atmosphere of opportunity rather than the current sense of slow decay. It is becoming more difficult to keep owners in their houses here, and Wythe used to be a real estate draw. The increased police patrol is SO appreciated!

Without out knowing how much is currently spent on an existing service such as Sandy Bottom Nature Center and how much would be saved by reducing or eliminating such a service it is difficult to reach an objective opinion on whether such a service should be reduced or eliminated.

Stop wasting money on brick walls, lighted signs and signs in the Coliseum, downtown Hampton, etc. area promoting the shopping or the residential areas. If those residents want a sign then let them chip in to pay for it. People will figure it out where to go shopping. Regarding the athletic fields, there are plenty of families that have lawn services that have children using those fields that would probably be able to write it off on their taxes as a donation to maintain fields. I know that my son's soccer organization is utilizing a parent's lawn service to maintain the field. The Hampton City Council needs to pressure the City School top people to take a decrease in pay and do away with perks like monthly car allowances (the city is not

that big to give people money to drive around). The City of Hampton needs to halt Section 8 or low income housing coming into the city then maybe the city could attract more homebuyers. Also, the schools would improve because less lower incomes would be attending. Unfortunately, there is a connection between low income, poor school attendance and low educated parents. Maintenance people need to be supervised more to make sure they are not allowing their vehicles to run unnecessarily which uses more fuel. The city needs to stop backing down to the residents on Chesapeake avenue wanting speed bumps. Hampton may benefit from selling property instead leasing to people who can not consistently pay. Additionally, the city needs to stop giving deals to builders. I think property should be offered to people that want property to build on. Give the citizens some perks not builders who are taking advantage then there are expensive homes that can not be bought by long time Hampton residents. Also, there are homes that other people from other cities may be interested in but they don't care for the city's reputation for being a good ol' boy town and the schools are struggling to meet scores. I grew up in this town, I'm raising my children here and I teach in the schools. However, I consider moving more and more. I am also renting instead of buying because the city's reputation keeps getting worse and worse with decisions made by council members. Less and less is available for Hampton resident's who are of middle class because most of the favoritism goes to the upper class and their neighborhoods and schools. It is not the town I grew up in.

Allow citizens or citizen groups to handle some activities on a volunteer basis; if people want services, let them participate. / / Issues dealing with youth; allow parents to participate in those activities.....less expense to the public.

Comments from Hampton residents via scientific polling

I am all for raising taxes.

They need to quickly make a decision. The situation with the schools is hurting the kids.

Well, they're just not spending our money well. They have champagne tastes and a beer pocketbook.

I don't have much trash or recycling, so pick it up every other Thursday. You could save money with creative ideas like that.

They need to tighten their belts just like everybody else. Are these people insane? Adjust your expenses to match your income. Also, the schools in Hampton are very bad. Work on fixing them before you ask for more money.

What are they spending the budget on, and why is it causing shortfalls? Don't ask me for more money.

We've got buildings that are unoccupied, like three or four different schools closed in Hampton. That wastes money. Sell them.

I don't agree with fewer teachers or larger classrooms. Drop something, like landscaping, and add breakfast for all kids at school.

Where can new money come from other than raising taxes? Find the sources. Don't tap me.

I think they should leave it like it is and deal with the lower budget.

Maybe the City's elected officials could take a pay cut. Don't try to get more from me.

I would hope that they would look at all the information they have to make sound economic choices that will help Hampton's citizens.

Cut all salaries over \$200,000 down some. There are many poverty-stricken areas and a large number of military families. We can't pay high salaries.

Stop investing in hotels and car places. Stop buying up properties to raze them for parking lots.

Stop hiring landscapers and prioritize. The schools need money. Why replace the signs on Hampton Roads Center Parkway? They're fine. Why leave lights on when no one is there?

Economize.

The City budget needs to be explained fully on the Internet so everybody knows where their tax money is actually going.

It's poor management. Ten years ago, they did better with half the amount. Focus on roads.

Take a pay cut like the rest of us. They lowered my assessment, so I couldn't sell my house if I wanted to. They put me under water by \$30,000.

There is enough tax taken out of people's paychecks. We pay enough taxes.

If they raise taxes to take care of the shortfall, then something else will come up, and there will still be a shortfall. It's like the Lottery money. The schools didn't really get more.

They should make cuts here and there and everywhere needed.

Youth between 14 and 18 have no place to go to be off the streets. Also, employees need raises, especially those in public safety jobs.

The rate increase seems to be the best thing since my house has gone down quite a bit.

It's not that I'm opposed to raising taxes, I just thought there were other ways to help, like the Lottery funds.

Lottery money should fund the schools. Money from alcohol and tobacco should go into another fund. Smokers require more services, too.

Take some of that Lottery money and use it.

With me not having children, I oppose anything for the schools and would like to see

more services and more going towards fixing the roads.

I can trace my lineage all the way back to when Hampton was born. Get rid of the Republicans.

Ask the Mayor and City Manager to take pay cuts before asking a teacher. Preserve the schools' budget at 100%.

Please lower the value of my house. When they appraised my condo, it was \$50,000 more than what it should be. I pay enough.

They need to cut their budget like we do. We had to cut our household budget back, so they should cut theirs.

It's not just about the budget and education. It's priorities, like the apartment building they bought downtown. What a waste.

I have a child with a disability, so the schools need all the funding they can get.

I'm livid with how they waste money on things that don't fit into the lifestyle of Hamptonians, like the Power Plant.

I am a retired school teacher, so I am very interested in education and would like to see an increase in the schools' budget.

They should have thought twice before buying the apartments in Downtown Hampton. They lost a lot of money in that deal.

Stop putting in red light cameras. There is plenty of money in the budget for non-essential services. Why?

I don't see any other way but to raise taxes. I don't want things cut, but I know they'll have to without more tax money coming in.

No laying teachers off. I don't like that.

There should be fewer of the high income positions in the City and the schools.

You cannot lay off all those teachers. Go into the Admin Building and reassess those positions instead.

Employees should pay more towards healthcare. Also, stop increasing the retirement payments that school and City employees get. I pay \$1,000 toward my own retirement, but City officials and employees don't.

To cut expenses, let's combine City services with Newport News.

I'm okay with raising taxes by 6 cents, but some people can't afford it. You will have to supplement them.

I'm okay with six cents. Most seniors could pay a small amount, but most pay nothing. The City could up the sales tax a little, too, but don't raise the gas tax.

Don't cut education or senior services. Overall, six cents is not going to hurt taxpayers.

I think the City should be more careful about how they waste money. They get

involved with certain silly projects.

Make the City employees actually do their work. We need better spending habits and values.

Fire incompetent teachers and crooked police officials. City officials can quit taking high salaries themselves. I see the same six faces on the City channel with their token black guy. Don't waste money at Buckroe.

We need fewer superintendents and administrators in the school system. Cut sports. We need more teachers. Good ones.

Why cut police, fire, and schools? Cut back City Council's wages. They get way too much. Hey, what happened to all that Lottery money?

I agree as long as they don't keep going up and up and up. When they raise something like that, they have a tendency to keep raising it.

I really don't feel that an addition to the tax rate is going to make me or break me.

They don't have a lot of choices. The City does a good job. If we approve the taxes, we will be number one.

Since you are going to raise the taxes anyway, please explain to people that this is just the way life is. We can't expect that when everything goes up, taxes won't.

You must get out of the business of real estate and buying properties. Cut back like everyone else has to.

Even if I pay more, they need to make cuts.

They still need to start making cuts on stuff that is wasteful. People just don't have the extra money.

Where is all of the Lottery money going? It was supposed to fund the schools and roads.

I don't mind increasing the tax rate a bit as long as they also increase the value of my home. I would hate to see them cut anything for education.

I think that's a good idea overall, considering how many people own a home. We need a good educational system in Hampton... a better one.

They can't just keep taxing people. They will get the money out of you one way or another. But, they are overspending, and you can't continue doing that. The restaurant tax is outrageous.

They would get a little bit out of debt if they would stop buying things we could do without until the economy changes.

Why don't they get out of the real estate business, like Harbor Square and bailing out that building Downtown?

Reduce expenses. I don't go to Town Center. Focus on spending to help our economy, not restaurants.

If you make sure the budget has only necessary things in it, then I'm cool with the increase.

Stop bailing people out by buying property. We are a city, not a real estate company. How many million dollars have we spent on that?

I'm unhappy because of the property that's been bought. So, I am not sure the increase in the tax rate is a good idea.

If they do increase the house tax, you have to accept that because Hampton kids need the schools.

Watch how you spend money. The work on LaSalle Ave. could be better spent on potholes.

Harbor Square was in horrible condition and should not have been purchased.

They're going to do it anyway.

Our state, in general, is aggressive on taxes (e.g., charging personal property tax) and has a high income tax. I'm not sure what Hampton is doing with all their revenue. When assessments are down, so is our income. We can't pay more.

I would rather they cut unneeded City services, but not schools. If they have to cut schools, I may pay more then.

Funding the school budget fully is right on. The City has done a good job of trying to keep things up-to-date, and their services are more than adequate. I am in favor of expanding services, even if we must pay more.

Watch out for bad deals. And, they took out a fish market (e.g., jobs) to build a museum. What a loss.

There are frilly things I see being done that make no sense, and we don't need to be spending tax money on that.

We have the budget shortfall because money has not been managed properly in the past. Some areas of the city benefit, but not others. It's not fair.

There's too much entitlement crap in Hampton. They can find the money without raising taxes.

I go to work everyday. I am tired of all the malarkey that those of us who go to work have to pay for those who want to sit around.

The Lottery is supposed to fund the schools, but no one knows where it's actually going. Profits in the Lottery need to be checked out.

Stop building houses Downtown that nobody is going to live in. Then, the Section 8 people will have to live in them. I'm not paying for that.

Stop stupid things, like building the white walls around the Coliseum Area or spending \$160,000 on a sign that says "Coliseum Area."

Everyone needs to be willing to make adjustments, but I don't think it should always be teachers and education.

I've been treated good by Hampton, but there has got to be a better way to tax people. Don't waste money on things like flowers and flags. Focus on the basics.

Our schools and such need to be improved because they are old and need upgrades.

Why tear up the road on LaSalle and Kecoughtan Rd.? Why the City Center and new Coliseum signs? What about the Taj Mahal magnet school? Also, real estate assessments are not fair.

I pay too much. Stop the bad Downtown real estate deals.

Quit spending money needlessly. We don't need to spend a million dollars on a park under the East Hampton bridge, and we don't need to buy the apartments by City Hall.

If it is inevitable that you need an increase, why did you reassess homes? My house is for sale, and I hated to see it go down.

What they need to do is to pare down the overhead costs of the City.

I just don't approve of the way the City of Hampton is deciding to spend money during these economic hard times.

You can pull money from somewhere else. Where is the Lottery money? There are too many Hampton administrators with a finger in the till. School Board members make six figures, and there are 45 kids in a classroom. Stop those high salaries.

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Linda Shifflette, makes an EXTRAORDINARY amount of money and should take a pay cut. She could live in Hampton very comfortably for perhaps \$60,000.

I don't think raising taxes is the way to go. They are cutting everything all around within the schools. I don't think they are cutting in the right area. Consolidate a lot of these high-paying government and City positions.

Less spending in the schools. Back when I went to school, we didn't need as much, and we had a higher graduation rate.

Before you put in a rail that doesn't cover all of the city, take an actual vote on it. Don't waste my tax dollars.

After I pay off my property, I shouldn't have to continue to pay taxes for it because I own it. The City has other ways to make money.

Eliminate school busing. Let students walk to school, or their parents can take them to school.

When the economy improves, you could restore some busing. Eliminate the garbage taxes.

Evaluate the pensions and benefits for City employees. They exceed the average non-governmental employees.

I just can't pay extra right now.

You must work on cutting a lot of fat from these budgets.

Lottery money was supposed to go to the schools and the roads. If so, we should have the best schools in the United States.

I don't want a tax increase. I just want them to use my money smarter and stop wasting it.

Look at the salaries of City workers who earn higher incomes to see what they can do with that.

Stop expensive travel and meetings. And, look to see if some jobs can be consolidated. It's a struggle to pay my taxes.

Stop spending on stupid stuff and giving businesses a tax break to bring them here. The City does a lot of cosmetic stuff that is not necessary. Just do the basic services.

We don't need a big water fountain on the on-ramps or decorative ponds. We could be using the cash to repave the roads. Cut out the street lights in the day.

There are many City employees that don't seem to be doing much work, and they make a lot of money. Police and fire employees deserve more money, not politicians.

Find a way to tax alcohol and cigarettes more.

Try to become more efficient. When I was growing up, they had daycare combined with the elderly for efficiency.

I guess they should tax more people. They have to.

What about the Lottery money for the schools? How can there be a budget shortfall? Our roads are terrible, also.

I'd rather they raise the assessments back up again and keep the tax rate the same. Then, you'll have the same revenue.

I guess if there were a better sense of community here, things would be better. I think there is a lot of military in the area.

In the school system, stop paying the Superintendent so much. Give more to the teachers who have too many children.

They have pre-school. When my kids were young, we paid for it. Go back to that.

I won't pay any more unless there are some cuts in City jobs.

Ultimately, they are going to do what they want. That's the way of the world. The taxpayers are going to pay the bill.

I oppose all taxes. Take it down to zero.

I'd agree to 3 cents, maybe.

Stop wasteful spending.

My vote doesn't matter. They will do what they want to do anyway.

That's a great plan. I would go even further if need be.

We've been in a declining economy for many years, but every year they act

surprised by the shortfall. It doesn't look like they do too much long-range planning. The City decided to devalue our properties. We had no say so in it. That's the consequence.

Some budget improvements could be handled in a lot of areas. Try to economize. Figure out some place to get the money without taking it out of the taxpayers' pockets.

They need to be a lot more frugal with frivolous things like crosswalks and paving stones. Those excessive expenses are unneeded.

Don't take money away from the schools. That would be a bad idea.

Where is the Lottery cash? Quit wasting money on so many things we don't need. I see one person working and five people standing around doing nothing but acting like supervisors.

They need to put more money in schools because the schools in Hampton suck.

The only standard that is solid is the City assessment, but the real estate fluctuates based on negotiations of buying my house. I decided to get a homeowner line of credit just as my house went down \$20,000. Ouch.

New business and corporate ventures coming into the area should be another resource, not me. Raise their taxes. Let them pay.

Maybe they should increase the luxury tax. That's their personal choice. You pay a little more if you can afford a boat. No breaks for rich people.

I don't think homeowners should carry the whole burden. What about corporate taxes? We already pay a meal tax, too.

Nobody should be receiving services for free. There should be a minimum tax. Even poor people should pay \$50 minimum per quarter. No parasites.

Tighten up and cut back. Some people can't hardly stay in their houses now. There are so many military families here who don't pay taxes at all. I'm disabled and I pay.

There is a third alternative: engage in an efficiency initiative to provide some services at a lower cost. Taxes should be lowered, and continue as many services as possible.

Quit buying property. Stop subsidizing projects like the Power Plant.

Just cut, cut, and cut.

Perhaps you could check out what other cities are doing.

Someone needs to create more jobs in Hampton to have more taxpayers.

Back when the property values went up, they should have saved the surplus. What did they do with that? They should have a surplus as opposed to a deficit.

COMMENTS CALLED OR EMAILED TO 311:

"I do not want you to close the area at the city dump in Hampton where residents can take their yard debris at will instead of waiting for the City to pick it up. Thank You for your time."

"Our schools need help and money. Please see that our future citizens (students) have a fair chance. Teachers are in the bottom half of states and what they pay their teachers. Raise real estate taxes to aid with programs, raises for our teachers... it's not about democrats or republicans... it's about survival."

A complaint regarding the city possibly contracting out the Solid Waste Department. She sees that the city workers that we have care about the citizens that they serve and she doesn't think that's going to happen with a contract worker. Also, laying off all of those workers will work against economic growth in Hampton. Finally, she doesn't think that contract workers will provide the services such as disability collection that the city provides. She's concerned that if the city equipment was decommissioned, then the city would have no refuge if the contractors went up on the price or down with the service, because the city would no longer have the option of doing it themselves.

COMMENTS FROM NON-RESIDENTS

I believe that across the board, the city should look into 4 day work week. There is a study (<http://www.inc.com/guides/2010/04/4-day-work-week.html>) that shows that productivity increases as well as morale. I also believe that providing more flexibility in when and where you could work would be a huge improvement. The idea of being in the "office" is getting more and more a thing of the past as there are so many jobs that may not need to be done in an actual office setting. If nothing else, it will provide employees a sense of freedom, as well as cost savings (gas, the need for child care, work attire) that could take the sting away from another year without pay increases.

Don't reduce services to youth, especially Sandy Bottom Nature Center and Community Centers. Increase or establish user fees for non-city residents.

Stop allowing council to waste money by changing their minds on items that have already been pursued and funding has been expended (i.e. courthouse!)

Increase pay or give bonuses to public safety employees!!!

SANDY BOTTOM NATURE PARK IS THE BEST THING THAT HAMPTON HAS TO OFFER FOR FAMILIES. IT IS SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED. A BEAUTIFUL AND EDUCATIONAL PARK FOR EVERYONE. FAMILIES THAT LIVE IN A CITY IN HOMES OR APARTMENTS NEED A PLACE TO BE WITH NATURE. CHILDREN AND DOGS NEED TO SEE AND SMELL THE GREAT OUTDOORS. PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE DON'T EVEN THINK OF CLOSING SANDY BOTTOM NATURE PARK.

The children of the world are our future. I think it is important to look out for safety and education. We need to keep our streets clean and safe. We need to continue to educate our youth through programming, schools, and fitness. It would be devastating for our community if parks, community centers, or any kind of programming for youth was cut. If we did not provide support to at risk youth, we are only hurting ourselves for the future. I think it is in the city's best interest to think about the future of our city!

you could have homeowners have to call 311 for bulk pick up the day before trash day ,(much like va. beach) this would cut back the number trucks going out . BOAT Tax !!!

Use inmates to clean parking lots, parks, ditches, paint and fix things around the city. You have all that free help just sitting there sucking up tax payers' money, work them real hard....they might not want to come back.. Raise sales tax 2%, use that 2% increase for city roads and projects.

There is a lot of money being spent by the city on feel-good programs, that simply does not need to be spent. If the city would stop that, there would be no financial crisis, there would be no short fall and you could probably lower taxes and still have an annual surplus. Yes indeed, there is much work to be done, but there is way: 1) Prevention services is a must, but other services have to be thinned down when it comes to schedule and frequency. 2) Cut wasteful spending: Consolidate services, think creatively to keep the necessary services in place. 3) Think and create green, renewable energy -- invest in solar panels for example, in all school buildings etc. in time it will pay for itself and some. 4) Recruit and train volunteers to run or continue needed services-- I am sure the wonderful citizens of Hampton and surrounding community would be glad to lend a hand-- it is definitely better then cutting services or increasing taxes. 5) It is time to cross-train emergency services-- it is a good idea and can work--- we have the available man-power do it-- police and firefighters working as one--- backing up each other. It is not difficult to do, but a must when it comes to these dwindling budgets. 6) Invest, Invest and create technology generating plants etc.-- make this a priority-- it is a puzzle of one from the bottom up-- all will benefit, from increasing smart, fruitful people. Make this a link for training and job creation starting from Elementary--Middle---Highschool--- there has to be a link in future jobs for the citizens, and it has to start in instilling the importance of global competitive skills. We must change our view point and focus on creating a robust portfolio for each of our citizens. Right now we lag so far behind. Lets go above the mundane and do more to ensure that all will have the necessary skills to be globally employable. This is just the Beginning.

Quite giving money to builders at Buckroe. And, quite paying for businesses to come in.

Do a serious review of all departments and cut to the bare minimum personnel levels. There is way too much "dead wood" at this time. Administrative personnel vice personnel who are actually out there serving the public should be scrutinized. Use the city farm folks to perform clean up functions. You eat, you work.

Programs for "at risk" teens in Hampton are a complete waste of time - you can't fix the mindset of an entire demographic. I am not happy having any money that supports the people who actually pay the bulk of taxes put towards "at risk" programs, and taking it away from the people who are actually interested in creating quality family relationships (such as closing Sandy Bottom Park). Put that "at risk" youth money into the Police Department where it belongs.

go after people's that are delinquent in taxes, in fines, or in violation codes or etc. Try to get civic organizations involved in helping in different areas.

Using court-ordered community service hours to clean city parking lots and other such maintenance tasks.

Use common sense. Children and all programs should be first and protected for their safety, as well as all firefighters and police should stay the same. Cut back on programs not safety related.

I do not live in Hampton at present, but grew up there. In recent years Hampton has over spent on many projects it should not have tried to finance. That is one reason why the City has become so strapped. I think you can live without some services but I would sincerely hope you would not close down Sandy Bottom, which is the only part of Hampton that allows adults and children to enjoy nature. I enjoy going down there from Williamsburg to walk the trails. It is quite a treasure. It can't be any more expensive to keep open than some of the other things that are not even half as important as Sandy Bottom. I have often wondered how long you folks would continue to allow a piece of ground that does so much good to remain uncluttered before you tear it up for houses or roads. It would be a sad loss for Hampton and I hope and pray that you will continue to keep it open - even if you have to charge a fee to enter.

The city should have planted perennials and native plants that are drought resistant years and years ago instead of spending the manpower and money to pull out plants and replant these each season... these plants would bring joy to all to see them and help to keep spirits up when they are seen as a reminder that life does continue. Then the manpower would be for taking care of the flower and plant beds instead of seeing them die as the weather changed and money die with the plants. The libraries, community centers, etc. and other services don't have to be eliminated. But reducing hours all around would be beneficial. That way one part of our community wouldn't suffer over another part of our community. We are just that ... a community ... and need to pull together and not create hard feelings. It is important to continue supporting our employees and residents. No more trips overseas when computers are so accessible for information from around the world. Fees for some programs can be raised with minimum pain to the pocketbook and wallets. Just minimum changes... don't go overboard thinking the public won't mind. We - the public - will mind- ... Every penny counts... "a penny saved is a penny earned". A 10 cent or 50 cent raise in prices will help... I'm not speaking of dollars... and gouging the public. We need to continue to bring attention for drawing in visitors to our GREAT area... Whether the visitors come from Canada, from across from the West coast... or just

from Chesapeake. And not mention all our Military that moves here from all over the country and world and want to know about and SEE the History of our country at it's beginning and during it's turmoil to rise again JUST LIKE OUR ECONOMY WILL DO around this whole country. Always - Always - Always put a positive thought process forward (even when there are those who push the negative and can't see the positive).

The Hampton Teen Center has unfortunately been a complete failure. The idea that they are still in operation while serving less than twenty students is unconscionable. Raise the taxes. The problems caused by not funding them now will cost much more to remediate in the future.

Avoid making decisions that end up putting 6 expensive flagpoles in front of a Home Depot. Why?

Cut out administration(schools etc) that do not contribute directly to education. Require remaining admin personell to spend some time in the classroom so they are familiar with the problems and teaching environment. Do not promote to level of incompetenace.

The Hampton Teen Center has been declining in popularity with high school students since it opened. They should either open it to middle school students as well or close it down. Once most children reach high school, they start driving, have jobs and more after school activities such as football. They don't have time to attend a Teen Center. Children who are ages 13 - 17 however, may need after school supervision. Currently, there is very little supervision for the few students who do come, no after school homework assistance, no variety of programs to get them involved in the Teen Center. It is a waste of electricity and other resources that could be channeled somewhere else throughout the City of Hampton.

The school system is DYING! Teachers are leaving due to the cuts in the budget, lack of adequent support, and funding. Increase taxes to be able to support your school system better!

Unacceptable to close Sandy Bottom Nature Park. This is a recreational place for all members of the family to use...the trails and the dog park are the best! Hampton wastes taxpayer money on huge giveaway projects like Gateway Computer tax break, Power Plant, Town Center, and other grandiose projects while losing focus on what city services are vital. Business should not be subsidized by citizens!!

Give public safety a raise in PAY and or Bonus!!!!

add survey questions that target public education do not eliminate the national board certification compensation that is currently provided to teachers

NPR ran a story a couple weekends ago about Colorado Springs, Colorado facing exactly what you are facing now. I HIGHLY recommend every executive member of the city take the hour required to listen to that broadcast. Colorado Springs faced a situation much more dire than Hampton's and appears to be bailing itself out quite well. If Hampton continues to put band aids on a problem that is getting worse by

the day it will wind up in a financial and political situation that sweeps out every incumbent elected official and requires a generation of recovery. Your social welfare programs are killing you. Educate parents to do their jobs. Instill greater civic values through your public schools as your principal mitigation strategy for at-risk youths. If they aren't going to school you've lost them already - don't waste taxpayer money on the lost. Increase law enforcement, particularly your narcotics division to flush the drug dealers over to Newport News (how they handle it is their problem). Maintain services for your taxpayers who are paying the most in taxes. If you lose your higher-income bracketed taxpayers to York County you are on the road to total economic depression. Make slight increases (10%) to your Woodlands Tennis Center and golf courses, as well as other amenities used by higher-level taxpayers. They will pay it with less grumbling than a tax increase, and such amenities will keep them in the city in the face of small tax increases. But most importantly, you must outsource more services! You've correctly identified employee costs, including pensions, as a major financial drain. While your chart shows you're doing well in employees per capita than your neighboring cities, the chart reflects not so much how well you are already doing as how poorly your neighbors are doing. Most of the south side communities have more high-income taxpayers and can sustain their levels for a time. You do not have that luxury. Outsource everything you possibly can. You will find that contractors will work for less than you think because they need the certainty of steady income, particularly in this economic climate. By maintaining services used by your higher-income taxpayers to keep them in Hampton and outsourcing as much as you can you can minimize the number of welfare programs you must cut. In a few years you will be able to even increase the number of welfare programs if you choose, though I suggest your better strategy is to put the revenue in to recruiting more people who actually pay taxes so that you have a strong tax base even in the face of uncertain economic climate.

Please continue to support the Virginia Cooperative Extension; their services are so important to families and the community at large. Without the VCE Master Gardeners, how would Bluebird Gap Farm be able to continue?

don't close tennis centre. it keeps the kids off the street

Please keep Sandy Bottom at it's current level of support. It enhances the quality of life for citizens and is one of Hampton's best features.

Please don't close the tennis center. We play tennis there every Sunday during April to October, and then go out to dinner in downtown Hampton afterwards. Similarly, we are patrons of the American theater and see three or four performances a year, usually having dinner at Six or some other place in Phoebus or downtown Hampton beforehand. These amenities actually help Hampton businesses which, in turn, help your tax base by keeping businesses thriving.

As a senior who enjoys playing at the tennis courts at Woodlands, I would agree to pay more to keep the tennis center open.

The recession will eventually end (we hope!). The city needs to consider delaying items that could reasonably be delayed until the economic outlook brightens. Even if

service reductions occur, they can always be re-evaluated when revenues improve. Maintaining core services like education and public safety should be the priorities.

use inmates or juveniles on probation/ community service to clean parking lots and maintain ditches through out the city

The tennis center is a good place for Hampton's youth and keeps them off the street.

City workers should contribute to their health care and retirement costs.

Be conservative on use of consultants and consulting fees. You have competent staff members who understand the challenges they are facing. Moderate tax increase. Small increases can be shared by all citizens and not be burdened. Plan realistic, attainable long range plans and encourage employees to 'buy' into their responsibility to help the City reach its goals.

It is very important to me that Sandy Bottom, particularly the Bark Park, continues to function as it does now, even if that means a higher annual fee for the Bark Park tags. This resource has been absolutely invaluable to myself and quite a few other dog owners. I also see so many people walking their dogs around the park as well as joggers and it seems to be the most used public park I have ever been to. I feel it is important to keep it that way.

Quit buying up property. The City should not be in the real estate business. Ya'll need to re-evaluate jobs. I've been to the DMV in the sargent building and there were five employees there. two were working the other were yapping in the back. The line was rather long. If they can stand around then maybe they don't need jobs. Tell the schools to cut back. Alot of money is wasted on schools. Lots of folks in the central office should be cut. Doing that would save a ton of money.

Sandy Bottom Nature Park is a public treasure of Hampton. Not only do families utilize the park for multiple recreational activities [we bring our dog for a walk many times per week], a number of faculty members at Christopher Newport University use the property to enhance the education of upper-level biology field courses [Herpetology, Entomology, and Ornithology].

Hampton is not a tourist destination. We need to quit wasting money trying to get people to vacation here. Focus the priorities on things that help our youth, our schools (which are doing poorly academically and physically) and train our parents.

Pick up bulk waster every other week, instead of every week.