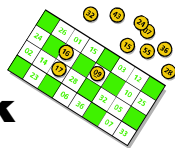


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New monument company causes stumbling block for council

A planned new monument business proved to be a stumbling block among members of the Hoopeston City Council.

At Tuesday night's meeting, Lee Cox of Hoopeston approached aldermen about getting free land to open a monument company on Rtes. 1 and 9 behind Community Bank and across from CVS. Cox said if the city would not give him the land, he would consider purchasing it for "a reasonable price."

That sparked a debate among aldermen about under what conditions the city should give land to businesses.

Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said Cox' proposal causes a two-fold concern. First, he asked, should the city just buy property and resell it, competing with other local owners of property for sale. Second, he said. The committee doesn't believe the city should subsidize a business against an existing one.

Alderman Ed Lotz said that kind of thinking "has caused Hoopeston to stagnate for the last 20 years."

Mayor Bill DeWitt joined the discussion saying that the previous administration set precedence by offering free land for a motel. "If you want to get technical, we still have a motel downtown," he said. However, he added, the recent sale of the motel fell through. "That's official," he said.

He recommended the council follow through with the motel plan but consider a new policy if the city acquires land in the future.

As the council discussed the area, in one of the city's three Tax Increment Financing districts, Alderwoman Gail Lane said she has heard the city misused TIF funds.

"If we did, it was at the advice of the consultant," Goodwine responded.

Alderman Carl Ankenbrand said the city should consider donating the land since Cox is willing to clean it up. He cited the Willdon Building, in which several people have expressed interest, yet none have approached him or the council. "I wish I hadn't voted to accept it," he said.

The council agreed to vote on Cox' request at the Aug. 2 meeting.

Cox Monuments would need about 1.5 acres. Besides monuments, the business would also do rock engraving and business signs.

Cox said Dave Gaddis approached him about buying Hoopeston Monument but that the \$175,000 price tag does not include a building.

"I'm ready to build right now," Cox told the council. "In five weeks, I'd be ready to take orders."

Cox said he considered Milford and Rossville but, as a Hoopeston resident, wanted to build his business here.

In unrelated business:

- Alderman Jerry Yonkers said the city street sweeper needs repairs that might cost as much as \$27,000. The street and alley department was advised to order parts and approve the purchase on Aug. 2. There is no money in the budget earmarked for street sweeper repairs so funds are expected to be shifted from the department's accrual budget.

- Street and alley Superintendent Dave Knake said the issue of the Main St. crossing will be discussed in Springfield this week with state representatives and Illinois Department of Transportation officials. Pictures of the crossing will be displayed.

DeWitt said rail officials have said the crossing is slated to be repaired in the fall.

- the council approved a \$3,000 revolving loan for Trudy Anderson and Carol Hicks to open

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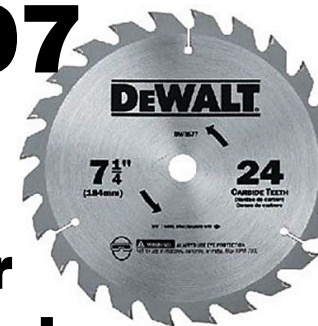


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Rossville trustees take issue with water thieves, peddlers

ROSSVILLE—A new ordinance is expected to simplify prosecuting those who steal water in the village.

At Monday night's Rossville Village Board meeting, trustees approved three new ordinances, including one dealing with theft of utilities.

Mayor Terry Prillaman said reports surfaced of residents not paying for water from the village-owned system. Other ordinances applied to the situations but the new one makes prosecuting easier.

The ordinance states that it is illegal for one person or business to run a pipe or hose from one home or business to another.

Other situations covered include tampering with fire hydrants without written permission from the mayor or board and water superintendent and tampering with water meters.

A second ordinance approved Monday tightens an existing law governing peddlers and hawkers. "It changes some of the terminology from what it was back in the 1930s," Prillaman said.

The final ordinance prohibits using ground-water as a potable water supply - through such means as drilling wells - and was recommended by CEC, the firm overseeing the village's state brown-fields grant. The ordinance will help in meeting Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regulations for specific brownfields sites. And, because the village collects revenue from water, "we don't want anyone drilling wells in the village anyway," Prillaman said.

In unrelated business, the health and safety committee will look at creating a new ordinance dealing with leftover signs from rummage sales.

Signs are often taped to the village's antique lampposts and, when removed, the tape takes off the paint, said Trustee Richard Birkey, displaying a collection of yard sale signs taken down recently. Signs also get affixed to stop lights and stop signs, distracting motorists.

Currently, violators could be charged for damaging village property but the committee will look at making a law specifically related to leaving signs up.

"Since time began," there has been an ordinance barring people from putting such signs on power poles for the safety of linemen but "they don't follow that either," Prillaman said.

In other discussion, Police Chief Danny Danner said all terrain vehicles and golf carts will no longer be allowed in village parades.

An incident at the Independence Day parade prompted the action, Prillaman said. There, a youngster on an ATV had difficulty braking and nearly ran over another youth's foot.

Other youngsters were driving ATVs and golf carts recklessly at Christman Park during the Independence Day celebration, Prillaman said.

Danner said he will review parade entries before the kickoff time to make sure all floats and other entries comply. Driving such vehicles on the roadway violates the law, he said. "It's just not going to happen," he said. "I don't care who it is."

In unrelated business, the board:

- learned the gas price will remain at 89 cents per therm.
- approved joining the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System which provides mutual aid in a natural or man-made disaster, if possible.
- learned the police department was approved for a grant Danner applied for two years ago. The

Police News



A **boy's black** and red Shumano bicycle was found Monday morning in the 700 block of West Lincoln. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

It was reported Tuesday that someone broke 11 windows at FMC, 103 E. Maple, between 2:30 p.m. Tuesday and 7:45 a.m. Wednesday.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 89. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 71. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 90, low 68.

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

Classifieds

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MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Treadmill/Pro Form w/CD player. \$1,000 new. Will sell for \$400 OBO. (217) 339-2201

2 George Lopez comedy show concert tickets for 7 p.m. Sat., July 23 at Rosemont Theatre, Chicago. Asking \$90 OBO. Call (217) 283-4497

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Free to good home: 10 year old Chilean Rose tarantula. Email eyrich@eyrich.com. Cage not included.

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RUMMAGE SALES

2.5 mi. west of Hoopeston on Thompson Ave. Fri. & Sat., July 22, 23. 7:30 a.m.-? Huge moving sale. Everything must go! 1999 48" Husqvarna hydro riding lawn mower, truck topper for early 90s Toyota short bed pickup, antiques, engine cherry picker, file cabinets, lawn & garden standing drill press, weight bench, bar stools, swing, Creative Memories bag, kitchen items, toys, books, 2 strollers, clean clothing, electric heater, electronics.

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