

Roseville could hire up to six police officers this year

By Frank DeFrank, The Macomb Daily

Friday, April 18, 2014



During a recent city council meeting, city officials acknowledged that an anticipated favorable economic situation could result in the first hiring of police personnel in several years.

“We’re looking to increase the police department by six people,” said Roseville Mayor John Chirkun.

Some of those hires would fill vacancies created by attrition, but Chirkun said the net result would be at least two new officers on the streets of the city by next fall. The city’s new fiscal year runs from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

That could reduce the city’s police overtime budget, which officials said has grown because of staff reductions over the past few years.

“This is going to be both,” said Councilman Robert Taylor, the city’s mayor tem and a retired Macomb County deputy sheriff. “Some people have left (the police department), but they’re going to up the staffing.

“There should more patrols on the road ... It’s a big plus for the city.”

Roseville’s police roster hovers near the mid-60s. The city recently scored a grant to finance the hiring of six new firefighters as well.

While the economic picture is hardly rosy, officials view the news as indications the city and its residents are emerging, albeit slowly, from the darkest economic days of the recession.

Overall, the city’s residential tax base continued to decline slightly this year, although in certain areas homeowners have witnessed the taxable value of their homes increase.

Chirkun believes Roseville’s financial situation is brighter than it’s been for several years. Officials do not anticipate tapping the general fund in the next fiscal year to maintain operations.

Chirkun also pointed out the city is experiencing some welcome economic development. The venerable Continental Lanes building was demolished, but a new L.A. Fitness is being built on the site.

A new Dick’s Sporting Goods store is also planned as part of the Macomb Mall renovation.

“I think we finally turned the corner,” Chirkun said.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20140418/roseville-could-hire-up-to-six-police-officers-this-year>

© 2014 The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)