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Lourdine Florek editor

Just the facts

Susan Comstock ad manager

Friday, July 14, 1995

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
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City reaffirms \$100,000 loan to Hoopeston Foods Inc.

The Hoopeston city council reaffirmed its decision to loan \$100,000 to the unidentified owners of a new company, even though the city will not receive a first mortgage.

At an emergency meeting Thursday, aldermen, in a 5-1 vote, approved a \$100,000 loan from the city's revolving loan fund to Hoopeston Foods, Inc. to purchase the local Pillsbury plant.

Alderman Harold Cox voted against the loan because names of owners will not be disclosed until the sale is closed on July 21. "Nobody knows anything about their financials," he said, calling the deal a "scam."

Aldermen Dave Borders and Mark Drollinger did not attend the meeting.

The emergency meeting was called because although the council previously approved the loan, it was conditional on the city receiving first mort-

gage on land containing a lagoon system.

An unidentified Chicago bank, which has committed \$3.4 million to Hoopeston Foods, Inc., would not agree to the city holding first mortgage on the property, said Bill Goodwine, chairman of the city's finance committee and member of the revolving loan committee.

The bank will hold first mortgage on all assets, with other lenders taking second mortgages. "The bank didn't feel that, in loaning that much, they were in a position to subordinate themselves to us," said city attorney Jim Spiros.

Goodwine said the company also has commitments from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs for \$650,000, and the Community Development Center, part of the Danville Area Economic Development Corpora-

See LOAN on other side

Hoopeston Jaycees plan big move Saturday morning

Some Hoopeston Jaycees will be on the move early Saturday morning, and with them, a metal building.

Members of the group are expected to move a 30-foot by 40-foot metal building at 5 a.m. Saturday, said Jaycees president Don Kaeb.

The building, currently in the 800 block of East McCracken, will be moved to a cement pad at McFerren Park.

Once there, the building will be used as the souvenir stand and treasurer's office during the Sweetcorn Festival and for storage at other times, Kaeb said.

The building will be moved in one piece, pulled

by a tractor. The rear of the building will be put on wheels and a steering mechanism will be added, Kaeb said.

The planned route is down East McCracken to Front St. and down to Thompson Ave. From Thompson, the building will go to Sixth St., to Washington and down Washington into the park.

Motorists out at that time are asked to use caution in the vicinity of the building.

The Jaycees have received much community support for the project, Kaeb said. Those assisting include Schumacher Electric, Silver Bros. Construction, Mayor Bob Ault, Alderman Mike Eckersley and the city's parks committee.

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Loan continued from other side

tion, for \$100,000.

The loan has a variable interest rate of prime plus one percent and is payable over seven years. Goodwine said.

The company is incorporated in Delaware. Spiros said. "It's very common for large corporations to be incorporated in Delaware due to tax and other purposes," he said. "The laws of the state of Delaware very much benefit corporations."

Hoopston Foods, Inc. will open with 50 to 60 workers and plans to have as many as 100, said alderman Drew Allen. Most are expected to be current Pillsbury employees.

Pillsbury, which closes at the end of business today, currently has approximately 115 employees.

The city came under fire after it originally approved the loan without disclosing the names of company owners. However, Michael Clary, Vermilion County State's Attorney, ruled that the city did not violate the Illinois Open Meetings Act by their actions.

Police News

Police are investigating a burglary reported Wednesday at Parview Lanes bowling alley, 719 W. Elm. Someone forced the back door open and took an undetermined amount of change from game coin boxes. Also missing is \$1,151 from the safe and coin changer, four cartons of cigarettes and a bowling bag.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:55 a.m. Thursday. A 1989 Freightliner, driven by Paul Thomas Fortuen, 101 Richard Dr., Mahomet, backed into a parked Chevrolet owned by Marilyn D. Knapp, 427 N. Fourth, Cissna Park.

A set of keys on a silver ring was found at the Hoopston Public Library. The owner may identify and claim them at the police station.

Probation officer acquitted on drunk driving charge

DANVILLE—A deputy chief probation officer was cleared Wednesday of charges that he killed a Hoopston man while driving under the influence of alcohol.

Edward A. Miller, 46, of Oakwood, was charged in the Jan. 13 accident that killed James "Pokey" Wallace, 38, of Hoopston.

Miller had been charged with reckless homicide and driving under the influence of alcohol. The reckless homicide charge was dismissed before closing arguments and the six men and six women panel found him not guilty on the DUI charge.

That Miller struck Wallace on U.S. 150, near Batestown Road, or that Miller had been drinking were not disputed during the trial.

Miller failed a field sobriety test, attributed to an equilibrium problem, and refused to take a Breathalyzer test.

Toxicology tests on Wallace showed he had a blood-alcohol level of .25 percent, two and a half times the level at which a person is considered legally intoxicated in Illinois.

Miller, one of two chief deputy probation officers, has been on a leave of absence since the accident.

In the hospital

Hoopston Community Memorial Hospital
 July 12, 1995

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Sharon Smith, Hoopston; Doug Summers, Milford.

Weather

Hot, less humid today. High in the upper 90s. Tonight, fair, low in the 70s. Saturday and Sunday, chance of rain. Highs near 95, lows near 70.

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