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Dear Citizens of Hoopeston:
I will not be participating in the upcoming Consolidated Election Candidate Forum on March 22nd contrary to what many believe. First and foremost, prior to receiving an invitation to this event, I had already committed to a family obligation. Secondly, my platform has been out in black and white, simple to understand, for several weeks on social media.

Friends and supporters will be hosting a separate "Meet and Greet" event for me. When these plans are finalized, the event will be announced. In the meantime, I do appreciate the support and words of encouragement I have received thus far. If you are still on the fence about voting for me or my opponent, I would invite you to contact me anytime through social media or by attending the future Meet and Greet event.

**Best Regards,
Mike Bane
Mayoral Candidate**

Paid for by the committee to elect Mike Bane Mayor

Email: publish@justthefacts.net Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
Lourdine Florek, Owner

Just the Facts
Friday, March 19, 2021

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Council votes on one issue, no action taken on property code

One issue was settled, while another was not at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

In an 8-0 vote, the council approved a cooperation agreement with Danville Housing Authority - doing business as Vermilion Housing Authority - required by the federal housing department.

A similar document was reportedly approved prior to construction of Parkview Court and Centennial Manor, but neither Hoopeston nor the former Vermilion County Housing Authority has a copy of that agreement.

The main point of contention from the city's side was a reference to a clause that stated "The Local Authority shall endeavor (a) to secure a contract or contracts with the Government for loans and annual contributions covering one or more Projects comprising approximately 112 units of low-rent housing and (b) to develop and administer such Project or Projects, each of which shall be located within the corporate limits of the Municipality. The obligations of the parties hereto shall apply to each such Project," which indicated 112 new units might be built in Hoopeston.

Janet Elson, Deputy Regional Counsel for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, revised the agreement, adding, "This current document is a replacement of the original Executed Agreement signed with the Vermilion County Housing Authority. The Agreement does not provide for any public housing units in excess of 112 units."

Asked about the 112 units, Jaclyn Vinson, Vermilion Housing Authority executive director, said 62 units are at Centennial Manor and 50 at Parkview Court.

The housing authority is requesting a redesign of Parkview Court that would reduce the number of units to 30, prompting Ald. Bill Goodwine to wonder if that would allow another 20 units to be built somewhere else.

"That's a great question," Vinson said, adding there are no plans "to fill the gap. We recognize that the concentration that exists at Parkview isn't great for the city of Hoopeston and isn't something we want to move forward

with."

Failure to approve the agreement would have resulted in the loss of federal operational funding for both complexes.

Still unsettled is whether officials will adopt the International Property Maintenance Code and hire Catlin home inspector Dave Biggerstaff as the code enforcement officer. Both are suggested by Mike Davis, executive director of Central Illinois Land Bank who, with Biggerstaff and Brent Denzin, partner in the Chicago-based law firm Denzin Soltanzadeh LLC, presented the package to the council in December.

Davis said Tuesday that passing the code is the first step in abating blighted properties in the city and applying more grant to do more work.

Davis received a \$125,000 state grant for the city, which will be combined with \$100,000 in matching funds from Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation. Hoopeston has earmarked \$50,000 of taxpayer money, bringing available funding to \$275,000 for blight-related work. "The issue is how can I spend that grant money, can I spend that money, if the International Property Maintenance Code isn't passed and someone isn't hired?"

Rather than purchase properties at tax trustee sales, Davis would prefer to work with owners before structures get to that stage, by either rehabilitating the buildings or assisting owners in getting owner-occupied grants.

Other land bank communities, including Westville Georgetown, Rankin and Ridge Farm, all have passed the IMPC and agreed to hire Biggerstaff.

Davis also received a \$125,000 grant to do blight remediation in those communities and said he told them his "biggest fear" is that a grant would be awarded and "I can't actually spend it because we don't have the right tools in place and a code enforcement person to work with then I look like an idiot and we all look like an idiot

See COUNCIL on other side

Friday Night Pop Up Event
Friday, March 19 3-7 p.m.
All Myra Bags & All Easter Goodies 20% OFF
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Council continued from other side

and we not going to get more grant money.”

Addressing concerns about the scope of the maintenance code, Davis said “it should be a living, breathing document and you do update and make little changes along the way.” For example, he said, the maximum height of grass allowed can be changed.

Davis said his ability to move forward is dependent on having a code enforcer like Biggerstaff. Failure to do so could result in more structures housing families of raccoons or squatters.

On questioning from aldermen, Davis acknowledged that money from the grant already received can be spent and future grants applied for, without approving the code or Biggerstaff as enforcement officer.

Ald. Bill Goodwine suggested a nuisance code would “pretty much cover” the city’s needs, adding, “Government doesn’t have the right to tell me how to maintain my house.”

Ald. Lourdine Florek said Hoopeston should not base code approval on what other communities are doing. She again cited one of the rules in the IMPC that bans sleeping in one’s kitchen, wondering how someone would even think of the idea. “I don’t think Hoopeston needs anything with the word “international” in the title,” she said.

IPMC also references other international codes that would be approved by default if the council approves IPMC as written.

Weather

Sunny today. High 48. Tonight, clear Low 26. Tomorrow, sunny. High 55, low 32. Sunday, sunny. High 61, low 38.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

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The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for position of Trainee Dispatcher with the Hoopeston Police Fire Dispatch Center. The successful candidate will be able to use and understand computers, use Microsoft applications (ex.Word, Excel, Access). Good listening skills, reading accuracy, ability to speak clearly on the phone and radio, handle multiple tasks and work under pressure in emergencies are essential. We’re looking for someone who can work weekends, holidays and any shift offered/moved to cover other shifts. The position has a schedule of 6 days on, 3 days off at 8 hours standard shift and overtime when it arises. We offer an excellent benefits package with insurance coverage and a 457 retirement plan. Application is available at cityofhoopeston.com/employment/. It may be downloaded to complete and emailed to admin@hoopestonpolice.org or mailed to Hoopeston Police Department, 301 W. Main St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Silver Brothers is looking for part-time mixer drivers. Hours will vary. Must have Class B CDL, pass a drug test, be able to climb a ladder, and lift 75 lbs. Pay will be \$20/hour to an experienced driver. Perfect opportunity for a retired person wanting some extra money. Stop by 105 E. Washington, Hoopeston for application.

Mechanic and Tire Repairs. Will train. Apply in person at Smitty's Dual Wheel 8 miles west of Rossville, IL

The City of Hoopeston Police Department is accepting applications to establish a two-year eligibility list for the position of POLICE OFFICER. The application deadline is April 16, 2021 at 4 p.m. Apply in person at the Hoopeston Police Dept. 301 W. Main St. Hoopeston, IL 60942 or on-line www.cityofhoopeston.com Applicants will be notified by the police commission of the testing procedures for May 8th at 9 a.m.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, is offering many job opportunities for full-time applicants, with a full benefit package, or part-time positions. 1st and 2nd shifts available. We offer a part-time flexible work schedule from 8 am-4:30 pm M-F for Moms & Dads.

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United Prairie-Hoopeston has opening this Spring for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd Hoopeston. For more information please

call 217/888-0164 or Manager Jordan Reese 217/918-2876.

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is looking to hire 2-3 part time assistant teachers. Requirements include: 18 or older, high school diploma or GED, college credits are preferred but not mandatory for the right candidate, willing to undergo a background check and fingerprinting, flexible and able to work as early as 6:30 a.m. and as late as 5:30 p.m., and have reliable transportation. Please email Nicole Gregory at mustardseed.christiandaycare@gmail.com for application information.

Driver w/CDL needed. Home every night. Trips within 100 miles of Hoopeston. (217) 304-1943.

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East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking full time and seasonal help. Requirements include at least a Class B CDL and ability to pass a drug test. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL 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 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

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