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Hoopeston Foods suing city over details of missing contract

Hoopeston Foods, Inc. is suing the City of Hoopeston for nearly \$1 million over a contract that is not in city files.

At Tuesday's meeting, the council unanimously approved indemnifying then-Mayor Bob Ault and then-City Clerk Chalmers Flint in a suit filed by the company over a contract specifying the cost of chemicals used to treat the plant's wastewater. That contract was allegedly signed by Ault and witnessed by Flint but is not among city records.

"They say they have a contract that Bob signed and Chalmers attested to but it didn't go across council floor," said Alderman Bill Goodwine after the meeting.

Flint said, after the meeting, that the incident occurred in his first year as city clerk and that he thought he was attesting to Ault's signature, not the document. He explained that one witnesses signatures and attests to documents. "I didn't know that then," he said.

The city approved defense of Ault and Flint, who are named as individuals in the suit, because Hoopeston was not carrying errors and coverage on city officials omissions through the Illinois Municipal League at that time, Goodwine said.

The council also unanimously approved hiring attorneys Brian and Paul Manion and David Krchak, former corporate counsel for the City of Champaign, now with the office of Thomas, Mamer and Haughey of Champaign.

Details of the suit were not available at press time. The Central U.S. District Court's searchable database was not functioning Tuesday night so further details of the suit were unavailable at press time.

The suit was filed last month, said Hoopeston attorney Paul Manion.

It is not the only suit currently filed by the company.

According to the Denver (Colo.) Business Journal, Hoopeston Foods Denver Corp., part of Hoopeston Foods, Inc., of Bloomington, Minn., parent company of the local firm, filed suit in February against Stokes Canning Co. for breach of contract.

According to the publication, the suit claims that Stokes Canning should pay for a new wastewater project, as well as other expected capital improvements at a plant in which Hoopeston Foods is a tenant. Stokes claims the cost of the treatment facility and improve-

City approves contract, bids

The Hoopeston City Council on Tuesday accepted an amended contract with Hoopeston Area Youth Club for a soccer field on the city's south side.

The group will lease the field for \$1 per year for 10 years. Wording in an earlier contract was prohibitive and had to be redone, said Mayor Chalmers Flint.

In other action, the council:

- approved bids of \$5,501 bid from Schuler's Flower Shop for grave urns; \$3,900 bid from T&L Lawn Care for weed spraying at city parks and the Little League field; and \$1,650 from Sims Construction for a door and window at the water/sewer building.
- approved conditional use permits for Ricky Cade to operate a heating and cooling business at

Police News



A 45-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Monday that someone tried to enter property in the 500 block of West Penn.

Tomatoes are in our greenhouse now! The weatherman says 34° Sunday. A full moon and a 2 degree difference could mean frost.

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Rossville Village Board changes ordinances, approve parade routes, seat new officials

ROSSVILLE—Trustees took care of monthly business Monday night before seating newly-elected officials.

The board approved minor ordinance corrections, including one that listed the end of the fiscal year as the fourth Tuesday in April, changing it to May 1. Another change will allow the gas committee chairman, mayor and gas committee to determine village gas prices. The committee chairman had solely been able to set the rate.

The board also created a new ordinance limiting rummage sales in the village. Trustees unanimously approved limited sales to three per address per year. Sales held during townwide rummage sale days do not count towards the total, said Trustee Mark Catron, who proposed the ordinance.

Those wishing to hold more than the allowed three sales will have to pay a \$25 per sale fee.

In unrelated action, the board approved parade route resolutions for the Little League parade from 9-9:15 a.m. May 28 from Green to Stufflebeam; an antique tractor parade from 2:15-2:35 p.m. Saturday, June 18 from Benton to Stewart to Stufflebeam and back across Rt. 1; and the July 4 parade from 11-11:15 a.m. from Green to Stufflebeam.

The tractor parade is being sponsored by Rossville Community Organization and the July 4 event is sponsored by the Rossville American Legion Auxiliary.

Obituaries

CATRON - Ray K. Catron, 77, of Hoopeston died at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 17, 2005 at Veterans Affairs Illiana Health Care System, Danville. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Wolfe Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Danville National Cemetery, Danville, with military rites by Buddy Egnew VFW Post, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Buddy Egnew VFW Post or the American Cancer Society.



Rossville Mayor Terry Prillaman, right, swears in officials elected April 5. Pictured are, from left, trustees Richard Birkey, Scott Sprague, Tom Gregory and Richard Queen and village clerk Chris Pearson.

In unrelated action, the board:

- learned the village gas price will increase three cents to 89 cents.
- approved all-town cleanup for June 4. The event will allow residents to place debris at the curb by 7 a.m. that day. "They can't put it out on Saturday mid-morning because that'll be too late," said Mayor Terry Prillaman.

Residents who wish to dispose of appliances must pay a \$10 per appliance fee payable by Wednesday, June 1. Appliances will be picked up

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight. High 71, low 44. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 63, low 46.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Wednesday and Thursday.

Items such as oil paint, tires and chemicals will not be collected, Prillaman said.

Vermilion Waste will perform the cleanup for

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