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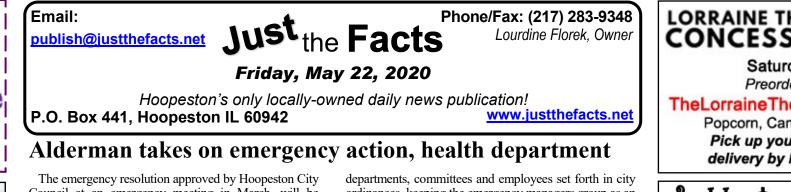


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on business closing last week

during the group's remote session.

dress where they live, nothing," he said.

Council at an emergency meeting in March, will be looked at anew.

On March 27, the council voted 6-1 in favor of the emergency resolution, which **Residents question council**

allowed Hoopeston EMA director Brad Hardcastle to work with the county EMA to get needed supplies and to receive reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Since then, an emergency tall grass and mowing grass into the streets. managers committee has made decisions about purchases and procedures related to the the temporary closing last week of Monical's Pizza. COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the committee are Mayor Bill Crusinberry, EMA Director Brad Hardcas-Vermilion County Health Department. tle, Fire Chief Joel Bird and

Police Chief Jim DeWitt. Ald. Chad Yaden, who the health department provided a list of steps to be strongly disagreed with the resolution and was the only "no" vote at the emergency meeting, brought the issue up

page, the most recent post, from May 16, states, "We at Tuesday's council meeting. apologize for the inconvenience, but we are tempo-Reading a prepared statement, rarily closed to accommodate staffing needs. We will "After months of planning and reopen soon and look forward to serving you!" discussion, it has become evident Covid-19 does not require

snap judgments to be made in hours, let alone minutes," he said. "This was the fear when the city entered into the state of emergency resolution to expedite the ability for faster decisions. City structures and ordinances are set up as a series of checks and balances. I believe it is time to get back to the daily business and order of the city." He then made a motion to restore all powers back to the

ordinances, keeping the emergency managers group as an advisory committee and keeping the emergency declaration for financial reimbursements.

The motion was seconded by Ald. Alex Houmes, then opened for discussion, where Yaden's proposal met re-Hoopeston residents participated in Tuesday's sistance from Ald. Bill Good-Hoopeston City Council meeting, asking questions wine, who attends group meetings when Crusinberry is una-Questions ranged from why flowers were cut at vailable.

Floral Hill to whether citations are being issued for "The council has all the authority it has ever had," Goodwine said. "The council The topic of the most-asked question had to do with formed the committee. The Brad Hardcastle, Hoopeston Emergency Managecouncil can disband the comment Agency director, said Monical's representatives mittee. The council can veto have stated that the closing was due to an undisclosed any decision the committee illness and that questions should be addressed to the makes."

Goodwine had previously A cleaning crew was at the restaurant Sunday and stated - and reiterated again Tuesday - that the group's taken, he said, adding Hoopeston EMA was not givstrength is in the knowledge of en additional information. We have no name, no adits members. "The committee knows more about the pan-On Monical's Pizza of Hoopeston's Facebook demic than, I suspect, any individual on the council". Also, the mayor put the emergency committee under himself, "which is no different than everybody else."

Probably the most contentious decision the emergency body made concerns city parks.

In April, Houmes, parks committee chairman, wanted to close parks completely, rather than rope off individual areas, such as the playground area.

The emergency group discussed Houmes' wishes, but See ALDERMAN on other side



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Alderman continued from other side

Crusinberry advocated for keeping the park open for walkers, which was enacted.

Yaden then questioned two pandemic-related expenses: a \$1,400 intercom system, which he called a "doorbell," and a 65" television for the administration office.

He asked police committee chairman, Ald. Carl Ankenbrand, "Did you think it was ok to buy a \$1,400 intercom rather than one for \$99? I question if we're spending the city's money wisely."

Ankenbrand responded that if the purchase came through the requisition system, "then I had to sign off on it."

Hardcastle explained that the \$99 intercom was not an all-weather model and did not include video, which the one purchased has. "It's been working beautifully," he said.

As for the television, it is being used as part of a video conferencing system at a cost of approximately \$1,600, Hardcastle said, adding it will also be used by Administrative Coordinator Dawn Layden for training purposes.

Yaden then took aim at the Vermilion County Health Department, saying anyone who thinks the department will protect their health is "sadly mistaken."

The comments concerned what Yaden considered a

Obituaries

SUTTON - JoLynn (Thornsbrough) Sutton, 80, of Alvin, died May 19. 2020, at home. Graveside rites will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday at Gundy Cemetery, Bismarck. Memorials are suggested to Alvin Christian Church. Rortvedt Funeral Services, Tilton, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.rortvedtfuneralservices.com/.

VANDERVORT - Donald Eugene "Gene" Vandervort, 90, of Rossville, died Saturday, May 16, 2020, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Private burial will be held in Rossville Cemetery. A service will be held at a later date, with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion Post #384. Anderson Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.anderson -funeral-home.com/

Weather

Mostly cloudy today. High 72, low 59. Saturday through Monday, chance of thunderstorms. High Saturday 81, low 65; Sunday 86/68; and Monday 84/67. For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

lack of action by the health department after a health concern at a local business last week, where five high school graduates work. Those graduates then took part in Saturday activities for seniors, including being in close proximity to each other in the McFerren Park annex.

Yaden said he notified the school about the incident and was told they would contact the health department.

Hardcastle said that situation is a good example of why the emergency committee is necessary: the possibility of COVID cases in a congregate living area like Honeywell Apartments, Centennial Manor, Parkview Court, or even the nursing home. Such a situation would overwhelm the county health department and the local group would have to help manage the situation.

A straw poll showed five of the seven members present

were willing to vote on a new resolution. Ankenbrand and Goodwine voted against the action.

Yaden is to submit a proposed resolution to city attorney Dave Wesner to be acted upon at the June 2 meeting. In other business, the council:

• Unanimously approved the Motor Fuel Tax resolution suggested by engineers Donahue & Associates. It includes sealcoating on approximately 71 blocks of Hoopeston streets and hot mix asphalt in a couple intersections, said Ald. Jeff Wise, street/alley committee chairman.

•Unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Danville to purchase asphalt emulsion for \$2.75 per gallon. It will be used for the MFT work.

Classifieds

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