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Council approves new façade committee, building update

Hoopeston residents will be able to have their say when it comes to recreational cannabis in the city.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry set a special city council meeting for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29 as a time for residents to share their opinions on how officials should deal with the issue, created when the Illinois legislature legalized the recreational use and purchase of cannabis earlier this year. Laws governing use and related businesses take effect January 1, 2020.

Resident who wish to speak on the issue will be required to sign in, Crusinberry said at Tuesday's council meeting. Residents will be given a specified amount of time to address the council from the podium. The meeting will be recorded, he added.

After residents have finished speaking, council members will be allowed a brief time to speak.

Some routine business will also be conducted prior to residents speaking. With a three-week gap until the November 5 meeting, "it's a good time to pay our bills while we're here," Crusinberry said.

In other business Tuesday, the council, in a 7-0 vote, approved new members to the city's façade committee.

Members must come from different segments of the community and now include Marta Pierce, as an interested citizen; Ald. Robin Lawson, representing the city; Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce President Valarie Hinkle; Carol Hicks, representing Hoopeston Historical Society; and Emily Brown as a business representative.

Lawson abstained from voting. Crusinberry said he hopes the group will meet next week for an organizational meeting to familiarize themselves with façade ordinances, and again the following week to vote on a façade grant application for an undisclosed business.

The façade program allows for matching grants up to \$5,000 to be awarded to businesses who improve the facades of their businesses. This year, \$10,000 - enough for two grants at the maximum amount - were included in the budget. Funds will come from the city tax increment financing program.

In unrelated discussion, Ald. Alex Houmes said the structure at 204 N. Market, which the city hopes to demolish, was not pulled from the tax trustee auction, but nobody purchased it. The city will continue to take steps

See COUNCIL on other side

Correction

The list of aldermen who attended the October 9 Committee of the Whole meeting. Ald. Carl Ankenbrand was listed but did not attend. Ald. Jeff Wise was not listed but attended.

Just the Facts regrets the error.

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Hoopeston Area will have home field advantage when it hosts the final game of the IHSA regionals on Saturday. A 7-1 win Tuesday over St. Anne sealed the deal for the Cornjerkers. Neil Williams got the team on the board with 28 minutes left in the half. Less than a minute later, Ben Brown scored on a rebound. Isaías Diaz made it 3-0 when he was able to bend his kick into the goal. At the 13:29 mark, Lucas Hofer crashed to goal hard, heading the ball just past the St. Anne goalie to make it 4-0. Josh Delfino finished the first with a goal, taking the Cornjerkers into the half at 5-0.


After Raul Guerrero scored for St. Anne, and with six minutes left, Williams took a pass from Delfino to score his second goal on a corner kick that hit off a St. Anne defensive player, to make the final 7-1.

From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:12 a.m. Tuesday at East Orange and South Market. Kiara N. Colunga, 18, of Hoopeston, in a 2005 Pontiac, and Ashley N. Pierce, 28, also of Hoopeston, in a 2012 Chrysler van collided.

Kyle A. Frazier, 18, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 10:50 a.m. Tuesday after police were called to assist Vermilion County Housing Authority at Centennial Manor.

Frazier, allegedly unauthorized to be in the building, was charged with possession of cannabis and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.



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Sports

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Council continued from other side

to take ownership of the building and tear it down.

“I don’t think any of us want to pay to clean these properties up but here we are, stuck with them,” Houmes said. In the last couple of years since the city has been demolishing buildings, residents have joined in, taking ownership and tearing down dilapidated homes in their neighborhoods.

Razing the multi-story building will cost significantly more than demolishing a house, leaving the city to pay - a scenario Houmes called “unfortunate, but beneficial for us to continue to budget for these kinds of properties.”

In unrelated action:

- Ald. Chad Yaden said bids are still being accepted for fall grave blankets. Specs are available at city hall. Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5 at city hall.
- Crusinberry that Subway has not yet been given the green light to move from its existing location to the former First Farmers Bank building across the street. The lease issue between the local Subway and Hooterville Broadcasting has been resolved. An issue remains between Subway corporate and the local store, he said.
- Ald. Bill Goodwine, member of a three-man committee researching building security, said he contacted engineer Tracy Fullen, of Donohue & Associates, for help in gathering necessary specifications for the project.
- Resident Stan Steiner asked what aldermen think about “our illustrious governor” wanting to merge 650 downstate and suburban police and fire pensions into two plans, one for police and another for fire.

Crusinberry said each community is supposed to have its own line item under the proposal. Ald. Bill Goodwine said a higher interest rate would be available for a combined \$100 million than the city’s \$3.2 million.

“I think you ought to look real hard before you ever let

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 57. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 36. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 62, low 45.

Payton Berlin was the winning goalie, stopping six of seven shots on the night. The Cornjerkers end their regular season at 21-4-1

Hoopeston Area will face either third seed Herscher or Grant Park, who played Wednesday evening. Saturday action begins at 1 p.m. at Hoopeston Area High School. Admission is \$5.

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