

Local Government Review
City of Hamilton Study Commission

Citizen Input Form

SURVEY RESULTS

The green "Citizen Input Form" was sent to all voter households, along with the Tentative Report, following the public hearing of June 14th, 2005. The Hamilton City Study Commission is pleased to bring you the results of this survey. The participation was scant, but the information we obtained is valuable. We believe that the results are truly representative of a cross-section of Hamilton citizens. Most interesting of all was the fact that we can see how "divided" Hamilton really is on some issues. Even so, you can see for yourself what the majority of the responses agree on. Often, not all questions were answered on every form. The original surveys are available in the Study Commission office for public inspection.

While you cannot redact any information placed on the survey forms, please know that they are public information. Many of them are signed. They have now become public documents. If anyone contacts you regarding your answers, or harasses you because of something you wrote, please notify the Study Commission immediately. It is illegal, and is a serious crime in Montana, for anyone to threaten or cause fear in someone else. It is called "Intimidation" and is punishable by 10 years in prison, \$50,000 fine, or both. Bullies rely on their victims to shrink and cower when confronted. Don't let this happen. The Study Commission will take the appropriate legal action against anyone who uses this survey information to threaten or harass any citizen of Hamilton.

We would like to thank all the citizens who took the time to fill out the survey and return it back to us. Many comments were made for each question. We are including them here, both negative and positive.

Total Number of surveys sent 1432
Total Number of surveys returned 59
Percent of total sent 4%

1. In general, how responsive is your city's government to your needs?

Very responsive 3 Responsive 21 Not very responsive 18
No opinion, or don't know 14

Comments:

- I have had little contact with city government. An experience related to a building permit about 2 years ago was distasteful, but the official is no longer in the position.*
- Light pollution is terrible. Spoke with mayor, but he is no help at all.*
- Most have agenda for businessmen and developers – budget goes to downtown, highway area, and services expansion.*
- I have had a very positive experience with the public works and planning departments.*
- No opinion, but I've heard reports of citizens who needed government help and they*

- were treated with disrespect.*
- They spend allotted time bickering, with little time for "real" issues.*
- Major changes needed.*
- City government can only do so much. They try to help but have limited funding.*
- This city government is controlled and serves the interests of the developers and realtors. No concern for other's opinions.*
- The mayor is not very responsive.*
- All of my inquiries were promptly answered.*
- I think they do what they want to do, and to hell with what the citizens think.*

2. In general, how do you feel about the delivery of "city services" to the citizens of Hamilton?

Services are: Excellent 2 Very Good 13 Adequate 31 Poor 8

Comments:

- Not even sure what those "services" are.*
- Special development interests are favored; citizens short-changed.*
- They always look busy.*
- Good work by road department in the winter - snowplowing and sanding early in AM.*

3. In your opinion, is there a particular area, or department, within the City of Hamilton that needs improvement? Yes 41 No 5

If so, which one and why?

- Parks Dept – The director should have some courses in botany and wildlife. He sounds ignorant about overseeing a wildlife park. It's a disgrace what he has done to our River Park.*
- I'm in favor of less councilors not more. In my opinion, 3 councilors (one per ward) would be adequate for such a small population. I would favor 5 councilors rather than 7, as a compromise.*
- Public Works dept has too much power. Police Dept. should improve communication and report to the public.*
- A lot of the streets need a lot of improvement such as paving and curbs & gutters. Some need stop signs.*
- Mayor and council are functioning better, but can still improve.*
- I want the Study Commission to address failures in our court and recommend solutions. I want court officials to be responsive to citizen needs and answer inquiries. I want the court to follow the law to the letter and, if there is something wrong with the law, ask for changes. I want the Study Commission to address the timeliness problem and make suggestions for ways that can bring court dates within the acceptable three-week maximum.*
- Public Works caters to businesses, and skimps on planning and services.*
- The relationship between mayor and council members needs to be more productive. Too much energy is being expended while very little progress/action is taking place. Parks dept. doesn't impress me either.*
- Treasurer should be audited. Mayor should not preside over council meetings.*
- Police dept. should be citing more speeders.*
- Judicial and Police need work.*
- Finance & mayor mostly, but all depts. need improving. Need citizen involvement and communication.*
- Committees need objectivity, not personalities. Both mayor and councilors need to take a professional approach to their jobs.*

- We need a new mayor.
- Public Works – wasteful spending.
- They should mow from the sidewalk to the driveway. Weeds get so tall there.
- The mayor's office.
- Sidewalks – all areas for safe walking. Streets need improvement.
- Street department and potholes.
- Public Works and Office of Community Development.
- Have dealt with police who are too easily “put off”, and the officers do not know the regs. They seem unwilling to locate and share information.
- Most in need of change is Admin/Finance. Some changes needed in Parks, Public Works and legal. Police dept is generally OK. Fire dept. could be improved.
- City Council. We don't know who we are voting for. They should let us know how they stand on the issues. Some seem very liberal.
- Need to quit bickering in mindless power plays and get on with city business.
- Police should control traffic, speed, and noise violations. Need more attention to off main streets conditions.
- Chris Taggart is a horrible office manager in the annex.
- The city council needs to become professional. The public scraps are childlike.
- City Council –eliminate Bob Scott, terminate/muzzle the other guy. Too negative.
- Need “yield lights” and more lights at intersections. Get rid of junky places and weeds. Let's clean up the city.
- Maintenance dept. & housing code enforcement. Roads are in very bad shape, and there is very little pride in home ownership. Also need to take care of weeds.
- Police department – loses paperwork and complaints.
- Building inspector (moot, as we have a new one).
- City police need more mature officers, with more experience.
- Conflict of interest – why are realtors on the Planning Board? (Betty Lund & Others).
- Road department, because some of the county roads are so bad and not taken care of.

4. If you have had any dealings with the mayor, elected officials, or employees, how were you treated? Poor 13 Good 21 No contact 25

Comments:

- The mayor has a pathological need to be in control, especially if you don't agree with him.
- Mayor doesn't listen and is afraid to follow through because of his employment with private business. Some councilors GOOD, some not. Their mind is made up, and to heck with the public.
- City employees were professional and courteous.
- I stay away from them.
- Many citizens approached city council and mayor about plans for city parks. Mayor ignored us and we found him to be patronizing.
- City employees seem professional and considerate.
- Council doesn't listen.
- Treated “suboptimally”
- Dealings are erratic; employees are generally courteous, but information given can be wrong.
- I got my call answered quickly.
- I want city department heads to be available at a public event to explain their reticence

to properly assist your survey efforts. Obviously: If I, as a citizen, chose to ask the same questions in a one-on-one atmosphere, I would be treated as badly as you. I deserve a full, friendly explanation. Department heads have no right to refuse such an event because it is the same time that would be required of them in reporting to the mayor and council.

- I have always been dealt with fairly & courteously. It's a shame the council ran Mr. Lowry out of town.
- This mayor is a rude jerk and his cronies mimic this behavior.
- Everyone is on a power trip.
- Treated badly by Building Inspector.
- OK except for rudeness from George Corn.
- Mayor lies and is rude to citizens that attend CC meetings. Never listens to complaints

5. Do you know who the mayor of Hamilton is? Yes 48 No 6
Do you know who the 2 Councilors are for your Ward? Yes 33 No 22
Are you satisfied with their performance? Yes 20 No 24

Comments:

- LaSalle is worthless. The mayor is a nightmare.
- Was not available for an appointment and did not contact me when he could meet with me. Only interested in those who agree with him.
- Bob Scott has been disruptive and has contributed little of a positive nature.
- Keep citizens informed more.
- Perhaps shameful, but since the election(s) I have not observed city politics or newsworthy activities until this report.
- Never been told – get recording at city hall.
- All should get beyond the selfish motivation, and work for the betterment of Hamilton.
- They seem to play games with the administration, according to the newspaper.
- Mr. LaSalle does very well. Mr. Sutherland needs to go.
- The mayor and 3 council members should be removed.
- Robert Sutherland has his own agenda. He and Bob Scott think they can change everything.
- Mayor Joe is a good man. Good job.
- I am all for Joe Petrusaitis, Jerry Steele and Dayle Anderson. 100%
- Constant in-fighting reported in newspaper is unsatisfactory.
- Councilors should visit constituents in their areas.
- Don't know what they do for me.

6. Do you feel that the mayor should be the presiding officer of the City Council?

Yes 20 No 36

Why, or why not?

- As the elected leader of the citizens of Hamilton, the mayor should be able to exercise leadership duties such as presiding officer.
- Need checks & balances. Tie votes allow mayor to make policy decisions.
- Seems it doesn't work too well now.
- The Council should preside over its own meetings.
- The presiding officer at the council should be a council member and NOT the mayor.
- No, he is too autocratic and belligerent.
- No. Without having studied the "job descriptions" of each I see it as separation of legislative from executive functions in government.

- He has knowledge of all officials & workers – or should have.
- Yes, with explicit guidelines.
- He should not be a tie-breaker.
- The Commission raises a very interesting point regarding chief executive officer/ legislative branch interface. I would suggest the committee clarify structural options. What would the mayor's role be with the council? How would they work together in a separated structure?
- No true division of authority or responsibility. Too many arguments.
- Separation of powers.
- Absolutely not! Those should be separate branches of government. We need 7 councilors.
- Seems like it might be intimidating to the city council to have the mayor presiding or else he could slant the meeting to his agenda.
- I've always thought the mayor of any city ran the city.
- Mayor needs to be more accountable to the citizens of Hamilton
- Mayor does not know Robert's Rules, is obnoxious to citizens, butts in on legislative process.
- He is the one that is causing the majority of the problems with the councilors.
- If we retain 6 councilors, the result would be the same – dictatorial regime. The council chairman should be the presiding officer. Mayor can voice his opinion and suggest, but should not have veto power.
- No, he is given too much power. He repeatedly abuses this power.
- The present mayor seems dictatorially enuf!
- This is one way, but only one way among many, that the mayor exercises inappropriate control. Position of mayor is no longer needed.
- Mayor is elected by the "whole city". It is a good, "check & balance". Every organization & political group has an executive as its presiding officer.
- Any mayor is defined as the head of any council – by definition
- Need checks against each other.
- Division of power.
- The mayor is the mayor and needs to be involved.
- He is elected mayor not Tzar. He should not have the last word.
- Because he was elected to do so.
- The city council should direct the functioning of mayoral responsibilities.
- Citizens should have more control over what takes place in our city government.
- The president, or chairman, of the council should preside over the council.
- He has his own agenda, and not the city's.
- Conflict of Interest –No checks and balances.
- No, because it is a council. The presiding officer should be elected by the members.
- I don't see this current arrangement as "broke" as the city has proceeded well to my knowledge, up to the last 3 years. So I don't think it should be fixed.
- I feel that is his responsibility.
- Absolutely NOT. Isn't this obvious? GRIDLOCK and under the table deals!!

7. Do you believe that law enforcement in Hamilton is adequate? Yes 40

No 12.

Comments:

- I want the Police Department to undergo thorough investigation by the US Marshall's office at Fargo, ND. I want to know how I may file charges against the department if

- I do not get good explanations for illegal behavior.*
- Over-staffed*
 - Feel more cities can use more law enforcement.*
 - Could always be better.*
 - If they had more money, I'm sure they could always use more help.*
 - They need to be able to enforce laws and ordinances.*
 - Based on limited experience. Problems with illicit drugs and alcohol, and domestic violence abound.*
 - No experience with them.*
 - The Police Chief must report to the city council and not to the city attorney. There must never be direct connection between the two. The city attorney's office makes police look dishonest. Police officers are afraid to speak with me. I want to know why and I want the problem corrected immediately.*
 - Yes, but I wish they had more training. Their driving habits are deplorable, and they target problems that are minimal rather than important.*
 - Too many officers.*
 - Believe Chief Auch is interfered with, by mayor.*
 - They do not take care of people making U-turns on Main Street. Make bicycles obey the laws.*
 - No opinion, haven't required their services.*
 - Generally adequate, but police dept. could offer comment on city expansion.*
 - Our police force does a fine job. They could write more speeding tickets.*
 - Too many traffic violations not being caught.*
 - They're short handed but they do a good job.*
 - Citizens and visitors continually run stop signs & traffic lights.*
 - Illogical, secretive.*
 - Excellent.*
 - They should enforce speed limit on 1st & Main Street.*
 - Should be involved in solving hard/serious crimes, not just DUI and traffic offenses.*
 - Phil Meese! Good work!*
 - The police chief must handle department hiring, firing, training, and discipline without input of mayor or council. This is mandated by the fact that the chief must maintain a team atmosphere in which each officer may rely on the others in life-and-death situations.*
 - This is the wrong place to have the petty battles found elsewhere in Hamilton Government.*
 - They are an elite entity. Not responsive to the public. What is the function of the police commission? The Police Chief is invisible. Should report and attend council meetings, as other department heads do.*

8. Do you believe that maintenance of the streets and sidewalks in Hamilton is adequate:

Yes 19 No 34

Comments:

- Several streets (i.e. Franklin) & sidewalks need repair. The dip at Pine & 4th is bad too.*
- Extra mill levy not being used for sidewalks.*
- They have fixed a lot of sidewalks and paved streets.*
- Room for improvement.*
- Streets and sidewalks are a mess.*
- There are many areas that need improving.*

- Slow steady progress is needed, but I think it's fine to have bumpy streets, lack of sidewalks. Too many 4-way stop signs on south side of town. 15 mph speed limit is too slow. Changes made with apparent need/reason.
- Does not follow the HDR 5 yr./10 yr. Plan.
- Hamilton needs a citizen committee for street maintenance planning to work with the public works department to coordinate a plan and follow through. Now some OK – some terrible. Squeaky wheel gets the grease.
- The entire east side of the 700 block of N. Third Street is covered with weeds and refuse, making it hazardous and unsightly to use.
- There are needs, but perhaps budgetary limitations are a factor here.
- Incorrectly funded and managed. Inadequate resources available.
- They do the best with the money available. Sidewalks have vastly improved.
- Need to continue replacing old sidewalks. 600 block of S. 4th. Need to pave DeSmet between 2nd and 3rd.
- Look at the “off Main” conditions!
- The gutters in this town are gross. The streets need to be patched.
- Some have been fixed, but a lot more needs to be done. Fairgrounds Road needs fixing on the edges of pavement especially on the north side and coming on to Daly & Alice.
- Too many chuck holes.
- This crew seems competent.
- Spotty.
- Good progress on sidewalk repairs. A drive around the town should be done every intersection checked for visibility. Some stop signs are covered by tree limbs. Especially check the streets facing Main Street.
- “Adequate” means everything isn't perfect, but things are being done, as money becomes available.
- Sidewalks in bad shape – some streets getting worse.
- Look around!
- Sidewalks definitely need attention. Funny how recently – probably when homeowner complained, have they started to get after it.

9. I believe that our City Treasurer:

- a) should be elected by the citizens of Hamilton - 45
- b) should be appointed by the mayor - 9

Comments:

- Can be appointed or elected with an appropriate and adequate job description.
- Plenty of capable applicants for this position that are qualified Hamilton residents.
- Needs financial knowledge, experience, etc. Specific duties. Knowledge of grants and budgets. Reside in city and have own secretary or assistant. Be accessible to citizens. If, by law, we have to elect, should have more than minimum qualifications.
- Neither of the above. Treasurer should be a professional accountant hired by the city council.
- Appointed, if it is determined we need this position.
- The City Treasurer is responsible for overseeing a 6 million dollar budget. I believe this person should be highly qualified and possess the skills necessary to do the best for the residents of the city of Hamilton. The treasurer should not be appointed or elected. The treasurer should be hired.
- Maybe no one is qualified. How are citizens to know who to elect?

-The City Treasurer should be elected and work cooperatively with the mayor and department heads.

10. Do you feel that you are fully informed on the purpose of the Study Commission?

Yes 36 No 14

Comments:

- No, but this may be totally my fault. Perhaps a mailing should have been sent before the Commission began its work so citizens were informed. That mailing would have indicated how the Commission came to be and what charges were made to it and by whom.*
- It is my belief that this Tentative Report and the Minority Report are both after the fact reporting. There seems to have been a large lack of input from the citizens prior to writing these reports.*
- The Commission has done an excellent job, and I approve of their recommendations. This mayor has tried to destroy this city, and the changes are necessary regardless of who the mayor is.*
- I feel that the Study Commission should have dealt with the functions of the city divisions, not focused on its personalities.*
- Partially informed. What is Hamilton Cities position?*
- I feel the commission is not telling all and they are being childish by some of the things they put in this report*
- I am informed. I don't know if it's "fully", but certainly enough to vote.*
- Yes, but I wonder if the study commission is fully informed on their purpose.*
- Fairly well-informed.*
- It appears that people in government must have an ego problem in that they did not help when asked by the study commission.*
- Section II-A shows pettiness and lack of city employees faith in the commission.*
- This is somewhat ambiguous. What is its purpose?*
- I noticed in Missoula they brought I someone to lecture on "Charter Government." It seems like study commission should study different form of government more.*
- I'm not sure the study commission knows its purpose. Its 1st survey was very out of line. Study commission members seem more interest on suing the city than solving the problems of the taxpayers.*
- It's OK for department heads to squirm a bit. Not OK to ignore, tear-up, throw tantrums, over requested input.*
- Not sure, but I'm learning*
- Thanks for your extra effort to explain.*

11. What is your opinion of the enclosed Tentative Report prepared by the Study Commission?

- a) Very good - 17
- b) Good- 15
- c) OK- 11
- d) Not very good (if this is selected, how can we improve the report?) - 14

Comments:

-I feel that some of the commission members were in an adversarial position with the city to start with. (lawsuits). The fact that only 2 questionnaires were returned reflects on the commission than on city employees. I don't know who is to blame for the failure of the commission to meet as a whole, but it is inexcusable, and I have a hard

time accepting recommendations from a group that can't even bring all its members together.

-Thanks again for your magnificent work. I know it is hard and I know that every person wants something that he or she regards as good. I believe you are making excellent headway in the effort to eliminate animosity in city government. Please don't give up even though these look like very dark times.

-I would like to see a report that is not biased toward some of the people in the city government, no bitterness. It is very readable.

-The Study Commission has taken an approach to this review that is very different from what I expected.

-Biased and narrow scope. Shows lack of understanding of basic govt structure and duties.

-The Tentative Report provides some important information but also, reads like a negative performance evaluation of the current city government.

-It portrays significant and disturbing problems within our city government and within the study commission. The hostility described and minority report don't inspire confidence and clearly provide no grounds for action.

-Get more mature members on the commission.

-It is disappointing that you lack consensus on such obvious goals.

-Your polls and surveys mean nothing and are not the true voice of Hamilton.

-Redo the study omitting the personality influence and include the impact of the other 2.

-Take out the rant, and change the recommendations.

-Review your recommendations. Fully consider the options of Rothlisberger and Sanders.

-Looks like a lot of work. I think your scope should be narrowed.

-The city of Hamilton does not need a "charter government" or any "alternative form" of government. All city departments should report directly to the mayor. NO community council is needed. That is why we have the city council.

12. In your opinion, how much operational or supervisory control should the Administrative Assistant to the mayor have over city functions?

- a) should continue to run the city - 6
- b) should assist the mayor with no supervisory authority - 24
- c) should be secretarial in nature only - 19
- d) position should be abolished - 10
- e) no opinion - 0

Comments:

-Person not elected.

-The Administrative Asst. should be the mayor's administrative secretary –with hands on knowledge to communicate with the citizens in the absence of the mayor. A clerk is still needed.

-Please provide more information to citizens about the rational/pros/cons of an admin. asst. who has supervisory authority. Flush out how the Mayor's roll would change if the AA did not have authority. We will need this information to better understand your recommendations.

-If the mayor's position was full-time, and occupied by the "right" person, this position could be abolished. The mayor would, however, need appropriate secretarial assistance.

-When the mayor campaigns for office, he says all the things he would do if elected.

- I think he should do them himself, not give his authority to someone else. It isn't an easy job, but a fully informed mayor should have known that.*
- Hamilton should have an engineer to handle work jobs and be responsible to mayor and council.
 - I thought it WAS secretarial in nature.
 - Need better wording of choices. The above are inadequate and/or loading.
 - Should work under mayor's supervision.
 - This is a loaded question and is poorly written. The city needs a full-time supervisor.
 - The council should hire a city manager, and have the power to fire this individual for poor performance. Abolish the current position of mayor.
 - Mayor is the boss over the Admin Asst. I believe this is a state law to have an administrator?
 - Option A is a very biased assessment by your committee. The mayor and council run the city. The Admin Asst. just makes sure that the day to day functions are carried out..
 - If there is only a part-time mayor, someone has to be available to make daily decisions for efficient operations.
 - Until the pattern of bickering is ended, this position should do the work.
 - I would have chosen "a" but the wording is bad. It should say "should continue to help run the city. Badly chosen wording on commission part.
 - Part of the problem with this dictatorial mayor.
 - The title "admin asst" is given to typists and secretaries - just a nicer title for low pay.

13. What is your opinion on who in city government should have authority to hire and fire city employees?

- a) Mayor should hire and fire all, with no city council approval required - 9
- b) Mayor should hire and fire all, but city council approval is required - 32
- c) City council should only have authority to approve hiring department heads.- 15

14. Please check all the city issues below that you are concerned about:

<u>15</u>	RML BSL-4 Expansion	<u>28</u>	Utility rates
<u>29</u>	Unpaid RML water bill	<u>15</u>	City park maintenance
<u>24</u>	Sewer plant expansion	<u>10</u>	Cemetery maintenance cost
<u>22</u>	City debt	<u>39</u>	In-fighting of city officials
<u>30</u>	City budget, present & future	<u>26</u>	City tree maintenance
<u>45</u>	Impact of new developments	<u>23</u>	Water line repair policy

Other, please specify

- My #1 concern is all this annexation with such poor planning. This high-density approval is frightening. Not only for the esthetic value, but the stress on our sewer system, which is barely adequate now.
- Fireworks should be prohibited in city limits. City should be responsible for trees, water lines, and sewer lines on city property.
- At present, the homeowner is not playing on a level field with businesses and institutions. The mayor and the majority of councilors always side with business over residential interests. I vehemently oppose the fact that businesses and institutions are given preferential treatment. The double-standard has forced the homeowners to subsidize their utility costs. They (business) should be required to pay their fair share.
- Making changes within the city simply to qualify for federal funds is not OK

Not everything has to comply with ADA.

- Dissension surrounding city government appears to be caused by dishonesty. Remember that appearances are far more important than reality because appearance is the only tool we have to gauge the system.*
- If these are tended to with fairness, this is plenty to worry about.*
- There needs to be better communication with citizens.*
- Fire department response capability, police dept. effectiveness, city grant writing ability, employee morale, more specifics on what a charter form of govt would do for the citizens. The list goes on.*
- Schools, businesses. I know little of any of these, however, "in-fighting" among city officials is a destructive force that must be redirected to a cooperative force.*
- Please define "concerned". Positive about RML expansion, negative about cost to city residents.*
- Sidewalks and zoning.*
- All department heads should be required to reside inside the city limits of Hamilton.*
- New annexations do not pay their share to hook up to water & sewer system. Sewer rates are too high.*
- Sewer plant expansion should be voted on by residents. Parks & cemetery should be contracted out. Developers should pay impact fees.*
- Plans for the obvious expansion and growth of Hamilton. How will Hamilton accommodate this growth?*
- Failure of the city to improve the welfare of the citizens.*
- Your fight with Sanders and Rothlisberger. They seem most qualified to be on commission.*
- The amount of influence wielded by a handful of people along with the mayor.*
- If the rest of us have to pay for all of our water, why shouldn't RML. Water rates are unfair. Why are we charged extra for sewer in the summer months when the water is going on the lawns and NOT INTO THE SEWER. We need a leash law in all subdivisions.*
- I oppose the expansion of our sewage treatment plant. Once again, business interests get their way.*
- Lying in the city attorney's office.*
- How does RML get away with this (...water bill)*
- Mill levy, taxes, and proper notification of voting on such issues in advance. (no more end runs).*
- No sewer plant expansion unless developers pay for it.*
- Fireworks ordinance – 3 days only, and on New Years. No fireworks in city limits over 8 ft. high, or in designated areas only.*

15. Is there anything else you would like the Study Commission to know?

- I see a lot of study and time in your work and I appreciate it. We agree to have 7 councilors and one elected at-large. We think the 7th councilor would take care of the community council. My experience with advisory boards is a lot of hard work and personal expense – very little use.*
- Thanks a lot for the time and energy on this and secondly for taking the abuse, etc. that you have in the process.*
- Monthly compensation payments for councilors. Incumbents should not have the power to vote themselves a raise. The present method seems unethical to me.*
- I'm extremely biased about most of council and mayor. I want to toss the mayor and*

- his appointives out of office plus 4 councilors. Scott & Sutherland are worth their salt. I support their fairness and honesty.*
- Try to put the best interests of all citizens into your future efforts.*
 - Too much changing of ordinances, i.e. exceptions, variances, etc. granted for big projects.*
 - I do not think citizens need a Community Council. Let individuals speak for themselves. Keep meetings open and insist that public comments are welcome.*
 - Thanks for taking on a controversial job. You GO!*
 - According to the report, the city is being run illegally. That should change immediately.*
 - What is all the fighting in the city government and study commission about? It seems to be just over who has power! Do you know we citizens laugh at you for what appears to be your immaturity?*
 - No commission member should be involved in a lawsuit with the city government.*
 - I'm for the election of the Financial Officer.*
 - I appreciate their candor and willingness to face the adversity resulting from creation of this effort.*
 - The citizens of Hamilton should have been given an opportunity to vote (up or down) on the Level 4 expansion of the RML. I have a hunch it never would have been approved.*
 - I want to know why there is such a lack of variations to the alternative proposed? Also, why is it that this study commission thinks it can alleviate problems within the City government when it can't even come to a consensus amongst its own members?*
 - We need more information.*
 - It is essential that the commissioners show a willingness to compromise. Otherwise, their efforts are wasted. Stop in-fighting among commissioners.*
 - I think you are rushing your report. I understand a charter form of government would allow Hamilton to help purchase power company lines and power. This would be owned by all Montana cities (Missoulian). Please take the time to consider a charter form of government.*
 - The city has run just fine over the past several years. Bob & Bob must go. The study commission should work on solving the problems of the city and quit trying to extort money from the city. The proceedings the past few years by the council and certain members of the study commission have been an embarrassment for the city. I doubt that anything I write will be seriously considered by the commission and you will slant the result.*
 - Keep up the good work!*
 - You are retaliated against opposing this mayor and his cohorts in business. This administration is a disgrace to all.*
 - What did this cost? Accomplish - was it really necessary - Bob Frost - who owns you.*
 - Excellent Report. Thank you for your work.*
 - Clean up the city.*
 - Nepotism and favoritism run rampant! City council should be the authority over all. (and reduce salaries!)*
 - I would like to be proud of my city, but at the present time I feel embarrassed to have my family visit Hamilton.*
 - The commission appears to have an agenda and wants all the power in their own hands.*
 - I will write you separately.*
 - It would have been useful to know what the questionnaire that was sent to city employees contained, since it caused such an adverse reaction.*
 - There has been nothing wrong with our city government. Has been fine the past 10*

years. It's only all of you for your own benefit, that are trying to change it that I have a problem with. It's all of you who are ruining our city.

-Yes, I believe if you all can't work as professionals, then we need to elect or hire professionals and the rest of you need to go.

-The answer to a question: Why have community councils, which are authorized by statute, never been implemented?

-Thank you to the Commission for all your volunteer labor. You've been very generous with your time and thoughtfulness.

-I think the realtors/builders of subdivisions have way too much influence.

-Full accountability of expenditure of funds. Approval process in place for expenditure of funds for other than routine expenses. Frankly, I am appalled by how this city conducts itself. Additionally, I find it to be quite embarrassing.

-Thank you for requesting this feedback.

-Thanks for your Tentative Report received June 27, 2005, and for the tremendous amount of work it represents.

End of Survey.

To all citizens who participated, you have our thanks and appreciation. To those citizens who read this, know that we take each and every comment very seriously. We will make every effort to answer the questions posed to us herein. To each city official or department mentioned in the comments, we hope you have found this survey to be as informative and humbling as we have. If changes are required, we expect you to make them.

Signed and submitted by the officers of the Hamilton City Study Commission this 16th Day of August, 2005.



Bob Frost, Chairman



Ellen Prosser, Vice-Chairman

