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Wednesday, February 20, 2002

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.tm

Sunday liquor sales, higher garbage rates get council OK

Hoopeston residents will be able to tip a few this Sunday at local bars following a close vote at Tuesday's city council meeting.

Aldermen tied on a proposed ordinance that allows Sunday sales from noon to 10 p.m. Sundays. Mayor Chalmers Flint cast the deciding vote in favor of the ordinance.

Agreeing with Flint were aldermen Rod Kaag, Ed Lotz, John Haughee and Kevin Davis.

Voting against the change were Mike Eckersley, Nancy Stipp, Bill Goodwine and Don York.

In discussion prior to the vote, Goodwine asked whether the civic improvement committee, which recommended the change, had considered allowing business that get most of their revenue from food sales and also serve alcohol to be open Sundays. "That way, you have a restaurant that serves alcohol rather than a bar that serves food," he said.

Lotz said the committee did not consider that because the request came from "local bar owners that are suffering the most."

Also, Davis said allowing liquor stores to be open Sundays might keep residents from spending money in municipalities that already allowed Sunday sales. "It's a purchasing issue, that's all it is," he said.

The change is effective immediately. It also allows bars to be open until 1 a.m. when New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday, or weekdays which have a midnight closing time.

In related action, the council unanimously voted against creating a new Class B and a Class A license.

Class B is for beer and wine only, while the Class A license is for on-premises consumption.

Casey's General Store on Penn had re-

quested the Class B license while R&R Holdings asked for the other license to be used at 225 E. Main, what was formerly Compton's Bar & Grill.

Goodwine said the city must use careful criteria to issue new licenses. "Willy-nilly...is not the way it's supposed to be done," he said. He drew groans from the audience when he suggested current license-holders might begin selling to under-age people if they do not make a profit.

Davis said creating new licenses could detract from existing businesses.

In unrelated action, the council voted 7-1 to increase garbage pickup rates from \$4.75 per month to \$8.

Approval came after a long and impassioned plea from Haughee who claimed the council would violate a host agreement between the landfill and the city, in the form of its residents, by raising rates.

Goodwine argued for the hike saying the city faces a nearly half million dollar deficit in the 2002-03 general fund and that higher trash collection fees would raise almost \$100,000 to offset that. Deficit budgets nearly cost the city the ability to refinance water/sewer bonds and save \$300,000. "We've somehow got to balance our budget," he said. "We cannot nickel-dime our way out of this problem. We don't want to wait until we're out of time, out of credit, out of luck."

Also, he said, without increasing revenue, city services must be cut. The general fund pays for such things as police and fire protection, parks and the swimming pool.

Haughee argued that a contract between the landfill and city signed in 1994 was not honored properly and that the city could recoup about

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Hoopeston's

Community Bank

Member FDIC

Hubbard Trail

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Reservations appreciated but not necessary
We look forward to seeing you.

(217) 748-6521



The
Legion Bartenders

are back with their first
Bartender Night of 2002!

Friday, Feb. 22, party

**South of
the Border**



\$5 all-you-can-eat tacos,
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p.m.

Margaritas \$2

Mexican beer \$1.75

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Friday Nights- Ribeyes, Shrimp, & Full Menu

Saturday Nights- Ribeyes, Shrimp, Chicken, DEEP
FRIED LOBSTER BALLS & FULL MENU

PIZZA'S MADE TO ORDER (Bring in this add and get
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Rossville village board considers revising semi tractor ordinance, clarify employee benefits

ROSSVILLE—Whether residents may park semi tractors in residential areas is being reviewed by Rossville officials.

Currently, ordinances ban semi tractor parking in residential areas for longer than three hours without a special use permit but a resident who received a traffic citation may prompt a change.

Richard Duncan attended Monday's village board meeting to question the ordinance and the ticket he received Monday. "That's my office on wheels," he told the board. "I like to keep it close to my house so it doesn't get vandalized and jeopardize my income."

Duncan's ticket, and one to another resident, came after complaints of two semis parking in residential areas, said Police Chief Dan Danner. "If I'm going to take care of the other 10," he said, adding that of the nearly dozen semis driven by village residents, only two are parked in residential areas for long periods of time.

After discussing the issue, it was referred to the village health and safety committee for review. Duncan's and other tickets were put on hold for at least 30 days pending a decision.

In related action, the board approved paying \$60 for a renewal CDL license for superintendent Lance Deck.

It has been village policy to pay for the initial CDL license, needed to use village maintenance equip-

ment, but no policy existed on renewals.

Although trustees complained about the cost in a time of budget restraints, the board voted 4-1 to stand the cost of the village-mandated license. Trustee Vic Lackey voted against paying the fee and trustee Dale Tweedy, who has a CDL which he pays for, abstained.

In other business, the board revamped an ordinance concerning VIP rates and free water for village employees.

Under the new ordinance, retired employees with 20 or more years' service will receive free water for the rest of their lives or as long as they live in the village limits. The benefit is not transferable to family members when the retiree dies.

All village employees will receive VIP rates which gives them the first 5,000 gallons of water free, with a \$5 surcharge added. Churches in the village will receive the same VIP rate.

The clarifications will be effective with the March billing.

Tweedy abstained on the vote because his wife, Bunny, a former sewer operator, receives the benefit.

In other business, trustees:

- clarified policies on employee vacation and personal time. Workers will receive 1 weeks' vacation after the first year of employment; two weeks for two to

Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave.

For registration information, call Hardcastle, Redden or Prather.

Computer class

The Hoopeston Multi Agency and Danville Area Community College will offer a beginner computer class for local senior citizens. For more information or to register, call (217) 283-5544.

Weather



Rain likely today. High 47. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 30. Tomorrow, chance of flurries. High 38, low 29.

For current weather conditions, call the Hoopes-

10 years of service and three weeks for eleven plus years. Those currently receiving four weeks' vacation will not be penalized.

The village also grants seven personal days to full time employees which will be prorated based on 365 days per year.

- learned the village must pay 10 percent, or approximately \$12,500, as its share of the cost of installing railroad gates at the Henderson St. crossing. Work is not expected to begin for up to 18 months.
- set a policy that all full-time police officers must

Police News



Ted E. Finnell Jr., 29, of 606 E. Young, was arrested at 1:20 p.m. Tuesday in the 600 block of East Young.

Finnell was charged with theft on a complaint from a 27-year-old woman who reported that a computer modem had been taken from a home in the 500 block of East McCracken.

Finnell was released on a notice to appear.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom apt. Second floor. Appliances furnished. No pets. Deposit required. (217) 283-6025.

44-57

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50-77

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