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Lourdine Florek, Owner

**Thursday, February 20, 2020**

*Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!*

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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## Police union, Hoopeston approve new three-year contract

Hoopeston City Council approved a new three-year contract with the Hoopeston Police Department Tuesday evening.

The contract gives officers a 2.8 percent pay increase in each of the three years. Pay will be retroactive to May 2019, when the previous contract expired, said Ald. Carl Ankenbrand, police committee chairman.

The contract also calls for officers to pay an additional percent of insurance costs each year, 13 percent this year, 14 percent next year and 15 percent in 2022, he said.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said the new deal also caps each officer's clothing allowance at \$800. Each year, officers are allotted \$400 for clothing. Many do not spend the money, which has accrued for several years.

The new agreement caps accruals at two years' worth. In new budgets, officers whose accounts contain less than \$800 will be boosted to the maximum, Crusinberry said.

The council voted 6-0 to approve the contract, with Ald. Alex Houmes abstaining because he had not seen a copy of the contract. Ald. Chad Yaden was absent.

The contract covers patrol officers and excludes command personnel, sergeants Jeremy Welsh and Quentin Morgan and Chief Jim DeWitt.

In related discussion, Ankenbrand announced that Officer Clayton Cahoe has resigned. His last day with the department will be February 23. He will begin working for the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department on February 24, but will work part time for Hoopeston after he completes his probationary period with the sheriff's department.

Ankenbrand called the resignation "sad news," saying Cahoe has been "a very hard-working officer. He helped get lots of drugs off the streets."

Cahoe joined HPD in August 2017.

In other business, a \$40,000 windfall in the cemetery budget may end up benefitting a different department.

Personnel cuts at the cemetery resulted the department being about \$40,000 under budget. Ald. Chad Yaden,

cemetery committee chairman, had suggested using the money to digitize the cemetery and have information available online.

In his absence, Houmes brought up the point, which was on Tuesday's agenda. However, he said, some questions about the process remained unanswered and so would not be voted upon.

That prompted Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, to wonder whether a cemetery website would be the best use of the money. He suggested the idea be "thrown in a basket" with other requests, such as a K-9 officer, a requested Hoopeston Auxiliary Police/Emergency Management Agency building or taking down more dead and dying trees.

Goodwine suggested the money be put in a general accrual account until a use is decided, which Houmes questioned, saying that because of accrual limits, Yaden is limited to what he can do at the cemetery.

The windfall, he added, was due to a lack of employees at the cemetery. "Chad has money left over because he went out and located graves for a good three or four months," Houmes added.

Also, he said, surplus funds in department budgets just "go away" into reserves. He then asked Goodwine how much money the city has in reserves.

Goodwine said the city has \$1.8 million in reserves but owes the police pension fund \$2.5 million, "our reserves are lower than our debt by \$750,000."

In the future, Goodwine suggested that surplus funds at the end of each year be spent in ways that best benefit Hoopeston, not necessarily in the original department.

In other business, the council:

- Unanimously approved selling the water department's old jet/vac truck for \$6,000 to Drennan Septic Service, Danville. After the new jet truck was delivered, the city tried to sell the old one by sealed bids, but received none, said Ald. Lourdine Florek, water/sewer chairman.

Since bids had already been sought, the council first  
See COUNCIL on other side

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February

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## Obituaries

**ABSHER** - Norman C. Absher, 65, of Hoopeston, died at 4 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, at Gilman Nursing Home. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 302 N. Market St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

**MITCHELL** - Jeffrey Dale Mitchell, 73, of Boswell, Ind., died at 4:40 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, 2020, at

home. He will be cremated. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. CST Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorial service will be at 10 a.m. CST Friday at Hoopeston United Methodist Church. Burial will be at a later date. Memorials are suggested to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at [pancan.org](http://pancan.org) or Feed My Lambs or Blessings in a Backpack which may be contacted through Hoopeston United Methodist Church.

**SHOUFLER** - Sylvia J. Shoufler, 69, of Watseka, formerly of Milford, died Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Memorial service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford, at a later date. Memorials are suggested to

ed to The ARC of Iroquois County.

**STOCK** - Gilbert "Gib" Stock, 85, of Watseka, died Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 at Iroquois Resident Home, Watseka. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park and 9 a.m. until the 10 a.m. funeral Saturday at Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Burial will follow in Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Memorials are suggested to the church Charity Fund or American Heart Association.

## Weather

Becoming sunny, colder today. High 26. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 13. Tomorrow, sunny. High 35, low 23.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](http://justthefacts.net/weather/).

## From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 6:03 p.m. Tuesday at West Orange and South First Ave. Police said David Olson, of Hoopeston, backed a 2013 Ram truck into a 2001 Nissan utility driven by James Byers, of Georgetown.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

City of Hoopeston Swimming Pool is accepting applications for lifeguards and assistant manager for the 2020 season. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W. Main St. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Fri.

Grain Inspection company now hiring. Full time positions with benefits. Insurance and 401k. Clean driving record a must. Call 217-283-7473 for more information. Hiring ASAP.

Robinson Chiropractic, a thriving and expanding chiropractic clinic, is looking for team oriented, multi-tasking, detail-oriented people. Candidates will be trained to assist with patient care. Customer service and phone skills a must. Candidates must be enthusiastic, outgoing, positive, great with people and have an interest in natural health and wellness and be flexible as we continue to thrive and grow in offices. Send resumes to [trina.keller@robchiro.com](mailto:trina.keller@robchiro.com).

United Prairie-Hoopeston has opening this Spring for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Please pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd, Hoopeston, IL 60942. For more information, please call the office, 217-888-0164 or Jordan Reese, manager, 217-918-2876.

We are currently hiring for our Verizon location next to McDonald's in Hoopeston! Are you interested in pursuing a career in sales where you can earn a base plus commission? Then this position might just be for you! If you like sales, love technology and have a competitive spirit you may have what it takes to join our amazing team! You'll use your knowledge and passion for technology to deliver an effortless customer experience while pursuing challenging and rewarding goals! This role comes with

## Council continued from other side

approved waiving bids before accepting Drennan's offer.

- Heard from Ald. Jeff Wise that Eric Lambert, of Hoopeston, has been hired as the new street /alley department worker. He is expected to start next week.

- Heard from Houmes that Joel Schuler has been given a deposit to purchase equipment for increased security at Hoopeston City Hall.

- Heard from Crusinberry that a committee will be formed to organize the "Our Town" segment on Hoopeston, set to air on WCIA on June 26.

He hopes the same committee can then take on planning a sesquicentennial event in 2021.

- Heard from Fire Chief Joel Bird that the department will hold a training burn Sunday on a house in the 900 block of Wyman. Firemen will try not to use hydrants in the training, but may have to, which may cause rust in local residents' water.

### HOOPESTON AREA SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### Registration

February 22 & 29 Noon-2 p.m.

Fast Lanes

For ages 5-18

\$50 - ages 5-7, \$70 - other ages

\$50 each additional sibling

Register online at [www.leaguelineup.com/hasa](http://www.leaguelineup.com/hasa)



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