

**CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
Special/Regular Meeting of Thursday, July 23, 2020
Virtually from the City Hall Council Chambers
6360 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA**

CALL SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Slowey.

1. Roll Call: Council Members present: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
Council Member absent: None
Staff present: Blomquist, Boyd, Jones, Van and department directors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STUDY SESSION

2. Carriage Drive/Lauppe Lane Safe Schools Corridor Plan
STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL: Improve Streets and Infrastructure

City Engineer Blomquist stated the presentation will cover the project background and goals, project schedule, comments from the public, proposed improvements and alternatives, and the next steps. The plan that is being developed is looking at traffic safety and operational improvements both on the public streets and within the parking lots. This project was initiated based on years of feedback and concerns from residents, neighbors and school representatives. The corridor is home to three schools with students ranging from kindergarten to high school. The needs along this corridor were previously identified in both the City's Walkability Master Plan and Bike Plan. In 2018, the City applied for and were awarded a grant from CalTrans to develop this Safe Schools Corridor Plan.

Libby Nachman, with Alta Planning and Design provided an overview of the community outreach efforts that included 224 participants. Key issues identified in the first round of outreach included safety for people biking and walking, vehicle traffic patterns, behavior of people walking, speed, and visibility at Lauppe Lane and the crosswalk. She provided an overview of the proposed improvements for Council discussion. They are proposing two circular intersections at Carriage Dr. / Kanai Ave. and Carriage Dr. / Pratt Ave. to help regulate traffic through intersections, reduce speed and allow for safe and predictable U-turns. The second proposed improvement is a raised roadway at the Lauppe Lane curve to reduce speed through the roadway and encouraging drivers to yield to pedestrians.

Council Member comments and questions followed.

Libby Nachman, with Alta Planning and Design presented their proposed design for Carriage Drive from Kanai Ave. to Auburn Blvd. The first alternative is to slightly widen the bicycle lanes in each direction, which would result in driving and parking lanes being slightly narrowed. The second alternative is to slightly widen the bike lanes and significantly widen the sidewalk on the east side,

which would result in driving lanes being slightly narrowed and on-street parking on the east side removed.

Council Member comments and questions followed. The majority of Council Members preferred the first alternative design for Carriage Drive.

Libby Nachman, with Alta Planning and Design presented their proposed design for Lauppe Lane from Antelope Rd. to Pratt Ave. The first alternative is to add bicycle lanes in each direction. The sidewalk would be narrower in some portions and wider in others. Parking would be removed on the west side north of Oak Grove Estates and maintained south of Oak Grove Estates. The second alternative maintains both driving lanes and parking lanes. It adds a shared use path that can be used both by people walking and bicycling to the west side of the street.

Council Member comments and questions followed. The majority of Council Members preferred the second alternative design for Lauppe Lane.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Slowey adjourned the special meeting at 6:42 p.m.

CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Slowey.

1. The Flag Salute was led by Mayor Slowey.
2. Roll Call: Council Members present: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
Council Members absent: None
Staff present: Blomquist, Boyd, Cave, Lawrence, Flores, Huber, Jones, Van and department directors.
3. The video statement was read by City Clerk Van.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND REGIONAL BOARD UPDATES

Council Member Middleton did not have anything to report.

Council Member Bruins provided a report from the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento Area Sewer District.

Council Member Daniels did not have anything to report.

Vice Mayor Miller did not have anything to report.

Mayor Slowey did not have anything to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brandon Herron shared how the Citrus Heights Explorer Program has helped him further his career in law enforcement.

City Clerk Van read the following public comment from David Warren, “The most significant danger to our community is not fiscal insolvency, drunk drivers or gang violence, as confirmed by the fact that nine Citrus Heights residents have died from Covid-19, more than as a result of drunk drivers or gun violence this year. It is because no one can see infected asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individuals who refuse common sense protective measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, such individuals who attend church services in defiance of the Governor’s Executive order. The CHPD has published that it will not proactively enforce the Governor’s Executive order requiring all individuals wear face coverings in public and not congregate for such activities as church services. As a consequence, individuals and groups have flaunted their refusal to wear face coverings. Worse yet, the City Council, unlike other major municipalities across the country, has refused to place a mandatory face covering ordinance for consideration on the City’s agenda. I spoke with a business owner who called the CHPD for help ejecting an individual who demanded entry but refused to wear a mask. The CHPD responded two hours later, making the call for assistance useless. In that both the City Hall and the CHPD have closed access to their offices to the public, you have recognized the threat caused by individuals who are vectors. Now that President has joined public health officials advocating the use of masks, I ask the City Council answer one question, why hasn’t the City adopted enforcement of Governor Newsom’s Executive order?”

REGULAR CALENDAR

4. **SUBJECT:** Initiate Proceedings for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Annual Update Landscape Maintenance Assessment Districts 98-01, 98-02 (Zones 1 & 2), and 03-01 (Zones 1 & 2)
STAFF REPORT: S. Hodgkins / A. Flores
RECOMMENDATION: The Following is Recommended:
 - a. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-071, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 98-01
 - b. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-072, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 98-02, Zones 1, 2, and 3
 - c. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-073, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 03-01, Zones 1 and 2

- d. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-074, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 98-01
- e. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-075, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 98-02, Zones 1, 2 and 3
- f. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-076, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 03-01, Zones 1 and 2

Associate Civil Engineer Flores reported pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, each year the City must update the assessments for its various landscape maintenance assessment districts. This is the first of a two-step process needed for the annual update for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Staff recommends City Council approve the resolutions that will initiate the proceedings and adopt a resolution for the intent to levy the 2020-21 assessments for landscaping maintenance assessment districts 97-01, 98-01, 98-02 and 03-01. This resolution will also set the required public hearing date for the City Council meeting scheduled on August 13, 2020.

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Middleton, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-071, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 98-01.

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Miller, seconded by Council Member Bruins, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-072, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 98-02, Zones 1, 2, and 3.

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Bruins, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-073, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 03-01, Zones 1 and 2.

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Middleton, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-074, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 98-01

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Bruins, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-075, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 98-02, Zones 1, 2 and 3.

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Bruins, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-076, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 03-01, Zones 1 and 2.

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

5. **SUBJECT:** Initiate Proceedings for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Annual Update for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District 97-01 (Zones 1, 2, 3, and 4)

STAFF REPORT: S. Hodgkins / A. Flores

RECOMMENDATION: The Following is Recommended:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-077, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 97-01 (Zones 1, 2, 3, and 4)
- b. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-078, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 97-01 (Zones 1, 2, 3, and 4)

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Middleton, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-077, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 97-01 (Zones 1, 2, 3, and 4).

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Middleton, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-078, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Landscape Maintenance Assessment District No. 97-01 (Zones 1, 2, 3, and 4).

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

6. **SUBJECT:** Citrus Heights Lighting Assessment District Initiate Proceedings for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Annual Update

STAFF REPORT: S. Hodgkins / L. Blomquist

RECOMMENDATION: The Following is Recommended:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-079, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for the Citrus Heights Lighting District
- b. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-080, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for the Citrus Heights Lighting District

City Engineer Blomquist reported the City is required each year to update the assessments for the Citrus Heights Lighting District. The Citrus Heights Lighting District includes all parcels in the City and funds the operation and maintenance of the City's 4,678 street and safety lights. No changes are recommended to the assessment rates in conjunction with the annual update; however, over the past fiscal year new streetlights and infrastructure have been installed as part of the various capital improvement projects. Staff has updated the assessments for several individual parcels that are now benefitting from the newly installed streetlights. The first action for your consideration is to adopt the resolution to initiate proceedings pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972. The second action is to adopt a resolution of intention to levy and collect the assessments for Fiscal Year 2020-21, and setting the public hearing for August 13, 2020.

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Daniels, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-079, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, to Initiate Proceedings Pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 for the Citrus Heights Lighting District.

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

ACTION: On a motion by Vice Mayor Miller, seconded by Council Member Bruins, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-080, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus

Heights, California, for the Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for the Citrus Heights Lighting District.

AYES: Bruins, Daniels, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None

7. **SUBJECT:** Resolution to Submit a Transactions and Use Tax (“Sales Tax”) Measure to the Voters at the November 3, 2020 Election and Take Certain Related Actions and Introduction of the Sales Tax Ordinance

STAFF REPORT: C. Boyd

RECOMMENDATION: The following is recommended:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-081, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, Submitting a Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax Measure to the Voters at the November 3, 2020 General Municipal Election and Taking Certain Related Actions
- b. Introduce and waive the first reading of Ordinance No. 2020-006, An Ordinance of the City Council and the People of the City of Citrus Heights, California Adding Article VI (Transactions and Use Tax) to Chapter 86 of the Citrus Heights Municipal Code

City Manager Boyd stated tonight’s presentation is the culmination of the City’s largest survey effort and sincere dedication to our guiding principles of fiscal prudence, government transparency, and local control. He read a summary of the measure: “To provide and preserve services valued by Citrus Heights residents, the City of Citrus Heights is submitting a transactions and use (sales) tax measure to the voters proposing a 1¢ sales tax generating about \$12 million dollars annually, with independent annual audits and citizen oversight, and all funds spent in Citrus Heights. If approved, funds generated by additional local revenue will be used to protect local control of funding that cannot be taken by the State and maintain vital City services the community has identified as priorities such as emergency response and preparedness, public safety, homelessness prevention, and supporting local business and job creation among others.” Staff will present the results of the largest engagement effort in the City’s history, which has provided extremely crucial insight and guided tonight’s resolution. Council will recall that since adopting a two-year budget for the City in June 2019, staff have given multiple finance committee updates, presented a Mid-Year Budget Review, hosted a preliminary COVID-19 budget debrief, and most recently, presented our updated Mid-Cycle Budget Review and 10 year financial forecast. During the budget presentation last month, staff outlined the estimated economic impacts of a single wave of COVID-19 and its associated health orders, including decreased sales tax revenue and increased expenditures for the City. Staff presented a new estimated budget deficit for Fiscal Year 20/21 of about \$2.2 million, after the already approved draw from the City’s line of credit. Before COVID-19, City staff implemented measures to reduce expenses for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 resulting in \$1 million in savings. That savings has been critical during our resilience through COVID-19, but at the same time, it means we were already running on a very lean budget. Unlike other Cities in California, Citrus Heights does not have peripheral programming and associated staff to cut for further savings. Staff did not recommend an increase in the draw from the City’s Line of Credit, despite the COVID-19 related budget setbacks. Since the City’s incorporation, we have known that there would

be a period when our expenditures would be higher than our revenues, primarily because of the property tax agreement required by the County to allow our City to incorporate and initiate local control in Citrus Heights. As Council will recall, we are forecasting revenue shortfalls for eight of the next 10 years, and this forecast is based on just one wave of COVID-19, a significant draw-down of reserves to the point of depletion, and under-funding of capital needs. This forecast eventually includes the receiving of property tax revenue, but that it is counteracted by our Line of Credit payoffs. It is important to note that cities our size have been left out of all three COVID-19 related stimulus packages passed at the Federal level, and our State has an estimated \$54 billion deficit. Citrus Heights cannot count on State or Federal funding to adequately address our needs. We are committed to keeping both our City Council as well as the community informed, and last month's budget update message, is just one example of this transparency. With limited resources, it is more crucial than ever that we ensure the City's goals are aligned with resident needs. Under Council's direction, staff initiated the largest engagement effort in Citrus Heights' history to gauge community priorities.

Economic Development and Communications Manager Huber stated in March 2019, the City Council set a strategic planning goal directing staff to "Identify and launch an initial outreach process to gauge community priorities for maintaining essential services and fiscal stability." An engagement effort to gauge community priorities was launched in June 2019, and distributed via the City's website, email, social media, and by phone, mail, and in-person engagement. At an October 2019 strategic planning meeting a goal was set directing staff to "Expand and further localize a community outreach process to continue gauging community priorities and gather community feedback for maintaining essential services, local control, and fiscal stability, and present the results to the City Council." In 2020, we have continued our outreach efforts and adapted our community engagement when COVID-19 hit in March. Tonight, we will be presenting the third-party public opinion research that was conducted recently. Our communications efforts resulted in over 1,700 completed Community Feedback Forms, which asked our community members to rank priorities from most important to least.

Chief of Police Lawrence stated programs such as our Domestic Violence Response Team, our Mobile Crisis Support Team, and our homeless Navigator program, have all proven to be wildly successful partnerships to improve Citrus Heights. These programs help us mitigate mental-health related calls to police, and reduce the long-term impacts of domestic violence through personalized case management with survivors and families. Our most publicly visible advocacy efforts is our Navigator program, which has housed 311 homeless people in the past two years. This has helped to not only get them in a safe and more hospitable place to live, but also providing them access to appropriate programs such as mental health services, drug and alcohol dependency programs, job skills and access to benefits to help them live healthy and productive lives. Because of focused efforts that local control of government and policing delivers, since 2007, CHPD has significantly lowered crime in Citrus Heights by nearly 39%, and we have driven down traffic collisions through education, awareness and enforcement by an amazing 33%. In the past three and a half years alone, since 2017, we have been successful at lowering overall crime by 18%, despite exhaustive challenges brought on by outside influences and changing State laws. Between 2018 and 2019, we decreased violent crimes, even with very limited resources, by innovation and working strategically. But with violent crime increasing in many communities throughout our state and nation, current resources are not sufficient for the current and future challenges we face to keep Citrus Heights safe. Your police department has always embraced technology and we take a forward-thinking and innovative approach to policing, which keeps our department at the forefront of cutting-edge

innovation in the policing profession. Our Small Unmanned Aerial Systems allow us to rapidly deploy high-view aerial intelligence gathering on critical incidents. Our highly successful BAIT program helped us to capture 158 felony thieves in the past two years, holding criminals accountable and reducing crime in our city. In addition to providing core police services, such as emergency preparedness, crime prevention, and response to emergencies, the Citrus Heights police culture has always been one of personal and caring service, implementing meaningful programs that make the quality of life in our community better by impacting lives in positive ways. We have programs such as Shop with a Cop, Holiday Referral Program, Police Activities League, Police Explorers, Youth Internships, Volunteer Program, High-School Pathway Program, Rental Housing Inspection Unit, Citizens' Police Academy, Youth Diversion, Shopping Cart Recovery Team, Project Life-Saver, and many others. The Police Department currently faces many unique and unprecedented obstacles in the near-term, and the long-term; making the current funding model for police services not sustainable. The pandemic, as well as recent civil unrest has caused staffing and resource impacts, adding to our challenge of recruitment and retention efforts. In these current times, we are experiencing extraordinary challenges finding qualified applicants who want to get into police work, and our police department experiences an even greater challenge when employees retire, or leave for other law enforcement agencies. We take great care at being a transparent organization, and would prefer to meet contemporary expectations by having our officers outfitted with Body Worn Camera technology. But the exorbitant cost, estimated at nearly \$450,000-\$500,000 annually, is simply a cost we cannot afford without making significant cuts elsewhere in the police department. The Police Department is facing a projected revenue shortfall of \$1.6 million dollars. To address this, we currently have 17 vacant positions frozen as of April of this year. Six of those positions are police officers, two positions are from our 911 Center, and the remaining are crucial professional support staff. These positions will likely remain unfilled through June of 2021, and longer if alternative funding sources are not achieved.

Operations Manager Cave stated in April staff presented an update on the City's Pavement Management System, which was a summary and report on the state of road repair in our City. The efforts behind that report began in September 2019 with the help of NCE and included hands on, in-the-field evaluation of every single publicly maintained street in the city. The data from the Pavement Management System Update shows that our roads are in need of a significant investment. We are averaging a score of 53 out of 100, which is just three points above the "poor" level of industry standards. The current budget allows for only \$2.1 million to be spent a year on paving our roads. The deferred maintenance needs are estimated to be \$54 million. At current spending levels our grade of 53, which is already below industry standards declines to 35, which is "Poor" by 2029.

Economic Development and Communications Manager Huber provided an overview of the City's COVID response efforts.

Emily Goodwin with EMC Research provided a report on the recently completed independent public opinion research. Their firm conducted a survey June 24 to July 1, 2020. They conducted 404 live telephone interviews. Some key findings of the survey include voters feel positively about life in Citrus Heights, the direction the City is heading, and the job the City is doing overall. Homelessness and poverty are top concerns among voters. A majority of likely voters believe the City has a need for additional funding. Support today for a potential general purpose local funding measure is above the simple majority threshold needed for passage. When we share additional information about the measure and what it could potentially pay for we see that support for the measure solidifies. Fifty-eight percent of voters say that the City is headed in the right direction.

When they ask voters about most important problems, we see homelessness and poverty are the top mentions. We asked respondents to rate the City and overall, quality of City services, the job the City is doing overall, and the overall safety of the city received overwhelmingly positive ratings on a variety of issues with a net positive of 56 percentage points. Looking at some voter priorities we read a list of things that are going on, and we see that 88% believe keeping Citrus Heights city government transparent and accountable as a high priority. Eighty-six percent of voters prioritized maintaining 911 emergency response and police services as a high priority. Improving public safety and transparency with technology including police body cameras 81% of voters prioritized that. Maintaining emergency communications systems, supporting local business and job creation, attracting and retaining local businesses, and keeping public spaces safe and clean, and maintaining essential city services all a high priority for voters. We asked voters whether there is a perceived need for funding and 55% say the City has at least some need for additional funding. Looking at reaction to a potential measure, we presented a hypothetical local funding measure questions and initial support for a potential measure is at 66% voting yes. When we asked voters again after we provided some additional information as well as the list of things that the measure could potentially pay for we see support of 71% voting yes after additional information.

City Attorney Jones explained the legal process for approval of the measure language, submittal of arguments in favor of or against, a 10-day calendar review period, the City Attorney's impartial Analysis, and the resolution and ordinance submitting the measure to the voters at the November 3, 2020 Election.

City Manager Boyd stated staff is recommending the City Council adopt a resolution submitting a Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax Measure to the voters at the November 3, 2020 General Municipal Election and taking certain related action. Also, to introduce and waive the first reading of an Ordinance of the City Council and the People of the City of Citrus Heights, adding Article VI (Transactions and Use Tax) to Chapter 86 of the Citrus Heights Municipal Code.

Public Comment

Diane Ebbitt-Riehle spoke in support of the proposed tax measure.

Kermit Schayltz spoke in support of the proposed tax measure.

Jillayne Antoon spoke in support of the proposed tax measure.

Bill Van Duker spoke in support of the proposed tax measure.

Albert Fox spoke in support of the proposed tax measure.

Kendahl Smallwood spoke in support of the Citrus Heights Police Department's youth programs.

Tim Schaefer spoke in opposition of the proposed tax measure.

Bruce Lee, President of the Sacramento Taxpayers Association expressed concern regarding the forever term of the proposed tax. He stated a survey of 404 people out of 88,000 is less than one-half of a percent. He said sales taxes are regressive in nature. He urged Council to consider these concerns.

Danielle Casey spoke in support of the proposed tax measure.

City Clerk Van read the following public comment from Joseph Solinsky, “Austerity is the better tool to address budget shortfalls when people are unemployed, not the hardship of additional expense. Delay improvements, wage increases, and capital expenditures. Don’t drive shoppers outside our small city for already slow commerce in 2020.”

City Clerk Van read the following public comment from David Warren, “I speak in opposition to the tax proposal, not because the City does not need more revenue to fund essential services, but instead because at this time the proposed sales tax makes no sense. A sales tax is a regressive tax because it takes a larger percentage of income from low-income earners than from high-income earners. A sales tax has its most significant impact on hourly employees or self-employed individuals who are now most negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in light of the Senate Republican’s refusal to continue the \$600.00 per week unemployment benefit. Please answer the question, with mandatory business shut down orders, where will people be making purchases which will generate sales tax revenue? A cursory examination of the both pandemic spread forecasts as well as the history of business closures here due to Covid-19 make it clear that there will be insufficient sales to generate any significant tax revenue, as with the gasoline tax for road repairs, until such time as a vaccine is available, which at best will not occur for at least next year. Finally, which magnanimous voters does the City Council believe will vote to support a tax increase during a period of such economic instability? Before costs are incurred, the City must determine whether the voters would support a tax increase when the majority of City residents are wage insecure. Although new revenue is necessary, the proposal is doomed to failure and is a waste of municipal resources.”

City Clerk Van read the following public comment from Bill and Kathy Cook, “Bill and I both support this increase. There will be talk about this increase, but if Citrus Heights residents think about what our City represents to us. We want the City to Be Clean, Safe and Proud to be living here. But this takes money. With the Sunrise Mall down, and this crazy Virus, businesses are closing and money is getting tighter. So where are we going to get the money, to keep improving the roads in our City. With Antelope, Greenback Lane, Auburn Blvd, and Sunrise Blvd, with new landscape, center island, weeds that need attention and no money coming in, weeds are getting taller, and this is Welcome Sign to Citrus Heights? We’re wanting them to come SHOP HERE, show where are Tax Dollars are going. Again, we just want our City to be the City that the Community is Very PROUD OF and GLAD WE’RE LIVING HERE.”

City Clerk Van read the following public comment from Rosa Umbach, “ There are so many reasons that I oppose this proposed tax increase for the following reasons:

- Business closure & reduction access & hours;
- Job loss has affected all our community;
- Family Stress due to isolation and job loss, causing an inability for some families to pay rent or mortgage, including the closure of day care & schools; and,
- Additional costs associated with masks, from finding them to purchasing them to new health issues caused by wearing them.

Our community cannot take another financial hit now, it’s just the wrong time.”

City Clerk Van read the following public comment from David S. Kasperik, CPA, CGMA, “I strongly oppose the submission of a sales and use tax measure for the November 3, 2020 general municipal election and all related actions. Now is not the time to increase taxes. With the 25-year annual property tax payment to Sacramento County that began in 1996 almost complete, the City needs to show its proper stewardship of those individual funds before asking for more from its citizens.”

City Clerk Van read the following public comment from Oleg Shishko, “Thank you for the work that you do! I would like to urge you to please vote against placing the tax increase on the ballot. This tax increase comes at a bad time when many of our fellow citizens are economically stressed. Furthermore, the measure does not provide much in citizen oversight in how our tax dollars will be spent. While a citizen oversight committee will be created if this measure passes, this oversight committee does not have any power to affect change if it determines that the city is improperly spending the money. A more appropriate citizen oversight mechanism would be to add a 5-10 year sunset or reauthorization for us, the citizens of Citrus Heights, to reauthorize this tax if we believe the city appropriately spent the money we gave them. I urge you to please amend the measure to add a sunset to this tax, or please vote to not add it to the ballot.”

Greg Scheeler spoke in opposition to the proposed tax measure.

City Council Member comments followed.

ACTION: On a motion by Council Member Bruins, seconded by Council Member Middleton, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-081, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, Submitting a Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax Measure to the Voters at the November 3, 2020 General Municipal Election and Taking Certain Related Actions.

AYES: Bruins, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: Daniels
 ABSENT: None

ACTION: On a motion by Council Member Bruins, seconded by Council Member Middleton, the City Council introduced for a first reading and waived the first reading of Ordinance No. 2020-006, An Ordinance of the City Council and the People of the City of Citrus Heights, California Adding Article VI (Transactions and Use Tax) to Chapter 86 of the Citrus Heights Municipal Code.

AYES: Bruins, Middleton, Miller, Slowey
 NOES: Daniels
 ABSENT: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

None

CITY MANAGER ITEMS

None

ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS/ FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Middleton requested the Council consider exploring the development of a policy that will allocate available General Fund reserves into a local bank that would provide third party reporting for the purpose of reinvesting into the local business economy.

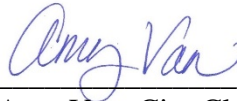
Council Member Daniels seconded the request.

Mayor Slowey noted the item would be added to a future City Council agenda for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Slowey adjourned the regular meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Van, City Clerk