By Jan Schultz
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Response has been very good so far in the return of a community attitude survey about city services and suggestions for the future.

In a report to the city council Monday night, City Economic Development Director Leslie Carlholm said more than 70 had been turned in last week. Deadline for return is Monday, Feb. 16.

The surveys were included in last month’s utility bills, and about 650 to 700 were sent out, according to City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland. City officials are hoping for at least a 30 percent return.

Included in the survey are questions on housing, city services, recreational opportunities and the availability of goods and services in Imperial. Residents can also rate the school and health care services.

Utility customers who answer all of the survey questions will receive a $5 discount on their February bills, Leyland said, as an incentive to return them. All those who do so will also be entered in a drawing for $50 in Chamber Bucks.

Carlholm is reviewing the responses and compiling them for use in developing the city’s Strategic Plan for the next several years.

Once the responses are compiled, community meetings will be held in March and April as the city moves forward in developing the Strategic Plan.

Carlholm said three community meetings are scheduled on March 11, April 1 and April 15, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. each day.

During the meetings, survey results will be reviewed, needs prioritized, brainstorming will be held for solutions, then an action plan will be formulated.

Some of the improvements in Imperial since the last Strategic Plan, city officials noted, have included construction of the new swimming pool, the new Alco store, upgrading of the storm sewer system on Broadway and 9th St., and new downtown sidewalks.

Another is implementation of the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Housing Program, which is making energy-efficient improvements to homes whose owners who qualified based on income.