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Friday, November 22, 2019

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Hoopeston looks to increase levy to put pensions on track

Hoopeston's tax levy is expected to go up more than six percent as the city plays catch-up on police pensions.

At Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Ald. Bill Goodwine said the Illinois Department of Insurance is recommending the increase to put Hoopeston on a path to have a fully funded pension in 20 years.

At an October 22 meeting, the city's finance committee discussed the levy, particularly how to work towards full funding of police pensions.

Hoopeston was behind in payments to the pension fund because calculations were incorrect regarding widows of former officers and more recently, because the Illinois Department of Insurance raised the base level of interest

needed from 5.5 percent to 8.5 percent, Goodwine said.

To make up the difference, the council will be asked to approve increasing the police pension levy by \$54,000, from \$296,000 to \$350,000, and to increase the General Revenue contribution to police pensions by \$35,000, from \$40,000 to \$75,000.

Lourdine Florek, Owner

Goodwine said local income tax revenue is expected to be higher than budgeted and that the \$35,000 will come from the expected \$120,000 in income tax revenue.

A public hearing on the levy increase will be held at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, before the next council meet-

In unrelated action, the council approved, 6-1, a resolution allowing Mayor Bill Crusinberry to acquire 202/204 N. Market from the tax trustees for \$800, the minimum bid for property purchased from the tax trustees. Officials plan to have the building - at the corner of Market and Seminary - demolished.

Crusinberry said he doesn't want the city to spend roughly \$50,000 razing the building to have someone else buy it at the low price.

Ald. Lourdine Florek voted against the motion because a written resolution was not available at the meeting. Ald. Chad Yaden was absent.

Demolition bids are being accepted and will be opened See LEVY on other side



7 p.m. Fri. 3 p.m. Sun. No movie Saturday \$5/adults, children \$2 214 E. Main, Hoopeston



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Hoopeston Area Women's Club
TACO NIGHT

Wed., Nov. 27 4:30-8 p.m. Hoopeston American Legion

Carryouts available Raffle Baskets Bake Sale

Tacos \$2 ea. Corn or flour shells.

Nachos, Nachos Supreme, Refried Beans, Black Beans

Proceeds benefit Scholarship/Carnival programs

Bring canned food donation for food cupboard

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-Briefly

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Littles (a) the Library, 10:30-11 a.m. every Friday. For kids 0-5 and their caretakers. Features stories, songs, crafts, learning and movement activities.

Best Sellers Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday. For adults of all ages. New members welcome. This month's selections are "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" by Heather

Obituaries

WILKEN - Kay (Thompson) Wilken, 74, of Hoopeston, died at 2:39 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She will be cremated. Graveside service will be at noon Monday at Cissna Park Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Heritage Health, 423 N. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Levy continued from other side

December 16. Specs are available at city hall.

In other discussion, Crusinberry announced a snag in the deed transfer needed to move the Subway restaurant from the Hooterville Broadcasting building across Rt. 1 to the former First Farmers Bank & Trust building. Local owners are doing things behind the scenes so that when the situation is fixed, they can move ahead.

Once the Subway situation is rectified, the Casey's truck stop project is ready to move, with construction starting possibly in March, he said.

Crusinberry also told the council he had no new report on progress at the former Essex building. Building owner Justin Acton stopped work on turning the former factory into retail/heavy equipment storage space after the building was inspected by the EPA and asbestos found.

In unrelated business, the council:

• Heard from Ald. Jeff Wise that alley cleanup is finished.

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VISA

Lorraine trivia night is your knowledge of movie trivia

Friday, Nov. 29.

6711.

How is your knowledge of movie trivia? Find out at 6 p.m. Saturday at "All About the Movies" trivia night at the Lorraine Theatre, 324 E. Main.

Morris and "Evvie Drake Starts Over" by Linda Holmes.

instruction provided. Other needle crafters welcome.

Stitchin' Time, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Crochet

The library will close at 6 p.m. Wednesday and reo-

pen Friday. There will be no Littles & the Library on

For information on library programs, call (217) 283-

Bring a full team of six or come alone and join a smaller team. Cost is \$10 per person or join us for Pizza King personal pizza for an extra \$5. To reserve your seat or more information, call Marilyn (217) 397-2211 or Betty, (217) 304-5308.

Leaf pickup was to begin Wednesday on the city's southeast side. Residents are asked to pile leaves at curbside but not in the gutters.

- Heard from Ald. Alex Houmes that more than 60 streetlights will be replaced by Ameren, including most of those downtown. He thanked dispatch supervisor Tom Bookwalter and Hoopeston Police Department for their help in earmarking which lights need to be replaced.
- Heard from Florek that the water department repaired a water leak at Eighth Ave. and Young, have been cleaning catch basins and taking in-house safety training.

Weather

Sunny today. High 41. Tonight, cloudy. Low 28. Tomorrow, rain/snow likely, then partly cloudy. High 40, low 28. Sunday, mostly sunny. High 44, low 32.

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Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has openings for the following positions:

- ●Bus Driver
- Buildings and Grounds Supervisor
- Transportation and Grounds Supervisor

Applications are available online at Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us

Paw Spa N'More Grooming and Supply needs an assistant. Must like animals and children. All encouraged to apply. 1208 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston. (217) 260-3313

Silgan Containers is hiring press line mechanics. For more information or to apply, please go online to https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10377/0

Sygma is hiring Class A CDL drivers. Experienced drivers with clean records could qualify for a \$12,500 sign on bonus. Sygma is also looking for students for their CDL school. You must be 21 and have your Class A permit to be eligible. We have part time and seasonal work available as well. Go to www.sygmanetwork.com or call 855-770-3210

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