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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Council approves \$175,000 in TIF funds for Subway relocation

In a 5-2 vote, Hoopeston City Council on Tuesday approved a redevelopment agreement for up to \$175,000 of tax increment financing money to relocate Subway.

Ald. Alex Houmes made the motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Ald. Robin Lawson, followed by discussion led by Ald. Bill Goodwine.

Saying he had no problem with the project, "I still ask what are the taxpayers getting for the \$175,000 and I don't know. Without an agreement from Casey's, there's no need to move Subway. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't think Casey's has bought anything."

Mayor Bill Crusinberry answered that Casey's will not sign a purchase agreement on five parcels of land until the two lease agreements are approved: one from Subway releasing Hooterville Broadcasting from having to provide the building and one from Hooterville Broadcasting releasing Subway from its long-term lease.

Despite no official documentation, behind-the-scenes communications have been going on, between Casey's Corp.'s architect and engineer with Hoopeston's engineer and administrative office. "There's been a lot of input from Casey's," Crusinberry said.

Goodwine likened the situation to the children's game Telephone, where one person whispers something to another person, who whispers to the next person and the next. "It's been 'he said that she said what he said that Casey's said,'" Goodwine said. "Why can't there be something from Casey's saying 'this is what we plan to do? It's always been so coy.'"

Houmes said Vermilion Advantage representatives told him that Casey's would not sign anything, but that, "Based on what they told me, I'm confident in the project," he said. "A development of this magnitude is not often presented to Hoopeston and I think it would be unwise of us to turn this away."

Crusinberry reviewed the history of the plan, which started with a three-way land swap that saw First Farmers Bank move, to be followed by Subway and finally, Casey's. There will be a significant infusion of property

taxes from the projects.

"I'm not saying turn it down," Goodwine said. "I'm saying do our due diligence and require what we need to know to make a sound decision for the taxpayers."

Ald. Jeff Wise asked if it was correct that Casey's is putting in \$25,000 towards moving Subway. Crusinberry confirmed that, saying Subway had expected to get \$200,000 toward moving but when Hoopeston approved \$175,000, Casey's agreed to add the rest.

Ald. Lourdine Florek said city officials are supposed to trust the other parties in the development. Saying the redevelopment agreement did not need to be approved

See SUBWAY on other side

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Subway continued from other side

until the lease situation was resolved, "Why don't they trust us to give them the \$175,000 when there's actually movement that indicates that everything else is going to happen?"

Florek also said she found nothing in the document that said if the Casey's project didn't happen that, that the city would not have to pay the \$175,000.

Crusinberry responded Subway will be reimbursed for expenses they incurred and there would be no costs if they did not relocate.

"Why wouldn't they move if they were going to be given ground and paid \$175,000," Goodwine asked. "They would move; it's just that we wouldn't necessarily have a new Casey's."

"All of this is not to get a new Subway," Florek said. "It's to get a new truck stop."

Crusinberry said if the agreement were not approved,

Obituaries

GEIKEN—David E. Geiken, 67, of Cissna Park, died Sunday, Sept. 15, in Urbana. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna park, and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Funeral Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be at a later date. Memorials are suggested to Cissna Park Fire Department or the church.

Briefly

Breast cancer support

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Pit Stop at Fast Lanes. The next meeting is September 19. Please spread the word and join us for a meeting to offer support to past and present breast cancer survivors. For more information, contact Pat Foster, (815) 984-4040 or (309) 208-9829.

At the library

Friday is the final day to sign up and pay for the Fall Herb & Floral Wreath craft project which will be held from 1-2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30. Mary Dickinson, of Ford-Iroquois Master Gardeners, will guide participants in making a wreath. Cost is \$10 per person to cover the cost of materials.

Weather

Sunny today. High 87. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 64. tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 87, low 65.

the city would be looked at as an uncooperative partner with nothing but an abandoned gas station there.

Voting yes were Houmes, Lawson, Yaden, Ankenbrand and Wise, with Goodwine and Florek voting no. Ald. Bill McElhaney was absent.

Crusinberry said he has been told the plan is to start the project in spring with a three-month turnaround time.

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