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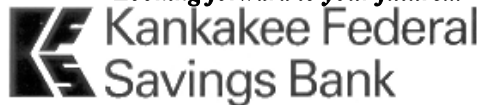
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City officials consider first step of TIF development plan

Hoopeston officials are considering the first step for development of its tax increment financing (TIF) district.

At a special meeting Tuesday, the council heard from Eric White of Economic Development Research, Inc., a St. Louis-based consulting firm and Larry Petry, owner of farm ground that may become a new housing area.

Petry told the council he has an agreement with developer Jack Piper who has an option on 10 acres of land east of Euclid. If that land sells, Piper has an option to purchase additional parcels of 10, 20 and 23 acres each, Petry said. Petry's contract with Piper extends another three years, although the city could buy Piper out, Petry said.

Since the city controls the TIF district, Piper must work with them to form an agreement on the type of development to be created. Piper submitted a suggested agreement to the council but "it had a lot of "ifs" and "ands" in it," said Mayor Chalmers Flint. "It wasn't agreeable."

Part of Piper's suggested agreement included a clause that said the city would hold a bond issue for the project but White said risks are greater to the city if it is in front

Eagle Wings not coming to city

A branch of Eagle Wings will not be coming to Hoopeston. Mayor Chalmers Flint announced at Tuesday's special city council meeting.

Flint did not give a reason for the company's decision but did say it was made in spite of an offer of \$100,000 in tax increment financing (TIF) funds.

The plant was expected to create about 50 jobs.

Supervisor Greg Regnier of Eagle Wings could not be reached at press time.

of a project rather than using TIF as a reimbursement tool. In some instances, cities have led a development program to find it doesn't materialize," he said.

Alderman Bill Goodwine has previously expressed reservations about Piper's track record with TIF developments. White said Piper has "had some success but Jack has also had a lot of stales that haven't come to fruition, so to speak. Developers are only as good as their last project. It's all about performance."

White said it is important for officials to pick a developer carefully. "You're going to be in bed with this developer for a long time so you have to be comfortable with him," he said.

The TIF program could last up to 23 years with development going on through that time, he said.

Piper and Bloomington attorney Thomas Jacobs were scheduled to attend Tuesday's meeting but did not.

Once a plan is approved, Hoopeston can use funds generated within the TIF district, which predominantly includes areas along Routes 1 and 9, as well as the downtown, to fund TIF-related expenses and capital improvements, White said.

TIF funds come from the difference between the base tax rate—set in January 2000 when the district was formed—and subsequent increases. For example, if a property owner paid \$2,000 in taxes in 2000 and \$2,500 last year, the first \$2,000 would be divided among taxing bodies. The additional \$500 would be paid into a special TIF fund, White said.

The city has received \$86,000 in a first installment of TIF money, Flint said.

Don Dean, Hoopeston Area schools finance official, estimated the city will receive about \$170,000 in TIF revenue this year, based on a \$2.1 million increase in assessed valuation.

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Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11:56 a.m. Thursday at Seventh Ave. and West Young.

Police said Harold G. Michael, of 867 E. Thompson, in a 1990 Buick, was westbound on Young when he struck a 1982 Plymouth driven by Virginia Powell of 426 E. Honeywell. Powell was southbound on Seventh.

Michael was at fault for failure to yield the right of way at an unmarked intersection.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 4:32 p.m. Thursday at North Market and Wyman.

Police said Amanda R. Staton of Hoopeston, in a 1998 Hyundai, stopped at the intersection, saw nothing, pulled forward and hit a 1996 Ford driven by Allen R. Kinney of Hoopeston.

Justin S. Koger, 22, of 1325 N. Lincoln Ave., Urbana, was ticketed for failure to yield after stopping following an accident at 7:25 p.m. Thursday in the 700 block of South Dixie Hwy.

Police said Koger, in a 1995 Jeep, was stopped at the exit of Jerry's IGA, did not see any vehicles and pulled onto Rt. 1, striking a 1993 Chevrolet driven by Jessica L. Totheroh of Wellington.

Unidentified passengers in both vehicles were treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Oct. 4

Admitted: Jerry Franklin, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Oct. 5

Nothing to report.

Oct. 6

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Jerry Franklin.

Oct. 7

Admitted: George Hollen, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Oct. 8

Nothing to report.

Oct. 9

Admitted: Annetta McIntyre, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Hospital, police said.

A 21-year-old Hoopeston man reported Friday that someone put sugar in his gas tank. The damage occurred in the 500 block of East Main.

Rick R. Vaughn, 21, of #10 Parkview Court, was arrested at 8:35 a.m. Saturday, charged with disorderly conduct—filing a false police report. Police said Vaughn filed a report about stolen items that he had sold.

Vaughn was released on a notice to appear.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11:58 a.m. Sunday at 701 E. Chestnut.

Police said Carol B. Lantis of 403 W. Washington, in a 1989 Dodge, backed into a parked 2000 Mercury van owned by Donald Martin of 214 E. Wyman.

Two theft reports made Monday were solved Monday.

A 40-year-old woman reported that someone took her son's bicycles from the 700 block of South Sixth Ave. The bikes were later found near the railroad tracks in the 100 block of West Lincoln. One bike was undamaged and returned; the other was seriously damaged, police said.

Obituaries

FINLEY—Elizabeth C. Finley, 100, of Hoopeston, died at 3:35 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, 2001, at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Graveside services will be held later at Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

WHITE—Lida White, 82, of Hoopeston died at 1:15 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, 2001, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial was in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Weather



Morning rain likely today. High 64. Tonight, decreasing clouds. Low 45. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 68, low 48.

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

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SALES

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