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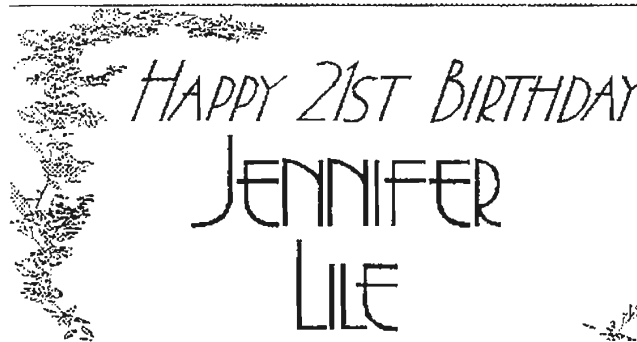
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Wednesday, June 28, 1995

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Mayor casts second deciding vote for landfill expansion

For the second time in nearly two and a half years, Mayor Bob Ault cast the tie-breaking vote favoring an expansion of the Illinois Landfills, Inc. site in Hoopeston.

The council, at a special meeting Tuesday, voted 4-4 on whether ILI should be granted a 120-acre expansion.

The council's original April 27, 1993 vote on the expansion issue was also 4-4, with Ault casting the fifth yes vote.

In Tuesday's vote, aldermen Dave Borders, Mike Eckersley, John Haughee and Harold Cox voted against the expansion while Mike Drollinger, Drew Allen, Susan Comstock and Bill Goodwine voted in favor.

Eckersley and Haughee voted no in the original decision and Allen, Comstock and Goodwine voted in favor.

Drollinger was appointed to the board after the original vote. Borders and Cox were elected in April.

Tuesday's meeting allowed the council to clarify its position on whether the expansion is needed in the intended 31-county service area.

Need is one of nine state-mandated criteria for landfill expansion.

Other criteria include if the site protects public safety and welfare, if the location is compatible with the surrounding area, whether it is outside the 100-year flood plain, whether there will be minimal hazards from accidents, if there will be minimal impact from traffic patterns and consistency with existing county solid waste management plans.

The Appellate Court has, in appeals on the first

decision, upheld that other criteria were met. However, the Fourth District Court in Springfield See LANDFILL on other side

Compromise may make appeals unnecessary

Compromise may stave off legal appeals in the requested 120-acre Illinois Landfills Inc. expansion.

Following Tuesday's hearing, attorney Richard Doyle, said compromise may be possible. "The other side seems willing to work something out," he said.

Jim Van Weelden, ILI general manager and district manager, Illinois/Indiana of parent company Allied Waste Industries, agreed that compromise may be possible. "We're willing to sit down and talk with them," he said.

Van Weelden would not comment on whether the company would be willing to exclude Chicago-area counties from its intended service area, a major sticking point for opponents.

Changes made through talks could affect ILI's host agreement with Hoopeston, but city officials may be willing to accept changes. "I think the city's open, but I can't speak for the whole council," said Mayor Bob Ault. "I think we could (come up with a new host agreement.)"

While both sides seem willing to make concessions, an agreement would have to be hammered out quickly if an appeal is to be averted. Under state law, opponents have 30 days to file an appeal.

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Landfill continued from other side

remanded the issue to the council for clarification on need.

At Tuesday's meeting, Joliet attorney Tom Thanos, acting as hearing officer, allowed attorneys for ILI and opponents to address aldermen for 10 minutes each.

Richard Doyle, representing opponents, argued that the question of need was not adequately addressed at the original hearing. Doyle said Greg Kugler, an environmental scientist with Andrews Environmental of Springfield, gave his opinion that the expansion was necessary but did not back it up with facts. "It's the same as if someone were to ask me my opinion on a NASA project," Doyle said. "I could give my opinion, but I don't have the basis to know for sure."

Attorney Steve Helm, representing ILI, disagreed, saying Kugler's background with the Environmental Protection Agency and as an environmental scientist qualified him to testify. He pointed out that members of Citizens Against Ruining the Environment, an anti-expansion group, did not object to Kugler's testimony.

Doyle attacked the landfill's anticipated 31-county service area, saying it takes in "more than half the population of the state of Illinois and a substantial part of Indiana." Also, he said, ILI did not include information on how much waste is generated in the intended service area and what the disposal capabilities of the area are.

Helm countered that the intended service area is part of the host agreement between ILI and the city and that the amount of waste and disposal capabilities are not necessary in determining need.

After the hearing, Doyle said the council's verdict was "not unexpected," adding an appeal

would be filed with the Pollution Control Board, Appellate Court and Illinois Supreme Court "if necessary."

Jim Van Weelden, ILI general manager and district manager, Illinois/Indiana of parent company Allied Waste Industries, said he was "happy with the decision."

Regarding appeals, while admitting opponents have "every right to appeal," Van Weelden hoped further action would not be filed. "We don't think the appeals will be successful," because of the previous, unanimous Appellate Court ruling and the state Supreme Court's decision not to hear the case.

Also, he said, appeals would drag on "an emotional issue for a number of residents of the city," Van Weelden said. "It's also been emotional for our employees who live in the community."

Up & Coming

Puppet show

The Hoopeston Public Library will sponsor a puppet show at 2 p.m. Friday at the McFerren Park civic center. Puppeteers from Springfield will perform.

Everyone is invited.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

June 26, 1995

Admitted: Carl Robertson, Rankin; Donald Gossett, Hoopeston.

Discharged: John Richardson, Oxford, Ind.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High in the mid 80s. Tonight, cloudy. 40 percent chance of rain. Low in the mid 60s. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High near 80, low near 64.

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Police News



An unidentified vehicle struck a parked 1988 Dodge Shadow owned by William L. Powell, 714 S. Market, while it was in the Hoopeston Plaza parking lot.