Officials debate using IPMC on owner-occupied houses

A lengthy debate about a city-led push to get owners to fix problems with their homes was had at Tuesday’s Hoopeston City Council meeting.

In her report, Ald. Kellie Ferrell said Catlin-based home inspector Dave Biggerstaff has been traveling Hoopeston, looking for houses that have issues that need to be addressed, based on the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) approved by the council in 2021. The IPMC sets standards for all levels of property maintenance, from the largest concerns to small details.

Ferrell said Biggerstaff is currently on a two-week hiatus but would resume shortly. Homes being selected range from those with major problems to those with smaller, more affordable fixes needed. “That’s kind of the point,” she said, to take care of problems when they’re small and affordable and not wait until they become big and expensive.

For those who receive a notice, the best thing to do is what the letter says: contact Biggerstaff and work with him, Ferrell said, dispelling a rumor that the program is to take property away for owners. “We don’t want your house,” she said. “We want you to take care of your house.”

Understanding that things are tight right now, Ferrell saw DEBATE on other side.

Fall 2022 Classes - August 22, 2022-December 16, 2022

BIOL-105-WHHEX - Intro to Environment; Mon. 2PM-3:15PM; Web TBA
BOFF-140-HEXN - Medical Terminology; Wed. 6PM-8:30PM
CBUS-150-HEXN - Business Computer Systems; Thurs. 6PM-7:50PM; Web TBA
ENGL-101-HEXG1 - Rhetoric and Composition I; Mon. & Wed. 2PM 5:15PM
ENGL-101-HEXN1 - Rhetoric and Composition I; Wed. 6PM-8:40PM
MATH-107-HEXN - Applied Mathematical Concepts; Mon. Tues. & Wed, 4PM-5:20PM
SOCY-100-HEXG - Intro to Sociology; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2PM-5:15PM

DACC Higher Learning Center - Hoopeston
847 E Orange St, Hoopeston or call 217-283-4170
Debate continued from other side

said the program will move forward. “Enforcement will step on some toes but it’s a long time coming and it needs to be done,” she said.

Ald. Joe Garrett, who voted to implement the IPMC, said he did so because the council at that time was told it would be used against owners of abandoned, damaged buildings, not owner-occupied homes. “I have several cracks in my stucco,” he said “Am I going to get (a notice)? There’s no one here who does stucco work. This is not what we passed this for.”

Mayor Jeff Wise asked Garrett if he’d seen some of the places that are targeted. “These are places people shouldn’t live in,” he said.

Garrett replied that it was not the city’s place to tell people under what conditions they might live.

Wise said if the problems are not addressed, the city would not direct Biggerstaff in which properties to look, “You need to fix this, not the other way around.”

Ferrell added that she asked each alderman to make a list of houses in their wards that needed improvement. “I didn’t receive a single email from anybody,” she said. After the meeting, she said she misspoke “We are not dragging them to court.”

Garrett’s last point was that he thought city officials would direct Biggerstaff in which properties to look, “not the other way around.”

Wise said that it did start out that way, and Ferrell expounded, saying as a home inspector, Biggerstaff has more qualifications than she does. That is also why Compliance Office Steve Bane was not involved in citing owners for house violations. “He’s not qualified for it,” she said.

In unrelated business, the council approved Motor Fuel Tax program bids of $64,312.16 bid from Daniel Ribbe Trucking for seal coat operations, and $102,208.12 from SNC Construction for Portland cement concrete for concrete, curbs and gutters. The bid was corrected to $102,143.12, said Ald. Stephen Eyrich, street/alley committee chairman.

The seal coat bid was 12 percent under the engineer’s estimate, while the concrete bid was over estimated by 23 percent, he said.

The vote was 6-0, with Ald. Kyle Richards absent. Ferrell attended the meeting remotely.

Weather


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

Working order.

Residents are urged, if possible, to refrain from doing laundry on Fridays. The water is safe to drink but resi-

Debate continues from other side

tdents are encouraged to let faucets run for a short period of time if they notice any discoloration.

Addition recovery group

Addiction recovery group for men. 6 p.m. Sundays in Rossville. Call or text 217-304-4211 or 217-260-1361 for details.

P.E.P. Potluck

Hoopeston United Methodist Church People Enjoying People potluck will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, at the church, 403 E. Main. Main dish, drinks and table service will be provided. Guests may bring a side dish or dessert to share, if they want. There is no cost.

Special guests Dr. Lester and Debbie Dornon, missionari-

es with the General Board of Global Ministries at the Tensen Hospital in Nepal. They will have several items from Nepal to display and a video.

HELP WANTED

Premier Cooperative is looking to fill a full time water operations position at Rossville. Full seasonal positions also available at Ros-

ville, Ellis, Collinon, and Reilly. Call 217-599-0310.

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

The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a full-time water department employee.

Requirements:

Valid Driver’s License

Class B CDL, with airbrake endorsement or ability to obtain one

High School diploma or equivalent

A positive attitude and willingness to learn

Strong work ethic

Punctuality and attendance is important for this position. There is opportunity for advancement with the proper training and certifi-

cation Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or www.cityofhoopeston.com/employment

Seeking a bartender for weekdays and nights. Possibly a week-

end day. Our hours are from 7a-2a. Must have a Bassett

and Food handlers Cart within 30 days. Shop by Hubbard Trail Coun-

try Club or call 217-736-6521.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancollectors.mua.hrdepartment.com/hris/Posting/view/12464

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial-

Classifieds

Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgncollectors.mua.hrdepartment.com/hris/Posting/view/12406/0

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Ap-

plications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified offic-

ers.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Hoopeston 4 bedroom one level house large yard, and 2 bedroom ground level duplex. Text or call 217-495-2274

RUMmage sales

ROSSVILLE: 14540 E 3400 North Rd. Estate sale. Tools, kitch-

en & gardening items, furniture & much more. Fri. & Sat., 8-4, Sun. 11-4.

Email publish@justthefacts.net or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!