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Zoning administrator urges city council to act on nuisances

From grass in the gutters to abandoned buildings that need to be torn down, Hoopeston zoning administrator Truman Page urged the Hoopeston City Council to take stronger, quicker action on nuisance violations.

Page spoke at Tuesday night's regular council meeting, starting in response to resident questions about action taken on the flooding issue. Page told aldermen about grass being blown into the street, which clogs sewers, leading to flooding.

Additionally, Page said, according to ordinance, residents should put trash in air-tight containers which flies cannot get into and should be put at curbside no sooner than 12 hours before day of pickup. Cans should be removed no later than 12 hours after day of pickup, he said.

Also, he said, the council should take action on abandoned houses that need to be razed, including one at Front and Young, which the city has been working on for over a year. "Talk about beautifying Hoopeston," he said. "Drive by and look at it. I think you people need to address this and do something. I've done everything I can do."

Mayor Bill DeWitt said the city is working on it and that the structure on Front and Young can be torn down soon. A place has been found to take brings from the structure so that the city won't have the cost of taking them to a landfill. Also, DeWitt said, city crews have been busy with other projects. "They just haven't been able to get to it," he said.

Page told the council that if they are unwilling to do anything, "you don't need me. I'm just laying it at your feet."

Resident Ron Cloud said that while walking around town, he sees ordinance violations and wondered why other city departments - the street sweeper, police officers and dog catcher - don't notice and report violations.

Alderman Jerry Yonkers said the garbage ordinance was written before the invention of trash bags and that laws should perhaps be updated.

Resident Jean Minick agreed, saying the grass ordinance dates back to 1917 when there were no curbs, gutters or even lawn mowers.

In unrelated action, the council passed, by a 5-2 vote, a revolving loan request from Jim and Megan Collins who plan to open Hoops & Threads, an embroidery business, at Hooterville Junction.

The request was brought up at the June 6 meeting but was tabled to allow aldermen to review the couple's business plan.

Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said the \$15,000 loan will be repaid over seven years at 8.5 percent, with payments of \$237.55 monthly.

Alderman Gail Lane questioned why the council should approve a second loan for a business at Hooterville Junction when Junction owners have a revolving loan that had to be renegotiated. Also, she said, a member of the Voss family, which is co-owner of Hooterville Junction, is to be employed at the embroidery business. Also, she said, because the Collins' don't own the building or equipment, the loan would be easy to walk away from. Finally, she wondered about the couple's lack of experience in the business which "concerns me."

Jim Collins called Hooterville Junction's loan "irrelevant" to his loan request and said Gay Voss, who also worked for the former Threads Work, is a "huge, huge key" to the business. "I guarantee you Gay Voss is not a liability," he said.

"It kind of offends me when you said, I kind of got the feeling that you don't think someone not from here should open a business here," he said. "My wife is a Cornjerker by blood."

See HOOPESTON on other side

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Rossville trustees splits on amending subdivision covenant

ROSSVILLE—Residents of a new subdivision here may have their pick of heating methods and be able to have an outbuilding.

In a 4-2 vote, the Rossville Village Board approved amending the Masengale Subdivision covenant at Monday night's regular meeting. The change must still be approved by members of the Masengale family.

The existing covenant calls for all houses to be heated with natural gas, which is supplied by the village. At the May meeting, Trustee Dick Queen said at least one lot was not sold because the potential owner wanted to use geothermal energy.

The proposed change would allow natural gas, geothermal and electric heat only.

Trustees are also proposing that lot owners be allowed an outbuilding, provided it is no bigger than 12' x 16' and that it is one story and matches the décor of the house. The existing covenant bans outbuildings.

Trustees Bunny Tweedy and Scott Sprague voted against the changes. Tweedy said she would have preferred limiting outbuildings to 12' x 12' and Sprague,

gas committee chairman, said he wanted natural gas as the only heating option.

In unrelated business, the board heard from Chuck Roach about the war memorial. The new memorial is currently overseen by the Rossville American Legion post but Roach asked the board if it could be given to the village.

The Legion pays property tax on the lot and also had to pay sales tax on materials when the new memorial was built, Roach said. Also, "there's no guarantee this Legion will be here in 10 years," he said.

Queen said the request "is something we should consider strongly."

The board also discussed nuisance ordinances, including used tires outdoors that collect water and breed mosquitoes and standing piles of yard waste. Trustees approved compiling a list of most frequently-violated ordinances and sending them to residents.

Police News



A 36-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Tuesday that someone damaged her vehicle while it was in the Parkview Court area.

Hoopeston continued from other side

Lane and Yonkers voted against the loan.

In other action, the council:

- Heard from parks committee chairman Alderman Carl Ankenbrand that new lights had to be put at the horse-shoe pits and that various flower beds and baskets decorate McFerren Park.
- Took no action on a request from Crown Castle Cell Towers for a 40-year lease extension for the tower at the city slab. Goodwine said the request is not financially advantageous for the city. Currently, the company pays about \$7,500 annually.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today and tonight. High 85, low 65. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 82, low 59.

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

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LOST & FOUND

Lost: 7 year old Yorkie, "Sammy." Last seen Wed. night on East Seminary. If found, call (217) 283-6769 or 283-5700. \$200 reward.

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Moving sale 724 E. Main, Hoopeston. Sat., 8-? 3 hutches, chairs, computer desk, tools, toddler & baby items, boys 4T clothes, girls 12 mos.-2T clothes. Everything must go! Make an offer!

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City to curb illegal dumping

Street and Alley Superintendent Dave Knake is reminding citizens that the city slab is for tree limbs and yard waste only. If rules are not followed, the slab will have to be closed to the public. Scheduled dates for drop-offs will be posted and will be supervised if rules are not obeyed.

Please report illegal dumping with violator's license plate number to city hall or the street and alley department.



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