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Lourdine Florek
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Hoopeston council works toward new TIF area for iron plant

The Hoopeston City Council unanimously agreed to move forward with a predevelopment agreement that will lead to creating a fourth tax increment financing area in the city.

At Tuesday night's special meeting, the council voted 7-0 to approve the agreement which will convert to a redevelopment agreement between the city and Vermilion Iron.

Under the proposed terms of the agreement, Vermilion Iron must agree to maintain a minimum of 15 jobs. In return, the company will receive \$80,000 in upfront funds when the TIF becomes active in July 2008.

The money will allow Vermilion Iron to purchase a heat treat furnace. Owner Mike Pentas told the council that the furnace will allow him to market Vermilion Iron to a different customer base.

The upfront money is to be repaid over 13 years at \$6,000 a year. Vermilion Iron will be eligible to receive

\$355,798 in TIF-eligible expenses over the 23-year life of the TIF.

Under TIF guidelines, companies may receive up to 70 percent of TIF-eligible expenses. The money paid out comes from the difference between the level of tax on the property when the TIF is enacted and the amount of increase in property tax created by redevelopment.

In unrelated action, the council approved, in a 5-2 vote, leasing sports fields on city property to the respective sports organizations.

The agreements will allow sports organizations to create rules, which spectators must obey or face arrest.

The action stemmed from a request from sporting organizations which had requested that spectators not smoke near young players. Members of the organizations reported that spectators said they did not have to follow the request.

See COUNCIL on other side

Winning Shop Hoopeston slogan says live, love, shop here

The winning slogan, as part of the Shop Hoopeston First Campaign is:

"Hoopeston - Live here. Love here. Shop here"!

This slogan was submitted by Wendy Colbert and she received \$50 in Chamber bucks.

The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all those who participated in this contest!

All businesses will be encouraged to use this slogan in advertising to help promote buying local.

Photo contributed

Wendy Colbert receives \$50 in Chamber Bucks for her winning entry in the Shop Hoopeston slogan contest. Also pictured are Mayor Bill DeWitt and Beth Tothoroh and Dave Ervin, co-chairmen of the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce.



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Council continued from other side

Alderman Charles Davis asked whether the action would force groups that wanted to use the parks to get permission from a sports group. "If this is about a smoking problem, why don't we handle the smoking issue," he asked.

City attorney Paul Manion said Davis brought up good points but said on the flip side, someone could hold a picnic in centerfield during the middle of a ballgame.

Alderman Carl Ankenbrand, parks committee chairman, said the leases are for the sports field and 100 feet around them, not for the entire park and that having the leases eliminates the need for an ordinance change.

Davis and Alderman Jerry Yonkers voted against the leases.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Approved the appropriations and salary ordinances and a wage adjustment of .085 percent for 11 employees whose raises last year were less than three percent. A new employee handbook was also approved.
- Approved, 6-1, a budget revision allowing the street/alley department to purchase a leaf vac for \$25,000. Alderman Ed Lotz voted against it, saying after the

meeting that wasn't familiar with the situation.

- Approved a bid from Silver Brothers for \$3.23 per square foot for the 50/50 sidewalk program. Sidewalks will be 48" wide and 4" deep.

• Discussed but took no action on the possibility of adding part of Dice Addition to the city. Manion will research the issue more and will report back to the council in about a month.

• Heard from members of Realm of Shard, a medieval reenactment group which meets from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays at McFerren Park. Speaking for the group, Chris Inman said rumors have circulated about the group and that one member was threatened at work for his involvement.

Police News



A **39-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 2:45 p.m. Monday that someone took her dog off its chain at Parkview Court.

A **35-year-old** man reported Tuesday that someone took his son's red/maroon Schwinn Sidewinder bike from his porch in the 300 block of East Washington.

Donald E. Underwood Jr., 22, of 827 E. Seminary was arrested at 4:19 p.m. Tuesday at College Way and West Main. He was charged with alcoholic container prohibited in public place after he was allegedly seen carrying an open container of alcohol.

Underwood was released on a notice to appear.

A **45-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 7:13 p.m. Tuesday that someone damaged her vehicle in the 400 block of North Seventh St.

Obituaries

LONG - Nancy Jane Long 89, of Hoopeston, died at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday July 25, 2007, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today and tomorrow. High today 85, low 67. Tomorrow, high 87, low 68.

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

- Learned the cemetery committee will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday at city hall. The meeting is a planning session.
- The civic committee will meet at 5 p.m. Monday to review VISTA volunteer applications.

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Large 3 BR upstairs apt. 1 car garage. \$400 mo./\$400 dep. (217) 772-1255

HOUSES FOR SALE

Hoopeston: 3 b/r ranch home for sale, 634 E. Thompson, \$45,000 will consider contract with 10% down. Newer roof, dishwasher, redecorated. lg family room. Illiana Real Est. (217) 748-6900.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Gray sectional sofa. Bed on 1 end, recliner on the other. \$400. (217) 283-7845

RUMMAGE SALES

801 S. Fifth St., Hoopeston. Sat., 7-12. Men's, women's, kids clothing, Denim Days, home interior, patio set, 8' pool table. (217) 495-0441 to see

923 S. Fifth Ave. (Southgate Subdivision) Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., 8 a.m. Men's, women's, teens, children's clothing, knick-knacks, NASCAR items, home interior pictures, wall décor, furniture, too much to mention

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