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Hoopeston native McElhaney named as Ward I alderman

A Hoopeston native has been selected as the new Ward I alderman.

Bill McElhaney was unanimously approved at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting to replace Chuck Davis, who resigned recently.

McElhaney, 51, is employed by Caterpillar in Lafayette, after having worked at Rantoul Products for 17 years. "I hate to leave the community to make money, but I'm glad to bring it back and spend it here," he said.

The new alderman said he hopes to contribute to a team atmosphere in the city, seeking first to understand, then to be understood.

Approached to take the council seat, McElhaney said he was eager to get involved and urges others to do the same. "I didn't want to be part of the problem," he said, "I want to be part of the solution."

McElhaney and his wife, JoAnne, have two children, Bill Jr., of West Lafayette, and Toby, of Hoopeston.

In other action, the council named Dana Goodrum



as the city's new economic developer.

Also a Hoopeston native, Goodrum is the daughter of Joe and Denise Goodrum. She is currently employed at the University of Illinois, Springfield. She has a master's degree in public administration and a certificate in nonprofit management.

Alderman Bill Goodwine said Goodrum will move back to Hoopeston for the position. She is expected to begin her new duties November 1.

Goodwine said that the council and economic development committee hope to continue the success they found with previous economic developer Shannon Ruh.

"She had a lot of ideas," he said. "The people she worked with (the council and steering committee) were long on experience and short on ideas."

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Alderman Carl Ankenbrand that Green Meadows Girl Scout Council has officially turned over responsibility of the Girl Scout House in McFerren Park to the city, effective Sept. 15.

- Ankenbrand asked that other groups that want to use the building contact the city to avoid scheduling conflicts.

- Approved giving \$30,000 in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds to the Hoopeston Area school district to offset the cost of middle school roof repair work.

- Approved paying Gary Dickison \$5,000, half the cost of painting the façade of the McFerren Building, under the Façade Improvement Program.

The Façade Program, part of Hoopeston's Main Street Program, assists building owners who are in-

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