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**Just the Facts**

**Friday, May 22, 2020**

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

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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Louridine Florek, Owner

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## Alderman takes on emergency action, health department

The emergency resolution approved by Hoopeston City 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 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 managers committee has made decisions about purchases and procedures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the committee are Mayor Bill Crusinberry, EMA Director Brad Hardcastle, Fire Chief Joel Bird and Police Chief Jim DeWitt.

Ald. Chad Yaden, who strongly disagreed with the resolution and was the only "no" vote at the emergency meeting, brought the issue up at Tuesday's council meeting. Reading a prepared statement, "After months of planning and 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

departments, committees and employees set forth in city ordinances, keeping the emergency managers group as an advisory committee and keeping the emergency declaration for financial reimbursements.

## Residents question council on business closing last week

Hoopeston residents participated in Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, asking questions during the group's remote session.

Questions ranged from why flowers were cut at Floral Hill to whether citations are being issued for tall grass and mowing grass into the streets.

The topic of the most-asked question had to do with the temporary closing last week of Monical's Pizza.

Brad Hardcastle, Hoopeston Emergency Management Agency director, said Monical's representatives have stated that the closing was due to an undisclosed illness and that questions should be addressed to the Vermilion County Health Department.

A cleaning crew was at the restaurant Sunday and the health department provided a list of steps to be taken, he said, adding Hoopeston EMA was not given additional information. We have no name, no address where they live, nothing," he said.

On Monical's Pizza of Hoopeston's Facebook page, the most recent post, from May 16, states, "We apologize for the inconvenience, but we are temporarily closed to accommodate staffing needs. We will reopen soon and look forward to serving you!"

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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**Just the Facts**  
*will not be published*  
**Monday**  
*in honor of*  
**Memorial Day.**  
 Publication will resume Tuesday





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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 (Thornsborough) 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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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

### HELP WANTED

Teasdale Latin Foods has immediate openings on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shift in both Distribution and Manufacturing. Pay to be determined based on experience level. Stop by the Human Resources office at 215 W. Washington St., Hoopeston, for more detail. Please no phone calls.

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 is looking for bus drivers for the 2020-21 school year. If interested, please apply online or in person at the District Office. Online applications can be found on the school website, [www.hoopeston.k12.il.us](http://www.hoopeston.k12.il.us). Please call the district office at 217-283-6668 if you have any questions.

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

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. To apply, please visit [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10688](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10688)

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