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Thursday, May 4, 2023

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Incumbents, new council member sworn in, unanimous action taken on financial and other issues

Incumbents and a newcomer were sworn in at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Stephen Eyrich, representing Ward 1, was on his third swearing-in, after having been appointed twice and elected once to a four-year term. Ward III Alderman Joe Garrett and Ward IV representative Robin Lawson to four-year stints.

Mayor Jeff Wise was sworn in as mayor after winning in April. He will serve the two years of former Mayor Bill Crusinberry's term.

Incumbent Ward III alderman Jesse Gonzalez was elected to a two-year unexpired term in April but subsequently resigned from the council for personal reasons, Wise said. He added that Kyle Richards also has officially resigned from his Ward 1 seat.

Ward 2 has a new representative in Michael Ferrell, husband of incumbent Kellie Ferrell. He defeated appointed incumbent Rachelle Miller in the April election.

Having the pair on the council changed the rhythm of City Clerk Gail Lane's rhythm for rollcall votes Tuesday. Normally, she uses each official's last name but with the couple, addressed each by their first and last names.

Wise named Ferrell to chair the fire and ambulance committee and said he will wait until replacements for Gonzalez and Richards are selected before naming chairmen for the street and alley and parks committees. He said he plans to keep current chairmen where they are because all are doing a great job.

With Richards submitting his formal resignation, Wise said, "the clock is ticking," and that anyone interested in serving Ward I should send a letter of interest as soon as possible. Letters of interest are also being accepted for the Ward III seat.

Letters to Wise's attention may be mailed or taken to Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St., Hoopeston IL 69942.

The new council held 6-0 votes on a few items, including

Transferring much of the city's landfill fund from a money market account to a certificate of deposit, due to

the CD's higher interest rate. Ald. Bob Porth, finance committee chairman, said the money market at Iroquois Federal will pay 1.4% interest, while the bank's CD rate is 4.25%.

Currently, there is almost \$2.393 million in the landfill fund. Of that, the council approved moving \$2 million to 11-month CDs.

The landfill fund began when in the city approved the landfill expansion. Landfill host fees have been banked since then as the city's emergency backup, Porth said.

Wise concurred, saying the money is to be used in an emergency, nothing else.

The council also approved the annual salary ordinance which sets ranges of salaries for city employees.

The council discussed selling empty lots it owns around the city, after a neighbor inquired about purchasing the lot at 1009 W. Main.

Since the minimum price of property at tax trustee sales is currently \$750, the council approved the amount as the price for the lot.

Wise said others have asked about purchasing lots in the city for various reasons, including one person who wanted to use a lot for a garden.

The approval is only for lots the city does not need, Wise said, adding selling the lots will save money as city workers currently mow them.

In the other 6-0 votes, the council approved an inter-governmental agreement with Hoopeston Area School District to allow the city to use the school's Automatic External Defibrillator at the swimming pool this season and approved Hoopeston American Legion Auxiliary's request to sell poppies at street corners on May 20.

In other business, the council heard from Wise that bid specifications to demolish several downtown buildings are almost completed. The plan includes tearing down



Hoopeston City Clerk Gail Lane swears in newly-elected aldermen at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting. Pictured are, from left, Stephen Eyrich, Ward 1, Michael Ferrell, Ward 2, and Robin Lawson, Ward IV. Not pictured are Ald. Joe Garrett, Ward III and Mayor Jeff Wise, who also took the oath of office.

dilapidated buildings downtown from north of the old city hall on Market north to the west side of the 200 block of East Main, going from Crunch's and stopping before the Doyle Law Office/Time to Travel at 211 E. Main.

The former Chronicle building in the 300 block of East Main and the former Hoopeston Food Locker will be part of the project, Wise said.

Documentation for the project will include that the side
See COUNCIL on other side

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Council continued from other side

of Doyle's building and the former Darb, at 310 E. Main, owned by Gail Lane, will receive new siding on the walls exposed by the demolition.

In other business, the council heard from Sgt. Marvin Dobkins and Fire Chief Joel Bird about two employees recognized for their exemplary efforts in stressful situations.

Obituaries

BELL - Ellen Sue (High) Bell, 82, of Hoopeston, died at 4:55 a.m. Sunday, April 30, 2023, at home. She will be cremated and a private graveside service held. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

WISDOM - Kenneth Wallis "Wizard" Wisdom Sr., 65, of Hoopeston, died at 3:24 p.m. Saturday, April 29, 2023, at home. He will be cremated and a service held at a later date. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

Officer Andrew Xiong was cited by Dobkins for his work in an incident in which a person wanted to commit suicide and had deeply cut his wrist. Xiong handled the call professionally and with compassion. The person survived and sought professional help, Dobkins said.

Third shift dispatcher Teresa Hayes was praised by Bird for the job she did December 22, when Hoopeston Fire Department was paged for two house fires on opposite sides of the city. Hayes dispatched Hoopeston, paged neighboring departments for mutual aid and stayed on top of the situation until firemen cleared the scene.

In other business:
 ? Wise updated the council on the Citizens Advisory Committee. The 19 members appointed last year have finished their one-year commitment. In March, the council approved lowering the number to 12, making it easier to establish a quorum. Each alderman is asked to suggest one person to the committee and Wise and aldermen will agree on the other four.

? The council heard from attorney Steven Miller that progress is being made on property issues at 511 W. Main and the former Lester's Drug Store downtown.

? Heard from Eyrich that an inspector from the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations recently inspected Floral Hill Cemetery proper and records and received a glowing report that Floral Hill was "one of the top two, if not the best in Vermilion County," he said.

? Eyrich also noted that a meter has been installed between the lagoons that treat Teasdale Foods waste and the wastewater treatment plant. The meter will give a more accurate picture of the gallons treated.

? Garrett said people are stealing water at the ceme-

Court Dispositions

March 8

John W. Morris Jr., Hoopeston, failed to appear at initial appearance for trespassing, found guilty by default, fined \$230; status hearing April 12.

Kyle L. Justice, failed to appear at status hearing for general nuisance, default entered. He owes \$80 plus abatement fines. Hearing set for April 12.

Weather

Sunny today. High 71. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 48. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, chance of showers. High 70, low 51.

For real time Hoopeston weather information, go to justthefacts.net/weather/.

tery, most recently Saturday afternoon, and that steps will be taken to stop it.

? The council also heard a presentation from April Jones, who is interested in creating a dog park in Hoopeston. Anyone with comments about a dog park or those who would like to volunteer to work on the project may email her at april.hoopestondogpark@gmail.com.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

The City of Hoopeston is seeking applicants for a new seasonal position. The position requires the prospective applicant to work 3 days a week with the water department and 2 days a week with the parks department. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or at www.cityofhoopeston/employment/. For more information, call 217-283-5833 or visit our website.

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 Ave. in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Robinson Chiropractic is looking for you, so come join our team! We have a great staff and are looking to expand it. We are hiring strong individuals who are enthusiastic with an interest in natural healthcare. Candidates will be trained to assist with patient care. We have competitive wages, paid vacation, and a Simple IRA contribution. Full time employees receive free Chiropractic care. If interested, please send resume to trina.keller@robchiro.com.

The Vermilion Housing Authority in Hoopeston is hiring a Maintenance Mechanic, starting pay \$20/hr. Applications available online at www.vermilionhousing.com.

Silgan Containers is hiring an Electrician - Industrial/Maintenance Technician. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13392

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

NOTICES

The City of Hoopeston is accepting bids for the 50/50 sidewalk program. Bid specs may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St., or the Street and Alley Department, 434 W Penn St. Bids must be dropped off at City Hall and are due by 10 am Tuesday, May 16th 2023. Bid openings will be held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 16th, 2023 at 10 am. For questions, please call City Hall at 217-283-5833.

Publication dates:

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