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# Just the Facts

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020**

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

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## City council to delay new budget to determine effect of COVID-19 on income sources

Hoopeston officials plan to temporarily postpone making a new budget to more effectively gauge the effect of the coronavirus situation.

Aldermen had prepared 2020-21 budgets for their individual departments and turned them in Thursday in preparation for a March 31 budget meeting.

At Friday's emergency council meeting, Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, presented a typical budget, with \$2,353,177 in income, \$2,175,250 in expenses and \$176,927 in one-time requests. If all one-time expenses were approved, "which we've never done," he said, Hoopeston would be left with a \$24,974 shortfall.

But, Goodwine believes Hoopeston may not receive as much in sales, income or personal property replacement (PPRT) taxes, due to businesses being shuttered to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

He presented two other budget scenarios, one with sales tax down 10 percent and income and PPRT down 20 percent, which showed a \$231,874 deficit.

The second, with a 20 percent drop in sales tax and 30 percent less income and PPRT taxes, would leave Hoopeston in the red by \$362,574.

PPRT replaced personal property taxes on corporations, partnerships, and other business entities, which were abolished.

"Nobody's making any money," he said. "If this lasts three, four weeks, five weeks, six weeks, three months, who knows how much income tax? If nobody's making anything, taxes could go down much more than 20%."

Goodwine said the city can run under the appropriation ordinance, which is the budget plus an additional five percent for contingencies. The council will vote on a new appropriations ordinance in July, to take effect August 1.

One-time expenses will be frozen for the time being. "We haven't needed them for 20 years, or 15 years, so what's the emergency now," he asked.

With the shutdown, "nobody's making any money," Goodwine said. "If this lasts for three, four weeks, five weeks, six weeks, three months, who knows how

much income tax...if nobody's making anything, taxes could go down much more than 20 percent.

**See BUDGET on other side**



*Photo by James Eyrich*

## No fun

Play equipment in local parks is closed to children as part of restrictions put in place as a result of COVID-19. While youngsters may be in local parts, parents/guardians are asked to keep children off the attractions until further notice, as the corona virus can live for several hours on hard surfaces. There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Vermilion County.



**Budget** continued from other side

Waiting a month would give officials a clearer picture, Goodwine said. “If the virus is over, we can say ‘well, it’s going to be less than budget 2.’ If we’re still under lockdown practically, we’re going to have a lot less income.”

Ald. Carl Ankenbrand questioned the impact the virus is having on Hoopeston. “We’re still spending money in this town,” he said, adding at Hoopeston IGA, “it’s nuts,” with the store taking in more than \$50,000 one night. While it’s weird not seeing cars at local restaurants, Ankenbrand said he still sees people supporting local businesses.

“A lot of local business can’t be open,” Goodwine said. “

“So you’re not concerned about us being in a room together, you’re concerned about the economy,” Ankenbrand asked Goodwine.

“Yes, because we’re talking about budgets,” he answered.

Returning to the issue, “I don’t want to say ‘let’s do it all’ and find out we don’t have the money,” Goodwine said. “We can meet Tuesday. I think it would be a waste of time. We’ll just bide our time.”

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**For the safety of residents** and their employees, Republic Services has implemented changes in the wake of COVID-19.

Effective immediately, weekly trash must be in the blue totes to be picked up. Also, bulk collections have been temporarily suspended.

**Grant/Butler Assessor's** office is closed to the public until further notice. Call (217) 283-6868 or email [grantbutlertownship@yahoo.com](mailto:grantbutlertownship@yahoo.com) if you need to contact us..

**City of Hoopeston** administrative office is closed to walk-in traffic. Anyone who needs to transact business at the office must schedule an appointment by

**Obituaries**

**RILEY** - Sherryl (Fanning) Riley, 79, of Watseka, formerly of Milford, died Saturday, March 28, 2020, at Riverside Medical Center, Kankakee. Private graveside service will be held at Oak Hill Cemetery, Watseka. Memorials are suggested to donor’s choice. Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka, is handling arrangements.

**Corona Changes**

calling (217) 283-5833.

Residents who need to pay water bills may pay by phone, online through the city website, [cityof-hoopeston.com/](http://cityof-hoopeston.com/) or in the drop box in front of city hall.

McFerren Park Civic Center is closed to the public. Hoopeston Police Department window remains open.

**Hoopeston Multi Agency** front office is locked and open for scheduled appointments only. The thrift shop is closed until April 7. The van is running but only transporting three people at a time.

Anyone needing assistance or with concerns may call (217) 283-5544.

Seniors who are staying home and have no one to assist them may call to discuss possible solutions with us. We are here to help.

**Hoopeston Public Library:** is closed until further notice. Overdue fines incurred during the shutdown will be waived. Please keep overdue books until we reopen. Visit [hooplib.org](http://hooplib.org) for online resources.

**Weather**

Cloudy today. High 44. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 33. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 51, low 36..

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

**Classifieds**

**HELP WANTED**

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. To apply, please visit <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10688>

The City of Hoopeston is accepting application for an eligibility list with the police department. If interested, you will need to pick up and turn in an application to the police department located at 301 W Main St. Hoopeston, IL by May 4, 2020. Testing date will take place on May 30, 2020 at Hoopeston Area High School Library.

Help wanted: tire and mechanic experience helpful. Apply in person. Smitty's Dual Wheel, Inc. 8 miles west of Rossville.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for seasonal workers. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St.

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).

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 an hourly base and commission package as well as awesome

benefits. Please email your resume to [seth.wilson@alstiremart.com](mailto:seth.wilson@alstiremart.com) or stop by our store for more details.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time and part-time positions. We offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shifts are available.

Full-Fill Industries also offers a unique opportunity to choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle. You may choose to work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> shift.

We are now offering a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn some extra cash during school hours. We are now offering an 8:00 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fit the needs of your family while your children are in school.

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