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Mayor offers olive branch to city council with appointments

In a conciliatory effort, Hoopeston Mayor Bill DeWitt revamped committee members for the 2007-08 year.

DeWitt made the announcement at Tuesday night's regular council meeting in response to comments made at the June 5 meeting by Alderman Brandon Hamilton.

At that meeting, Hamilton, speaking for Alderman Bill Goodwine who was absent, suggested that DeWitt's plan to change committees—leaving chairmen the same but switching the other two members—was not a good idea. "I think the overall consensus is 'why fix it if it isn't broken,'" he said.

Reading a written statement Tuesday night, DeWitt said "I think we all know our relationship has been less than perfect," adding that as mayor he has "not always been easy for me to maintain my calm composure...if there is such a thing."

DeWitt revamped the committee list, keeping chairmen the same and keeping one previous member, while putting a new member on each of the city committees. The concession, he said was a symbol of "offering my hand" in what he hoped would be a "mutual first step" of working towards the betterment of Hoopeston.

Goodwine replied that he believes it is better not to have "wholesale change" in committees and that for new members to a committee, the first year is a learning year. Having two new members under a chairman "really gives the chairman way too much power," he said.

Committees and their members are:

Ambulance/Fire: Brandon Hamilton, chair, Nancy Stipp, Bill Crusinberry.

Civic: Nancy Stipp, chair, Ed Lotz, Charles Davis.

Cemetery: Charles Davis, chair, Brandon Hamilton, Bill Goodwine.

Finance: Bill Goodwine, chair, Brandon Hamilton, Jerry Yonkers.

Parks: Carl Ankenbrand, chair, Nancy Stipp, Ed Lotz.

Police: Ed Lotz, chair, Charles Davis, Bill Goodwine.

Street/Alley: Jerry Yonkers, chair, Carl Ankenbrand, Bill Crusinberry.

Water/Sewer: Bill Crusinberry, chair, Jerry Yonkers, Carl Ankenbrand.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Crusinberry, who said engineers Daily & Associates are working on a loan application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to pay for repairs to the aerial and ground water storage tanks. The project is estimated at about \$500,000; the loan would be repaid over 20 years at 2.5 percent interest.

- Also, the city is looking at Community Development Assistance Program grants that might pay for ways to abate flooding.

- Approved a \$19,200 bid for a 2007 Ford F-150 4WD 1/2 ton truck from Crown Ford for the parks department. Ankenbrand said the department plans to get a snow blade for the front of the truck to help with winter plowing.

- Approved donating up to \$1,200 towards the July 4 fireworks display. Area businesses have raised \$7,800, and more fundraisers are planned, said Alderwoman Nancy Stipp.

- Stipp also received unanimous approval for six people to attend the CDI Institute for community development. The council had previously approved four participants. Those who will attend are economic developer Shannon Ruh, Jean Minick and Connie Cain who attended last year's session, along with Judy Benjamin, Pat Fraley and city clerk Gail Lane.

- She also thanked Lotz for putting banners up downtown. She had requested earlier that city employees be allowed to hang banners and wreaths but Lotz com-

See COUNCIL on other side

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Local girl gets 10th place in Nashville vocal competition

Taylor Wolfe 15-year-old daughter of Rodger and Marj Wolfe and granddaughter of Don and Bonnie Wolfe of Hoopeston competed in the Music City Rising Star Youth Vocal Competition held in Nashville Tenn. The competition is for any high school age child with vocal or instrumental talent.

Taylor along with 167 other contestants sang in front of three judges throughout the three-day event, judged on intonation, melodic, clarity of consonants, consistency of vowels, pronunciation, tone, breathing, beauty of voice, stage presence, interaction with the audience.

Taylor sang a song by made popular by Sugarland, "Want To," and received an excellent scoring placing her in tenth place overall.

On Saturday afternoon all contestants gathered at the Wild Horse Saloon in downtown Nashville for an awards ceremony and brunch. Taylor was pleasantly surprised with her tenth place finish and presentation of a trophy and medal. Each participant received copies of the judges' scoring and comments. Taylor says; "It was a great experience and I enjoyed the whole CMA Festival in all, it gives you a chance to meet some of your favorite Country Music entertainers in person, along with hours of concerts," Wolfe said.

Taylor will be singing at the Potomac 4th of July celebration and also the Rankin 4th of July Celebra-

Council continued from other side

plained about paying people for what once had been volunteer work by citizens and business owners. When Stipp made her request, Lotz asked that it be tabled, allowing him to find people to volunteer to do it.

- Heard from Yonkers that the Safe Routes to School grant the city is applying for is actually divided into three parts with \$400,000 maximums in each of the areas, including sidewalks, handicapped accessibility and traffic control.

The plan submitted by the city totals \$692,000, with \$438,000 in sidewalk repairs. If Hoopeston is approved, officials will either have to fund the \$38,000 over the maximum or cut the project back.

- Heard from Goodwine that new accounting software



Photo submitted

Taylor Wolfe accepts her tenth place trophy at the Music City Rising Star Youth Vocal Competition in Nashville.

tion.

She will also perform at noon Thursday at the meeting of the Red Hat Society at Merita's in Ross-

ville. is needed for the water department. At budget time, software was cut from the budget. "I'm not sure if that was a good idea or not," he said, adding several glitches have occurred lately, including the loss of data that took employees 75 hours to input again. Goodwine suggested new software might be a good use of surplus funds in the city budget.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 87, low 66. Tomorrow, high 84, low 66.

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



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