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Thursday, August 6, 2015

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Unwillingness to commit leads to lack of flooding survey

A suggestion to hire engineers for a flooding survey in Hoopeston failed to get approval when aldermen could not agree to guarantee finding a way to fund the results.

Alderman Bill McElhaney, water/sewer chairman, suggested using a new engineering company for the survey. "I think for us it's a good idea to get somebody else's opinion, a fresh said of eyes," he said.

That sparked discussion between the council and resident Stan Steiner, who asked whether, when Market St. was repaired, a new sewer line was installed on McCracken.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said a new line was installed on McCracken and around to Young but that the problem is too much water coming into Hoopeston after heavy rains.

Steiner said water coming from

500 acres of farmland could be reduced "if you can talk all those guys into terracing" their farmland, but Crusinberry said efforts to do that several years ago were unsuccessful.

Water Supt. Steve Baker said flooding in the area of McCracken has been a problem from years. He related that former employee Charlie Parker, "who's in his 70s," said he played in flood water at Cheese (North Side) Park when he was a child.

The problem, Baker said, is that larger storm drains feed into smaller ones. "It's all bottlenecked, he said.



water coming into Hoopeston after heavy rains.

Alderman Bill McElhaney displays examples of art for Hoopeston's aerial and ground water storage tanks at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

The city has records going back to 1958 mapping out what should be done. While some of the work has been done, other parts have not, Baker said.

Crusinberry said the city received a proposal for a study for \$19,000 from the unidentified firm, but Alderman Randy Carter asked if the council was ready to commit to acting on the recommendations.

Alderman Alex Houmes suggested the \$19,000 would be wasted if the project did not move forward.

"We can't commit if we don't know what it is," Crus-

See SURVEY on other side

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Survey continued from other side

inberry answered.

With no alderman willing to move forward, McElhaney withdrew his suggestion.

In other action, Hoopeston's mascot will be down low and up high in the near future.

In 7-1 votes, on motions from Alderman Chad Yaden, the council approved putting images of the Jerky on both the ground and aerial water storage tanks.

Alderman Bill McElhaney, water/sewer committee chairman, showed renditions of what had been suggested: a Jerky on the ground storage tank, in front of which people could have their picture taken, and just the word "Hoopeston" on the aerial tank.

However, Houmes expressed excitement over having the Jerky on the aerial tank, too.

Alderman Brandon Hamilton suggested the text be changed from blue with a red shadow to just blue.

In the final vote, the council approved one 8' color Jerky, and two "Hoopeston" in 6' by 24' blue letters on the east and west sides of the aerial tank. The ground storage tank will have a color Jerky and "Hoopeston"

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Home of the Cornjerkers" in blue with "Cornjerkers" outline in red.

Hamilton voted against the aerial tank suggestion, while Alderman Bill Goodwine voted against the ground tank plan.

The council also approved taking the brass bell from the water tower and displaying it somewhere in the city in framework similar to that in Milford. The area will be landscaped. That vote was 5-2, with Hamilton and Alderman Carl Ankenbrand voting no.

In other action, the council:

- Heard from McElhaney that bid opening on the Rt. 1 sewer extension project will be at 2 p.m. August 27.
- Approved new auxiliary officers Brian Baker 26, of Hoopeston; Joel Schuler, 23, of Danville; and Matthew Herron, 23, of Alvin.
- Tabled work on a new city web page because after it was announced last month that a company had been found to take over the page, Houmes said he was contacted by multiple people who said they could do the

From the Blotter

A 60-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 10:22 a.m. Tuesday that someone took medication from his home in the 700 block of West Main.

Elbert W. Cannon, 49, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a physical altercation at 11:03 a.m. Tuesday in the 200 block of West Maple.

He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 23-year-old Hoopeston man and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Misti Johnston, of Hoopeston, was treated at Hoopeston Hospital and ticketed after an accident at 4:57 p.m. Tuesday in the 800 block of West Main. Police said she reportedly lost consciousness and control of her Ford, veering into oncoming traffic and hitting a 2012 parked Chevrolet owned by Lealoni Gress, also of Hoopeston.

Johnston was ticketed for operating an uninsured vehicle and improper lane usage.

Weather

Slight chance of thunderstorms today. High 80. tonight, partly cloudy. Low 61. Tomorrow, sunny. High 82, low 64.

- work. Specifications will be developed and bids accepted for the work, he said.
- Heard a proposal from Houmes about a new computer system for the city at a cost of \$6,450, but funds were not set aside for it in this year's budget.
- Approved \$5,000 from the general fund as a façade grant for Jerod and Kathy Alwardt, owners of The Pump.
- Heard from Crusinberry that razing of Hoopeston Food Locker has stopped. Crusinberry said owner Jesse Zarate asked about needed permits before starting the work, but the city does not have a permitting process for demolition.

Crusinberry was contacted by the IEPA about the need for an inspection 10 days before destruction and the necessary permit. "That's for the good of everybody to know," he said. "It's hard to keep up with this stuff until we're informed of it."

Classifieds

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HOOPESTON: 601 W. Penn. Fri., 8:30-? Mostly all new items. Crafters: wood stars, balls & other items, 20 gal. fish tank w/ stand, extras, doilies, lace, ribbon, thread. Just in: pillowcases to embroider.