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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner
Thursday, April 21, 2022
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
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Council unanimously approves dispatch, water/sewer hikes

Hoopeston City Council approved increasing the dispatch fee and water/sewer rates in the 2022-23 budget approved Tuesday night.

The \$9-per-month dispatch fee was raised by \$4.75 to \$13.75 monthly to offset much of the cost of having local communications, used to dispatch non-emergency police calls, fire calls and to handle other calls and in-person business.

9-1-1 calls and ambulance calls are not dispatched locally.

The fee was implemented after the state made changes

in the emergency dispatch system, eliminating Hoopeston as a backup for Vermilion County dispatch. All local dispatching ended in September 2016, and after public complaints, returned in March 2017. The charge was implemented two months later and has not been changed.

Mayor Jeff Wise said the communications budget had a loss of \$117,000 before the increase. Despite it, the budget will experience a shortfall. Expected to net \$346,500, total costs for the department are \$352,515, with \$311,065 of that for salaries, benefits and other personnel

See **HIKES** on other side



Gaping jaws

The large jaws of an excavator rip off part of the roof of the Dyer mansion Tuesday afternoon. The former showplace fell into disrepair and is being demolished by Lee Farms Excavating of Paxton. The work is funded by Central Illinois Land Bank with funds from the state, as well as the City of Hoopeston and Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation.

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Saturday: Prime Rib and Rib eye steak dinners
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Sat., 7-10 a.m. Sun. 7 a.m. - Noon
 719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505

Hikes continued from other side

costs. With other expenses added, the department is expected to end the year with a negative \$6,015.

“I’ll be blunt about it,” Wise said. “Either we increase the fee or we get rid of dispatch.” Asked by Ald. Lourdine Florek how residents could express their displeasure with the hike, Wise said they could email or call him but stressed that he will not entertain other options.

Water and sewer rates will each be raised five percent to cover increased costs for supplies, equipment and also for upcoming projects, said Florek, water/sewer committee chairman.

Due to fewer residents, resulting in fewer water customers, income for the new fiscal year is expected to drop, she said. On the flip side, the cost of supplies, materials and manpower has risen. Additionally, the city is embarking on a water capital improvement program and has earmarked funds for smaller projects, such as installing valves in crucial areas around Hoopeston.

With expected income of \$1,406,800 and expenses totaling \$1,973,585, the remaining \$566,785 will come from the \$10 monthly infrastructure maintenance fee paid by water/sewer customers.

While most city departments are funded predominantly through tax dollars, the water and sewer departments are funded solely through providing water and sewer services and the infrastructure surcharge.

The budget was approved, 7-0, with Ald. Joe Garrett absent. It goes into effect May 1. Wise thanked Ald. Bob Porth, finance chair, for his work on the document.

In other business, the council discussed the defunct garden/pool meter program. Wise broached the subject during his comments, saying officials received numerous anonymous emails asking that the program be reinstated. “We’re pretty sure it’s one individual sending 50 emails,” he said.

The program, which allowed residents to use a separate meter for filling pools and garden watering, was discontinued in 2020. At that time, Florek said she discussed the issue with then Mayor Bill Crusinberry, who agreed it should end. Florek cited the fact that the original meters were old city meters and many were no longer working properly, others were being ordered from various companies and the city could not gauge their accuracy and some people were cheating, reporting more gallons going through their pool meter than were actually used.

At Tuesday’s meeting, she reiterated the reasons for abolishing the program adding that it provides a small amount of extra income to the department, which is dearly needed.

Ald. Robin Lawson said the program was taken away and didn’t get talked about and suggested pool meter users be allowed to bring their meters to city hall to be read. “I’m not sure why that can’t happen,” she said. “I don’t think it’s fair that we pay sewer for what doesn’t go through the sewer.”

Florek said most municipalities have policies that charge residents for the same number of gallons of water coming in and going out and that pool water leaches into the ground and can enter sanitary sewers. It also enters storm sewers, which has no city fee.

Lawson said allowing the program would be a nice gesture to give something back to the people, instead of taking.

Wise said if changing it takes an ordinance, a council member who wants to pursue it can write an ordinance and bring it to the council. “That’s the last time you’ll hear from me” on the matter, he said.

Florek asked whether she could write an ordinance for some other department about something she doesn’t like. “I wouldn’t do that,” she said. “That’s being disrespectful.”

Wise responded, “Let’s not go there right now. As of now, it stands that it will not be changed.”

In other action, Ald. Kellie Ferrell brought three documents up for votes. The first was a settlement agreement between the city and Theodore Huber and Donna Huber, regarding property that was annexed to the city in 1991, creating a contiguous line from the city limits to the landfill. The Hubers threatened to de-annex the property. To

Obituaries

INMAN - Stanley Inman, 61, of Hoopeston, died at 10 a.m. Monday, April 18, 2022, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

SUTTER - Daniel “Dan” Sutter, 79, of Rossville, died at 6:15 a.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, Indianapolis. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Weather

Chance of showers, then mostly sunny today. High 71. Tonight, chance of showers. Low 53. Tomorrow, showers likely. High 73, low 59.

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

solve the issue, both parties agreed the city would pay previously paid property taxes related solely to the city and continue to pay the city’s portion of future taxes as long as the property remains undeveloped. The city’s share of the property tax is about \$533.

The city also agreed to pay the Hubers’ attorney fees, roughly \$300.

The agreement was approved 7-0.

Also getting unanimous approval were a fireworks ordinance, the first step in allowing fireworks to be sold in the city and Hoopeston reaping the sales tax and other fees; and updates in nuisance ordinances, updating K, which deals with building materials, household appliances, fixtures and rubbish and N, prohibiting tall grass and weeds, excepting planted and cultivated plants. The ordinance was expanded to include mowing or placing grass, weeds, leaves, vegetation or other rubbish on streets, sewers, parkways or other public places. Convictions on

Classifieds

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Homekeeper, errands and occasional out of town appointments for senior lady. CNA certified a plus. 8 to 10 hours weekly to start. Please supply experience and two work references. Non-smoker. Email resume to publish@justthefacts.net.

Silgan Containers is hiring for a General Labor position. Please visit silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12666 for more information and to apply.

Iroquois County Sheriff’s Office is accepting applications for full – and part time correctional officers, responsible for the daily supervision and care of arrestees brought to and/or detained at the Iroquois County Jail. Must be high school graduate or have GED, Iroquois County resident at time of employment (for full time) submit to criminal background check and have basic computer skills. Full time starting salary is \$39,685.65, part time wage is \$15/hr. Applications may be picked up at the Iroquois County Jail/Sheriff’s Office, 550 S. Tenth, Watseka or online at iroquoiscountylil.gov/offices/sheriff. Applications/resumes may be mailed to the above address or emailed to cperzee@co.iroquois.il.us. EOE

Silgan Containers, Hoopeston, is hiring for a Production Supervisor/Manager Trainee. To apply or for more information, please visit this link: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12540/0

Hoopeston hair salon looking for a cosmetologist, nail tech and esthetician. 765-413-3062

City of Hoopeston Parks Department is seeking applicants for a seasonal position. Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Applications are available at www.cityofhoopeston.com

the misdemeanor will come with fines ranging from \$100 to \$500.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Ald. Carl Ankenbrand that the siren at Elm and Sixth is expected to be back in service Thursday afternoon. The siren will be sounded during reinstallation, he said.
- Heard from Lawson regarding Hoopeston Area Softball Association’s request to help with the cost of replacing the fence at the field. Lawson listed many things the league has fixed by raising funds.
- Parks Chairman Kyle Richards had previously denied the request.
- Learned from Wise that Florek and Ald. Bob Porth were appointed to the police pension committee.
- Wise also asked aldermen to email the names of their nominees to the Citizens Advisory Committee to be approved at the May 3 meeting.

ton.com under the Services tab/Employment Opportunities or City Hall, 301 W Main St.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING! Apply at www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities Applications available onsite. EOE

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking a full time applicator. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

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