CITY OF HOOPESTON

MEETING: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

TUESDAY MARCH 13, 2018

CITY HALL

Mayor Crusinberry called to order at 7:00 p.m. the special meeting of the whole to discuss blighted properties in the City of Hoopeston.

In attendance were 23 residents including council members.

Harry Brockus representing the Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation addressed the meeting. He reported on some of the steps the Foundation has taken in buying properties and renting them out. Mr. Brockus suggested the city form a community partnership with the foundation and others to address the situation of blighted properties. Harry said, “The foundation is on board to work together…to tackle the problem”.

Mr. Brockus also stated that he (Harry) would provided 50 percent of the monthly payment towards a bond should the city decide to go this route for financing. His estimates on a 20-year bond of $1 million would be a payment of about $7200 per month.

Alderman Goodwine stated the need for jobs, while Mr. Brockus replied that Hoopeston is now a bedroom community.

Public Comment:

Bill Nichols with the Vermilion County Land Bank stated that three properties should be coming down within 45 days. Also, the land bank has applied for another grant and is hoping to clean up more properties.

Leon Polson suggested use of TIF dollars for remediation. TIF funds can only be used within the TIF District.

Alderman Houmes stated that grants and other financing options are available, and the city should partner with others to get going on projects.

Other blighted properties were mentioned including the Vermilion Iron property, the Plumbing building on S Market St, Lester’s Drug Store, Buildings on S Market, the locker plant and the Ray Williams building.

Council will consider information and suggestions made.

Mayor Crusinberry adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Gail Lane, City Clerk