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**Suggested city sales tax will need public approval: attorney**

Hoopeston's revenues will not be increasing due to a city sales tax anytime soon so officials may consider cutting at least one expense.

City sales taxes may, by law, only be implemented in home-rule cities, those with populations of 25,000 or more, said city attorney William Nelson at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

An exception to the law allows smaller cities to implement a sales tax if the issue passes in a referendum. The most that can be generated is one-half of one percent and the money must be used for infrastructure, such as water, sewers and streets, Nelson said.

The possibility of a city sales tax was raised at the May 1 council meeting as a way to cover a projected \$134,000 budget deficit.

In related action, the council passed a tentative budget covering the shortfall from reserves. \$163,500 will be taken from city savings to balance the budget, said Alderman Don York.

A resident suggested a way for the city to save at least some money.

Leon Polson suggested the city stop purchasing burned out homes and tearing them down, incurring the expense of tearing them down and the loss of property

tax revenue on city-owned property.

Mayor Chalmers Flint agreed with the suggestion. "Even if it beautifies the city, I don't think it's our responsibility to tear it down if it's owned by somebody," he said. "I don't think the city can continue to stand the cost.

Street and alley superintendent Dave Knake said razing a house costs \$180 per truckload. "It's very expensive," he said.

Another problem is that the city does not own the proper equipment for tearing down homes, said Alderman Rod Kaag.

In unrelated business, the council:

- set a public hearing on the budget at 6:45 p.m. June 5 and a street/alley committee meeting for 5 p.m. May 21.
- learned the swimming pool will open May 27. Season passes will be on sale for 20 percent off that day only, said Alderman Mike Eckersley.
- approved James A. Myers, 24, and George M. Brown, 25, as auxiliary police officers.
- learned an attorney specializing in tax increment financing (TIF) districts is reviewing a potential agreement between the city and a developer to see if percentages awarded to each party is fair, Flint said.

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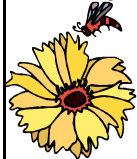
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Thursday is  
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\*with approved credit



**Police News**



A **50-year-old** woman reported Monday that someone stuck the sidewalls on the two right side tires of her vehicle while it was parked in the 500 block of North Fourth St.

The woman also reported that approximately three weeks ago, a cement birdbath was taken from her yard.

A **19-year-old** man reported Monday that someone took a 1977 Honda Odyssey off road motorcycle. The bike has a black frame, yellow front fender, black roll cage and broken headlight.

**Carroll D. Blakey**, 38, of 418 N. Ninth Ave., was arrested at 5:17 p.m. Monday at 824 E. Wyman. He was charged with criminal trespass to property after police said he was told by the building manager not to be inside the building.

Blakey was released on a notice to appear.

**Two people** were arrested after a traffic stop at 10:41 p.m. Monday at West Elm and South Sixth

Ave.

Juan Torres Jr., 26, of Ambia, Ind., was ticketed for driving on suspension and speeding. He was released on \$100 cash bond.

Leticia A. Torres, 19, of 105 N. Elm, Ambia, Ind., was arrested on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear on a traffic warrant. She was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of \$5,000 bond.

A **40-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that someone took a watch, a Play Station and four games from his home in the 900 block of Sprague Road.

**New Books at the Library**



**Children's Books:**

**Fiction:**  
Super-Completely and Totally the Messiest by Judith Viorst

**Non-fiction:**  
American Inventors of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by Laura S. Jeffrey  
Beginning Golf by Bruce Curtis

**In the Hospital**



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
May 14

Nothing to report.

**Weather**



Partly sunny, chance of showers today. High 85. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 62. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 82, low 60.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

**Classifieds**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Certified Nurse Aide Class (CNA). Classes will begin on June 4th. Monday through Friday for three (3) weeks. Applications available: Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, 701 E. Orange Street, Hoopeston, Illinois 60942. Applications will be accepted through May 23, 2001.

**HELP WANTED**

Organist or pianist. Duties include playing for 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service. Paid position. Call First Christian Church, Hoopeston, (217) 283-6696.

**HOMES FOR RENT**

1 bedroom house. Ideal for 1 person. \$275/mo. References, deposit required. No pets. (217) 283-7406.

**RUMMAGE SALES**

Moving and estate garage sale, 709 W. Washington, Hoopeston. Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m.-? We've added more items!!!

**SERVICES**

Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340.

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