



Council approves funds for economic development leader

Some of Hoopeston's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds have been earmarked for a fulltime economic development person.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the Hoopeston City Council unanimously approved paying \$30,000 from the TIF fund to help pay for expenses related to an economic development director.

The projected salary is \$35,000 with an additional \$15,000 needed for benefits and associated costs such as electricity, telephone and other expenses, said Alderman Bill Goodwine, city finance committee chairman.

While the city expects to pay the bulk of the costs, other funding is being sought from Grant Township, Hoopeston Industrial Corporation and Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, he said.

Shannon Ruh has headed up economic development for the last several months as a Peace Corps Fellow and has expressed an interest in staying on in a fulltime role; however, Goodwine said, no one will be hired until after the position has been advertised.

Currently, the TIF fund has about \$221,000 with an additional \$140,000 expected from tax revenue this year.

In other economic development business, the council unanimously approved a land option agreement with Donald Hirsch for acreage located west of the railroad tracks north ADM, stretching about halfway to Rt. 1 and bordered on the north by County Line Rd.. The parcel is approximately 134 acres.

The agreement allows the city to act quickly should a company want to locate near Hoopeston, Goodwine said.

Under the agreement, Hirsch would agree to sell land See DEVELOPMENT on other side

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

Hubbard Trail Country Club Country Club MGA STEAK FRY Friday, Sept. 8th Steak, Chicken and Shrimp 5:30-8:30 p.m. FALL GOLF SPECIAL Weekday: \$9 for 9 holes \$18 for 18 holes Weekend: \$25 for 18 holes Call for weekend tee time

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The following items were found over the weekend at McFerren Park and turned in to police. They may be identified and claimed by the owners.

- Small black CD case with several CDs
- Sprint/Sanyo flip phone
- Pair of prescription glasses

• Keyless entry fob for a Chrysler. No keys are on the fob.

A 19-year-old man reported Tuesday that someone entered his home in the 700 block of West Orange and removed an item.

Development continued from other side

at \$8,000 per acre for economic development. The contract includes stipulations for payment to a tenant farmer in the event the land sells. If a crop is not harvestable due to economic development, a \$400 per acre payment will be made and if a crop has not yet been planted, the payment would be \$160 per acre.

The cost to the city is \$10 for the right to purchase and transfer ownership, Goodwine said. The option expires Dec. 31, 2007.

Officials hope to negotiate options on three other properties including land south of Hoopeston Industrial Corporation land, property south of the city slab on Rt. 1 and ground north of Thompson Ave., Goodwine said.

In unrelated business, a motion to reinstate a handicapped parking space on the north side of the 200 block of East Main failed to get a second.

Alderwoman Gail Lane made the motion, saying it would be better to put the old space back in rather than purchase an empty lot next to RentWay to create a handicapped parking lot. "Until something else is found, we need something for our citizens," she said.

Goodwine suggested a handicapped parking space be put in the parking lot west of Unger's Jewelry Store but did not make a motion.

Approval to remove the handicapped parking space on Main St. was granted in February following a request made by Tom Sheridan, owner of Sheridan's TV and Appliances. Sheridan said he sometimes used the space to load and unload merchandise for his store but hesitated to do so after a Jan. 1 hike in fines for violating handicapped parking laws.

Police News

No tickets were reported in an accident at 4:32 p.m. Tuesday at South Sixth Ave. and West Orange.

Police said Becky A. Wiley of Ambia, Ind., in a 2002 Mercury, was eastbound when she saw police cars parked on the south side of the street. When she looked back at the road, she saw a 1991 Dodge van, driven by Sally Lake of Hoopeston. Lake was stopped to turn left into a business.

Hoopeston ambulance personnel were called to the scene but all people refused the ambulance. Hoopeston Fire Department was called to wash down gasoline.

In other discussion, Goodwine addressed points raised in a letter written by Alice Russell to a local publication regarding concrete work done in the parking lot west of Unger's Jewelry Store on Main St. Goodwine took exception to Russell referring to Silver Bros. as "greedy and unprofessional," saying her opinion does not represent the city. "Some people thought she was speaking for Hoopeston because she's chairman of a city committee," he said.

Goodwine said Russell's letter contained errors, including that two bids were sought on the project. In fact, he said, prices quoted were not bids and were for different types of work. Also, Russell said the city got a \$10,000 grant for beautification when the only \$10,000 he could find was the amount budgeted by the city.

Russell responded that she did not speak for the city, only as the chairman of the open spaces subcommittee of the ad hoc beautification committee. She further said she did not feel right asking Silver Bros. employees to donate time on a Saturday and that she believed the city received a \$10,000 grant from the county beautification committee. Her letter, she said, was spurred by harassment towards workers for the Paxton company who were photographed while working on the project.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 82. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 55. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 82, low 58.

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

Wiley was at fault for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Resurfacing work to close road

The state will be resurfacing County Road 4200N (Thompson Ave.) from approximately 1700E (Conservation Club Rd.) to 1950E (Cheneyville Rd.) starting Monday, Sept. 11. The work is expected to take two to three days. Residents who live on the road will be able to pass through.

Crews will work on County Road 4300N (County Line Rd.) from 1900E to 1950E later in the week. Work should take only one day.

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HOUSES FOR SALE

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MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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