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Members of Hoopeston's Cub Scouts pack and students in Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin's third grade class visit the Hoopeston City Council meeting Tuesday.

One bid accepted, another not for former trailer park land

The Hoopeston City Council accepted one bid for part of the former Baer's Trailer Park but failed to accept a bid for the second parcel.

At Tuesday night's regular meeting, the council accepted a \$1 bid from Bhupendra Naik for the southern tract of 4.458 acres.

Naik, who owns two Best Western motels in Danville, plans to build a 22-room motel on the property.

The council received a \$573 bid on the second tract from Lloyd Cox to allow his son, Lee, to open Cox Memorials and Boulders. Although the vote was 6-2 in favor, the issue failed to pass by a three-fourths vote.

Prior to the vote, city attorney Brian Manion told the council that land sales must be approved or rejected by three fourths of the corporate authority, including the eight-member council and the mayor. Alderwoman Nancy Stipp did not attend the meeting and Mayor Bill DeWitt voted for the sale but it was not enough to offset no votes from aldermen Bill Goodwine and Brandon Hamilton.

Officials on both sides of the issue spoke before the vote. DeWitt told the council that Cox had removed rock from the property which would have cost \$10,793 if it had been taken to the landfill, and saved the city more than \$19,000 in clean-up costs. "We don't need any more Willdon Buildings," he said.

Goodwine wondered why the \$19,000 figure used an estimated labor rate of \$65 per hour when the city pays its workers approximately \$13 per hour.

DeWitt responded that those were the numbers used but admitted there was a problem with them.

Alderman Bill Crusinberry related the history of Cox' request which began in August when the council approved giving him the land in return for cleaning it. That was later rescinded after Manion said the city had to seek bids on property to sell it. "He took it on our word," Crusinberry said, adding Cox bought equipment for the business based on that word. "I rise in support of it."

Ed Lotz also spoke in Cox' favor. "It could be 10
See BID on other side

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