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Citrus Heights Area Seven-Eight-Nine

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Minutes – July 21, 2026

1. Welcome

Bill Shirley called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. He recognized first-time visitors, introduced guests, and noted that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed with the meeting agenda. A change in the evening's agenda was announced regarding the scheduled presentation by PAL (Police Activities League), which was postponed to a future meeting.

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2. City Council Update

Presenter: Mayor Marijane Lopez-Taff

Mayor Lopez-Taff provided an update on recent City Council actions and emphasized her role in representing the interests of the district while making decisions for the benefit of the entire City.

Police Labor Agreement

The Mayor summarized the recently approved police labor agreement and explained that:

- The City completed a compensation study comparing Citrus Heights with neighboring jurisdictions.
- The goal was to bring police compensation to within approximately 5% of the regional median.
- The City Council sought to remain fiscally responsible while maintaining competitive compensation.
- The City remains committed to balanced budgets and avoiding long-term structural deficits.

The Mayor emphasized that the recent staffing changes should **not** be interpreted as reducing the City's commitment to public safety.

Questions from Attendees

Residents asked questions regarding:

- Elimination of the motorcycle traffic unit.
- Whether officers had been laid off.
- Continued use of red-light cameras.
- Future traffic enforcement.

The Mayor clarified that:

- Motorcycle officers were reassigned to patrol duties.
- Officers were not terminated as part of these changes.
- Red-light camera enforcement continues under the existing contract.

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3. Police Department Reorganization

Presenters:

- Ash Feeney, City Manager
- Chief Alex Turcotte, Citrus Heights Police Department

Financial Overview

The City Manager explained the financial conditions leading to the reorganization.
Key factors included:

- Slower than anticipated sales tax growth.
- Relatively flat property tax revenues.
- Rising employee compensation costs.
- Maintaining the City's required financial reserves.
- Avoiding future structural budget deficits.

City leadership determined that organizational restructuring was necessary to maintain fiscal stability while preserving essential public safety services.

Organizational Changes

The following changes were implemented:

- Three mid-level management positions eliminated through reorganization.
- Animal Services transferred to General Services.
- Motorcycle Traffic Unit dissolved.
- Four traffic officers reassigned to patrol.
- One traffic sergeant reassigned to patrol.
- Future elimination of one lieutenant position through attrition.

In total, nine positions will ultimately be removed from the City's staffing model through reassignment and attrition.

Core Services vs. Enhanced Services

City officials distinguished between:

Core Services

- Emergency response
- Patrol operations
- Investigations
- Public safety response

Enhanced Services

- Dedicated motorcycle traffic enforcement

Officials explained that preserving patrol staffing was considered the highest operational priority.

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4. Police Chief's Operational Update

Chief Turcotte discussed how the reorganization would affect police operations.
Key points included:

- Patrol staffing remains fully intact.
- Experienced traffic officers have been reassigned to patrol, strengthening patrol operations.

- Patrol officers will continue conducting traffic enforcement.
- Traffic safety remains a department priority.

Major Accident Investigations

Although the dedicated traffic unit has been eliminated, the department will maintain accident reconstruction capability through a newly organized **Major Accident Investigation Team** composed of specially trained officers assigned throughout the department.

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5. Questions and Discussion

Staffing Decisions

Residents asked whether the eliminated positions indicated they had been unnecessary.

The City Manager responded that:

- The positions were valuable.
- Budget realities required organizational restructuring.
- The changes were based on financial sustainability rather than a lack of need.

Traffic Enforcement

Questions were raised regarding:

- Reduced motorcycle enforcement.
- Citation revenue.
- Special event traffic control.

The Police Chief explained:

- Traffic citations have never been intended as a revenue source.
- Citation revenue does not offset the cost of operating the motorcycle unit.
- Patrol officers will continue proactive traffic enforcement.
- Special events will continue to receive traffic management through other operational resources.

Crime Statistics

Officials reported that:

- Citrus Heights recorded its lowest crime rate since incorporation.
- Success was attributed to community policing, proactive enforcement, beautification efforts, and specialized investigative units.

Economic Development

Updates included:

- Continued progress on the Sunrise Mall redevelopment.
- Execution of a purchase agreement for the proposed sports complex project.
- New commercial businesses locating within the City.

Officials noted these projects are expected to strengthen future revenues but will not immediately eliminate current budget challenges.

Fourth of July Fireworks Enforcement

The Police Department reported:

- A noticeable reduction in fireworks-related calls.
- Drone enforcement continues to be effective.

- A complete enforcement report will be presented to the City Council in August.

Future Staffing

Officials acknowledged anticipated retirements over the coming years and stated that future hiring will occur to maintain essential staffing levels, except for positions eliminated as part of the current reorganization.

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6. Announcements

Bill Shirley announced upcoming Neighborhood Association activities.

National Night Out

Date: August 4

Planned activities include:

- Community gathering
- Hot dogs and refreshments
- Leatherby's ice cream
- Grocery Outlet prize wheel
- Bounce house
- Citrus Heights Marching Band
- Volunteer opportunities for event setup and cleanup

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