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City council discusses several issues before packed house

Citizens representing several factions attended Tuesday night's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Residents were there to be heard and to listen to issues including a bed and breakfast in Hoopeston, a proposal for the Willdon Building and downtown beautification efforts.

The first issue before the council was a conditional use requested by LaShaun Price of Chicago to operate a bed and breakfast at the home of Tony and Phyllis Freeland, 322 S. Fourth St.

Price, owner of Your Day Your Way Weddings and Special Events, wants to purchase the home for the bed and breakfast.

Price said she started her search for a location in Danville, then came to Hoopeston. "The Freeland place just stood out to me," she said. "I walked in and said 'this is it.' It has one of the homiest atmospheres. Hoopeston is a nice quaint town and that's what people look for when they want to get away from the hustle and the bustle."

Price's plans call for four or five rooms to be used as guest rooms at rates ranging fro \$125 to \$250 per night. She would also like to offer packages for business retreats and perhaps wedding and other receptions.

Although she has not currently operated a bed and breakfast, Price said she has researched them. "I don't think it will be a problem at all," she said. She plans to ask city officials for funding assistance if any is available.

Resident Sally Stipp questioned Price on the location of her existing Chicago business, while Larry Petry wondered about noise from receptions. "That house is not exactly soundproofed," he said.

Price responded that her "first concern is to be respectful to my neighbors" and that she would follow guidelines set by the city.

Denise Goodrum, daughter of Tony and Phyllis Free-

land, said the noise level would be equal to that of family gatherings held at the house.

The council took no action on Price's request, which was approved by the city plan commission.

The council also took no action on a proposal from newly-formed Hoopeston Business Development Group, Inc., which is requesting the Willdon Building for a copy center and business incubator.

Corporation president Mary Ann Kaufmann provided aldermen with a second proposal outlining what steps have been taken since the original proposal was presented for the May 2 meeting. Since then, the corporation has received information on utility costs at the building, spoken with Hoopeston Historical Society member Jean Minick about a possible museum in the building and met with Vermilion County Challenge "D" Committee about using the site as a business incubator.

Alderman Bill Goodwine said he had several questions after reading the proposal and would have several more after studying it. Some of those questions included the resume of the person who will manage the business and how the project will be financed.

Kaufmann said the project could be done without the Willdon Building but hopes the city will give the building to the group, allowing it to use its cash for other purposes, such as growing small businesses. "I believe in this town," she said. "We want to see the building filled, we want to see the downtown filled."

Alderman Jerry Yonkers asked about church use of the building for Witchschool and what Hoopeston receives from Witchschool's internet sales.

Ed Hubbard of Witchschool said it is not a church. "It's a business. It's a website," he said, adding Witchschool's umbrella also covers Telepathic Me-

See COUNCIL on other side



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Police News

Robert A. Milburn Jr., 25, of 503 W. Lincoln was arrested at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in the 500 block of West Lincoln. He was charged with disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 46-year-old man who alleged Milburn made threatening remarks.

Milburn was released on a notice to appear.

A black Nextel phone found April 19 at Cheese Park was claimed Tuesday.

Briefly –

Celebration of Life A Celebration of Life for Janet Abbott will be held

beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday at Pla-Mor Lanes. Friends are invited to bring pictures and stories about Janet.

Council continued from other side

dia and an online television presentation.

As for tax revenue, Hubbard said two new businesses, a bookstore and botanicals business, are adding to the city's bottom line while internet sales put more money in people's pockets which can be spent locally.

Hubbard wondered whether anyone's proposal would meet the city's guidelines for providing new jobs in order to get the building. Mothballing the building "sends a statement" that the building might be demolished. The city, he said, does not have an exit plan for the structure.

Other comments came from Michael Farrell, who hopes to open a computer business in the building. He talked about high school students receiving Cisco training but who have no place locally to use it. He plans to hire 10 high school students, he said.

Jason Matthews, owner of J's Café, who hopes to use the top floors for studio apartments, said the group wants to generate money "so Hoopeston doesn't have to fire the dogcatcher." If more downtown businesses close, Hoopeston is "going to look like Wellington," he said.

In other discussion, a plan to spend \$2,300 to finish the downtown parking lot next to Unger's Jewelry also raised comments. The Space Committee of the Downtown Beautification Committee plants to build **Joshua A. Watson**, 21, of 824 E. Wyman, Apt. A2 was arrested after an incident at 10:25 p.m. Tuesday in the 200 block of East Main. He was charged with disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 23-year-old Hoopeston man who alleged Watson yelled epithets at him, then ran away.

Watson was found in the 700 block of South First Ave. and was released on a notice to appear.



every Thursday 7 p.m. Hoopeston American Legion 502 E. Penn

Classifieds HELP WANTED

The City of Hoopeston is seeking applications for the position of part-time Animal Control Officer. The person selected will be considered on-call around the clock and will be responsible for enforcing ordinances pertaining to animals within the city, issuing citations, handling stray animals, caging and releasing nondomesticated animals back into the wild, and testifying in Municipal Court when necessary.

The pay is based on a set amount per month as well as the numbers captured.

Qualified applicants must have a valid Illinois drivers license and must be able to pass a background check.

Applications may be picked up at the Hoopeston Police Station 24 hours a day and must be returned no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, May 26th.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Hoopeston: 3-4 bedroom, lg. kitchen, dining room, living room, basement, garage, enclosed big front porch. \$450/mo.+\$450 dep. (217) 283-5093

2 bedroom house. Appliances furnished. Newly remodeled. New carpet. 1 car garage. Large yard.\$400/mo. + deposit. References required. No pets. (217) 283-6025 or (217)304-4486

3 bedroom house. 1 car garage. Available immediately. \$450/ mo. (217) 304-2145

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Kimball console piano. Good condition. \$550. (815) 984-3000 RUMMAGE SALES

621 E. Seminary, Hoopeston. Sat., 8-12. Household items too numerous to mention

510 W. Washington, Hoopeston. Sat., 7-? Little girls, women's, junior girls clothing, home décor, household misc.

313 W. Elm (in alley). Fri. & Sat., 7-noon. Stereo equipment, Lawn Boy mower, tools, furniture, housewares and lots more. Don't miss this one!

Well-Baby Clinic Hoopeston Well-Baby Clinic will be held from 9-11 a.m. Thursday at Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center,

801 E. Orange. The free clinic is open to children birth-

two pergolas in the area with a place for eating and decorated with bushes and plants, said Alice Russell, Space Committee chairwoman.

After discussion, the council approved paying for concrete but funding for other aspects will come from beautification funds.

In other business, the council:

school age. No appointment is needed

• Learned new radios for auxiliary police have been purchased for \$6,479.

• Heard from Alderman Bill Crusinberry that the ground storage water tank needs work. It has had no work for 30 years, he said. The water tower inspection had good results, he added.

• Heard from Peace Corps Fellow Shannon Ruh about business directory signs for Rtes. 1 and 9.

• Approved moving the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce into city hall.

• Approved a request from Tom Lowe to resubdivide land north of CVS from many parcels into one.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 65. Tonight, clear. Low 45. Tomorrow, sunny. High 68, low 49.

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