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Lourdine Florek, Owner

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

www.justthefacts.net



The rear view of 105 E. Main shows the exposed exterior after the roof caved in on October 11.

Council discusses options in wake of October 11 roof collapse

What goes up must come down, but who pays for the cleanup when it falls was discussed by the Hoopeston City Council Tuesday night.

At issue is a building at 105 E. Main. The structure's roof caved in on October 11, resulting in little debris on the ground, but fear that further damage is forthcoming has caused both lanes of Main St. to be closed since the roof fell.

"The whole upstairs came down like it had been on an elevator," said Ald. Bill McElhaney, civic improvement committee chairman, of the cave-in.

McElhaney and compliance officer Mike Bane exam-

ined the building a couple days before the collapse and found it unsafe. "There's probably a six inch gap between the original building and the façade," McElhaney said, who added the vibrations from a passing train may cause more of it to fall.

The 100-year-old building has been everything from a buggy shop to an Ace Hardware to a video store. In days when Hoopeston had roofing companies, such as Snively and Carlson, they checked the roofs of downtown businesses but when they closed, building owners were not equipped for repairs and roofs began to degrade.

See **COLLAPSE** on other side

Butter's on the Grill

Hubbard Trail Steak Fry

Open to the Public

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16 oz. Ribeye, baked potato, salad bar & roll \$20

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spotlight
on **savings**

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October

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Collapse *continued from other side*

Ald. Alex Houmes asked if, by ordinance, the owner has 10 days to remedy the problem. Attorney Chuck Mockbee answered in the affirmative, saying the city can step in after the 10 days.

McElhane said the owner, who was not named, is devastated and overwhelmed by the damage and has no way to take care of it. "He's stepping up to take ownership but he doesn't know what to do with it. He was really shattered at what happened to his building."

Ald. Chad Yaden said the owner was supposed to attend the meeting but did not. "I hope this not indicative of what we're going to have to deal with," he said.

Ald. Lourdine Florek agreed. "I'd be a little more likely to believe his sincerity if he actually showed up here tonight," she said. "Also, we need to be careful about using tax dollars from people who take care of their property to pay for those who don't."

McElhane agreed but said the structure must come down.

Proposals just to bring the rest of the structure down ranged from \$6,000 from Alan Decker; \$13,460 from Silver Brothers; and \$12,000 from Terry Glynn Demolition and Excavation.



Roof debris can be seen through a rear window of the building at 105 E. Main. The roof fell through the building on October 11. The structure has been cordoned off and Main Street has been closed at the location since then.

Glynn, from the LaSalle/Peru area, approached officials in January about taking down abandoned/dilapidated buildings at no cost to the city, in return for the brick from the buildings.

Disposal fees would be another \$2,000 per semi load, although Glynn said 85-90 percent of the structure should be able to fill the building's basement, according to McElhane.

Before it can be demolished, the Illinois EPA will demand an asbestos inspection before it issues a demolition permit, said Mayor Bill Crusinberry. Also, in a previous demolition, paint samples were also required for lead content.

Officials bemoaned tax sales, where people can buy buildings starting at \$600 plus fees. If the buildings were of quality, they would not be on the tax sale, Crusinberry said. People have plans for the buildings but the costs to make them compliant is more than they anticipated and three years later, the same buildings are back on the tax sale, he said.

McElhane said he will soon hold a civic improvement meeting and hopes all aldermen will attend to discuss and decide the issue, which may be revisited as the downtown area has eight or nine buildings with similar problems.

In other business, the council voted 7-0 to approve a new ordinance for an EPA loan for the northeast side sewer lining project. Ald. Ryan Anderson was absent.

Aldermen had previously approved an ordinance to borrow \$567,045.60, Florek said. However, the EPA changed its application process, requesting more infor-

From the Blotter

Denise Buckner, 46, of Gilman, was arrested after a traffic stop at 12:57 a.m. Tuesday at Fifth Ave. and Orange. He was charged with driving while license revoked and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

Andres Garcia, 20, of Hoopeston, arrested after a traffic stop at 11:42 p.m. Tuesday at First Ave. and West Penn. Charged with carrying a concealed weapon and possession of cannabis, he was released on notices to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Weather

Sunny today. High 74. Tonight, clear. Low 49. Tomorrow, sunny. High 78, low 53.

mation, such as five-year revenue projections, causing the need for a new ordinance.

The new ordinance includes an updated construction estimate and some fees already paid by the city - such as engineering design - and seeks a loan not to exceed \$710,000.

The council also approved allowing Crusinberry to sign documents related to the project.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Ald. Carl Ankenbrand that Larry Sapp, Arrow Ambulance director, would like to discuss an ambulance purchase at the November 7 meeting. Currently, Hoopeston has a 2015 ambulance with 85,000 miles on it a 2013 model with 193,000 miles and a 2009 with 265,000 miles, he said.
- Heard from Yaden that the cemetery committee is accepting bids for grave blankets. Specifications are available at city hall. Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. November 7.
- Heard from Crusinberry that the Hoopeston Jaycees will host the annual Spooktacular from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26 downtown.
- Crusinberry also announced that trick-or-treating will be 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Classifieds

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