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## Just the Facts

**Thursday, April 23, 2020**

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

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348

Lourdine Florek, Owner

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

## Swimming pool to remain closed, hope for splash pad opening

Hoopeston Swimming Pool will not open this season.

Citing the ongoing lockdown due to COVID-19 and a limited number of lifeguard applications Ald. Lourdine Florek made the announcement at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

At previous meetings, Florek, chairman of the water/sewer committee, had announced that few young people had applied to be guards this year. Even if more people could be found, restrictions in place for coronavirus resulted in lifeguard classes not being scheduled. "I don't know when or if the Red Cross will offer training" for this year, once the shelter-in-place order is lifted, she said.

Florek is hopeful the other water feature can open later this year. "My hope is that we'll be able to open the splash pad sometime this year for the little ones," she said. "But the swimming pool will be closed."

In related discussion, Florek announced the garden water meter program is ending. The program allowed residents to use older water meters to track water usage to fill pools or water gardens. "The meters are old, many of them are breaking," she said. "they're so old, we can't find replacement parts and new meters are expensive," she said.

Residents who have garden meters can turn them in and receive a credit on their water bills for the \$10 deposit they made to get the meters. A form must be filled out

by the water customer and returned with the meter. The form is available at [cityofhoopeston.com/forms-and-applications/](http://cityofhoopeston.com/forms-and-applications/). Residents may request a printed form be mailed to them by calling the water office, (217) 283-5196.

## Council's first E-meeting goes smoothly

Hoopeston City Council's first electronic meeting Tuesday evening went off almost glitch-free.

Ald. Jeff Wise took the lead on preparing for the meeting, scheduling two trial runs so officials could familiarize themselves with Microsoft Teams before the actual meeting.

Aldermen Chad Yaden and Bill McElhaney, as well as Mayor Bill Crusinberry were absent.

On Wednesday, Yaden said he could not connect to the live part of the meeting and was signed in as a resident would have been. He could hear the meeting but could not comment. Ald. Alex Houmes presented information for Yaden during the meeting.

Yaden has been a vocal critic of the e-meeting process, saying that five weeks ago, the council had a special meeting to discuss a possible remote meeting, but did not plan for one. Three weeks ago, the idea was discussed again, but the council did not vote to hold an electronic meeting and still had no plan, he said. "The only thing we plan is to fail," he said.

take a hit from the repercussions of the virus.

Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said shuttering businesses will affect the city's income.

For example, online video gaming nets roughly \$5,000 per month for the city. A four-months shutdown would result in \$20,000 less revenue for Hoopeston.

Sales tax is another area where sales tax dollars are expected to be down both because people are shopping less but also because at least when it comes to eating, cooking at home generates fewer tax dollars. The sales tax at restaurants is 6.5 percent, while most food purchased at the grocery store is taxed at 1 percent.

Income tax is also expected to decrease, by as much as  
**See COUNCIL on other side**

## Help Wanted

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Council continued from other side.

30 to 32 percent, according to some estimates.

Another area of concern for Goodwine is the state’s unemployment compensation sector. “That fund is running dry,” he said. Because Illinois has no ‘rainy day’ reserves for unemployment, “We’re going to run out really early in the game,” he said.

Last April, he said, Illinois had 10,000 unemployment claims; this April, the number is 180,000. Goodwine said the state will probably raise rates, which could add an additional \$10,000 to the budget.

From the Blotter

**An orange Intruder** bicycle was taken to the police station Tuesday after having been in the Hoopeston Area High School bike rack for two weeks. The owner may identify and claim it at the station.

**No tickets or injuries** were reported in a car/bicycle accident at 5:11 p.m. Tuesday at Fifth St. and Penn.

Police said a 13-year-old girl in a bicycle disobeyed a stop sign, entered the intersection and was struck by a 2015 Ford, driven by a 16-year-old Hoopeston girl.

“It’s not very bright, the future,” Goodwine said. “There are going to be some hard times.”

Aldermen and department heads had prepared budgets in mid-March, before any financial impact from COVID-19 had been realized.

With the future unclear, on a motion from Goodwine, seconded by Florek, the council voted 6-0 to approve budgets as submitted, including accruals for major purchases, such as vehicles and major projects, but table one -time requests until the financial picture is clearer. Goodwine asked aldermen to hold the line on spending, as much as possible.

In unrelated business, “I dread spring,” said Ald. Jeff Wise, “because of how many trees won’t have leaves this year.” As street/alley committee chairman, he was referring to the number of dead and dying trees in the city that

Weather

Showers likely today. High 60. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 43. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, chance of thunderstorms late. High 61, low 46.

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

need to be taken down. During the fall and winter months, department employees have managed to make a dent in the number - sometimes up to five a week - ”but with spring coming up, I just know that list is going to grow again,” he said.

Street Supt. Wade Gocking suggested the city use leftover Motor Fuel Tax money on felling dying trees, while Goodwine suggested reserve funds might be used to take down the worst ones.

Wise announced alley cleanup will begin May 4 and asked residents not to help employees collecting the piles of yard waste. “With social distancing and all that going on, we just request that people let them do their jobs and everything will be good,” he said.

Cleanup is for yard waste only. Piles with plastic, lumber, landscape materials, concrete or bricks will not be picked up.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a \$9,000 bid from Treasured Roots for perpetual care decorations at Floral Hill Cemetery. The bid is \$500 more than last spring’s bid.
- Approved an \$11,995 bid from Birkey’s for a new mower for the cemetery.
- Approved \$800 bids from Julio Crispin for the police department’s unwanted Trailblazer and Crown Victoria.
- Approved \$751.50 bid from Bill Redden for an unwanted cemetery dump truck
- Heard from Ald. Robin Lawson that three members have been added to Hoopeston Fire Department: Kyle Vaughn, Nick Grant and Brodee Herman.
- Heard from EMA Director Brad Hardcastle that there are no lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hoopeston but that there are a few cases of people exposed to the virus who are quarantined.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes is looking for dayshift kitchen help, 8-2. Food handlers license or Food Sanitation license. required

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.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for seasonal workers. applications can be found on the City Website at [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com) Click on the City Departments tab, then Administration, and scroll to the bottom of the page.

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.

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