

June 2, 2009

Lanark City Council met in regular session at City Hall. Alderman Anne Lindsay, Alderman Ed Fehlhafer, Alderman Ron Strohecker, Alderman Mark Macomber, Alderman Tom Kocal and Mayor Ed Stern were present. Alderman Ken Weaver was absent.

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Karen Sloan, Les Guenzler, Chief Magill and Ron Gronewold.

Mayor Stern called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. After roll call, Mayor Stern led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to accept the minutes of the May 19th meeting as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to accept and pay the bills from May 19th to present. All ayes. Motion carried. The Treasurer left the meeting immediately after the approval of the bills.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted written report. Alderman Strohecker inquired if Quin Kosmecki was working in the morning until 2:00 PM. Guenzler announced Kosmecki works here from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM then works at Eastland Motor Sports. Mayor Stern inquired why a maximum of thirty hours. Guenzler reported he took from Mayor Stern's proposal. Council discussed properties which need mowing. Some are thought to be in foreclosure. After a lengthy discussion, Guenzler was instructed to mow two properties and a lien will be put on these properties. Mayor Stern reported Denny Johnson's mother passed away on Monday and inquired if we should send flowers. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to send flowers to the Johnson family. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Stern read a thank you note from Quin Kosmecki thanking the city for hiring him. Alderman Lindsay inquired about the salt spreader. Alderman Macomber reported the repairs are already completed. Alderman Fehlhafer inquired if there has been any contact with Loberg to get the hydrants done yet. Guenzler reported Loberg will do in a couple of weeks. Council discussed rust in water. Guenzler explained this is due to using new chemical Re-Ox.

Chief Matt Magill announced he received a call from Kunes' stating there are problems with GM and squad is caught up in all that. Delivery will probably be end of July. Chief has not pursued anything with Fire Dept. yet. All invoices for radar trailer have been submitted for payment. Chief will submit for reimbursement. Chief Magill discussed vehicles. Alderman Strohecker showed Chief pins behind the café today. Chief doubts if Meador will show up tonight as we were in the right. Meador removed trailer while Chief and Alderman Strohecker were present. Chief Magill reported some of the vehicles had valid registrations and some did not – two out of four. Alderman Fehlhafer passed around pictures taken of the entrance to the cemetery. Some feel the entrance to the cemetery is a disgrace. Mayor Stern took an agenda to Mark Meador and invited him to the meeting tonight. Mayor Stern feels Alderman Strohecker did a good job of settling Meador down. Reed was at Meador's while Mayor was there. Alderman Strohecker feels we need to give Reed a push to clean up property. Alderman Strohecker suggested giving Reed thirty days to clean up property and then move on to others which need to be cleaned up also. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Kocal to have Chief Magill go in the next day or two to notify Reed to tidy up or City will take action within thirty days. Discussion continued. It was also suggested if Reed produces substantial improvement, then

discuss again. Alderman Strohecker announced almost every Cemetery Board member has asked to get this property cleaned up. Mayor Stern called for vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Bonding for city officials – Ron Gronewold of Gronewold Insurance presented quotes for bonding: clerk \$500,000 and treasurer \$800,000. Council discussed new figures and amounts for clerk and treasurer. During discussion, Gronewold announced the underwriter would prefer two signatures on checks. After more discussion, Gronewold suggested setting an amount to require two signatures for checks over this amount. Example: All checks under \$5,000 require only one signature. All checks over \$5,000 require two signatures. **Motion** made by Alderman Kocal, seconded by Alderman Macomber to require dual signatures for checks over \$10,000. More discussion. Mayor Stern called for roll call vote: Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye and Alderman Lindsay-aye. Motion carried. Council then discussed the amount of bonding per elected official. During discussion, Gronewold announced if four years prepaid, there is a discount of \$14,400. **Motion** made by Alderman Kocal, seconded by Alderman Macomber to bond mayor at \$50,000, clerk at \$500,00 and treasurer at \$800,000 for four year term to be pre-paid. When asked why the treasurer should be bonded higher than the clerk, most felt this was due to the treasurer writing more checks than the clerk – more opportunity. The clerk only writes payroll checks. Mayor Stern called for roll call vote – Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried.

Marty Beranek of MSA Professional Services submitted a project update (copy on file) and reviewed. Beranek submitted bid tabulation also. Beranek announced Loberg is the low bid. Beranek explained the purpose of Alternate 1 & 2 are due to IDOT requirements. Council discussed the bids and bid tabulation. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to award Loberg the Southside Sewer project with Alternate 2 proposal. Discussion continued. Mayor Stern called for roll call vote – Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye and Alderman Lindsay-aye. Motion carried. Beranek announced MSA will draft an award letter for Mayor to sign. All seemed to agree to have mayor sign. Beranek discussed time line – possibly mid-July for ground breaking. **Phase 2** – MSA has heard nothing from EPA as yet. **Miscellaneous** – Beranek submitted handout for Well #4 improvements, recommendations and costs. Alderman Strohecker asked Guenzler to look through and let Strohecker know what the Mt. Dept. can do and then have a meeting to discuss. Discussed panel. Discussed seal tight enclosure – Alderman Fehlhafer would like costs.

Consider thirty day temporary insurance for new hire – Mayor Stern announced he sent out an email regarding this issue. Mayor Stern would like the City to pay for Haverland's thirty day temporary insurance. Council discussed insurance for Haverland. The City's insurance for employees does not take effect until thirty days after hiring. This is something the Council learned recently during a meeting with insurance agent Rhett Coatney for the renewal of city's health insurance. No one was aware of this prior to the meeting with Coatney. Mayor Stern announced Chief Magill took out a thirty day policy in order to be covered until the City's insurance took effect. Magill's payroll check was deducted \$25 per week beginning immediately when hired even though he was not covered by city insurance. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to refund \$100 to Chief Magill. All ayes. Motion carried. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker to offer Matt Haverland thirty days insurance at his expense and not deduct \$25/week. Council continued with discussion. Motion died due to lack of second.

Rate reduction requests – Mary Ann Rippy is requesting rate reduction due to selling her mother’s home at 224 South Burns. Home has been for sale for over one year. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to accept rate reduction request to water only for three months. Mayor Stern called for roll call vote – Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye and Alderman Lindsay-aye. Motion carried. Council discussed delinquent bills and collection. The Clerk and Mitchell explained the prior Council did not want to put liens on homes. Mitchell announced lien filing fees have gone up \$50. **Motion** made by Alderman Fehlhafer, seconded by Alderman Lindsay at the end of two quarters (\$360), if bill is not paid, put a lien on property and shut water off after public hearing is held. Discussion continued with collection of delinquent bills. All seemed to agree we will see more delinquent bills due to high unemployment. Alderman Strohecker will work on new policy. Mayor Stern called for roll call vote – Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye Alderman, Strohecker-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye and Alderman Kocal-aye. Motion carried.

One building permit was presented. Lonnie Prowant is requesting permit for addition to property located at 203 East Lanark Avenue. Council reviewed the permit. **Motion** made by Alderman Lindsay, seconded by Alderman Kocal to approve building permit. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Kocal to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. All ayes. Motion carried. Entered executive session at 9:24 PM.

Motion made by Alderman Kocal, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to exit executive session. All ayes. Motion carried. Exited executive session at 9:54 PM with no action taken.

General audience – none.

Committees

Water & Sewer – Alderman Strohecker reported still looking at costs for sand filters this year. Alderman Strohecker will set meeting soon about request for rate reductions.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Economic Development – no report.

Ordinance – no report.

Street and Property – Alderman Strohecker reported he made calls today for concrete prices. After comparing, Alderman Strohecker made **motion** to use Quality for our vendor this year. After some discussion, Alderman Strohecker rescinded his motion. Alderman Strohecker recommended using Quality as our vendor this year. Alderman Fehlhafer presented pictures of property located at 217 South School Street which needs to be cleaned up as well as property in the 300 block of East Franklin – recent fire in garage. Neighbors are concerned with safety. Council discussed what can be done to deteriorating buildings. One suggestion was to have Chief Magill send letter to owner giving two weeks to tell City what owner’s intentions are about cleaning up property. Several felt if let one go, next one thinks can do too. Discussed why two weeks on this and other gets thirty days. All seemed to agree to move forward with this – Chief Magill go talk to and give two weeks for intentions. Mayor Stern announced he received a notice from ComEd for tree trimming. Alderman Lindsay is concerned with Tree Board trimming same trees as ComEd. Mayor Stern met with Jim Fox of ComEd on April 29th for annual report. During this meeting, they discussed free service. Service address of 600 East

Pearl is really City cemetery. City park has two connections. Fox worked with city clerk to clarify addresses and errors were found. Mayor reported the cemetery was a free service account and will now be a billed account. Discussed if the cemetery would be responsible for this bill. All seemed to agree cemetery would be responsible for their own bill. The two connections at the city park will be free service accounts.

Planning – Alderman Macomber inquired where we were at with committee. Mayor Stern announced he will appoint committee on July 1st. Alderman Macomber questioned the wait as he would like to move forward. Council discussed who and how to appoint other members. All seemed to agree need to get committee established soon and move forward. Alderman Macomber set meeting for 6:30 PM on June 16th prior to Council meeting. Mayor will contact new members. Mayor Stern received letter from Janie Dollinger stating Jan Gillfillan will retire from the Library Board and asked to appoint Jeri Beverley to replace Gillfillan. Council discussed but no action was taken.

Personnel – no report. Mayor Stern feels an interview should be set up with Chuck Strohecker. Mayor received call from Carroll County Review for placement of an ad for the boys baseball team which is going to State. During discussion, the Clerk reported the City has presented teams a “key to the city” plaque in the past. Mayor Stern announced the music dept. has also received State award. All seemed to agree to put ad in Carroll County Review as well as Prairie Advocate for the boys baseball team.

Police – no report.

Ed Mitchell submitted draft of prevailing wages and explained what for and why. All seemed to agree to table for next meeting in order to put on agenda. Mitchell passed out drafts and discussed the tax levy ordinance. He explained over 105% requires a black box meeting. All seemed to agree to wait until next meeting in order to put on agenda. Mitchell discussed calling bonds. The original firm that issued the bonds was not excited about doing. Mitchell then announced executive minutes should be reviewed after eighteen months and erased. Hard copies can be reviewed and released to public. None have been released in the past. Mayor Stern discussed the wind tower lease for \$1,000. Mayor announced this was to be taken care of last year. Mitchell explained the wind tower company lost interest for a while.

Motion made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation. All ayes. Motion carried. Entered executive session at 10:58 PM.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Kocal to exit executive session. All ayes. Motion carried. Exited executive session at 11:05 PM with no action taken.

Alderman Macomber discussed the annual water report. EPA requires the city to distribute the report.

Alderman Strohecker discussed overtime hours. Copies of time cards since last meeting were distributed for review. After the last meeting, Alderman Strohecker discussed overtime with Guenzler and agreed no more over time. Others agreed once new hires start, should relieve overtime. Discussed what has and has not been accomplished. Kosmecki comes in at 7:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Alderman Strohecker suggests Kosmecki work at Eastland Motor Sports for couple of hours while grass is still wet, then come here. Alderman Strohecker discussed putting Guenzler on salary to alleviate overtime. Mayor Stern does not think the Dept. of Labor will

allow Mt. Dept. to be salaried. Discussed what doing and not doing for overtime – concerned with time management. Alderman Macomber and Mayor Stern think Guenzler was sent to time management classes. Discussed breaking into two divisions – water & sewer and streets & property. Alderman Strohecker suggested dropping for now, since Haverland is coming on, see what happens to overtime. Mayor Stern announced Chuck Strohecker could have done the sidewalks for \$6,800 for what Burkholder did for \$24,000. Discussion went to putting Johnson in charge of sidewalks and keep Guenzler out of it – have Guenzler do hydrants. Alderman Lindsay suggested having a Personnel Committee meeting and discuss this with Guenzler. All seemed to agree to committee level and to do as soon as Haverland starts. Alderman Strohecker feels if want sidewalks done, need to hire someone. Most members seemed to agree poor management of time. Alderman Strohecker has made a list of projects he would like to see done this year. Discussed purchase of skid loader and jetter.

City Clerk inquired about bereavement leave for Denny Johnson. Clerk read from City Employee Hand Book regarding this issue. It is the discretion of the Council. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Kocal to approve four days bereavement leave at full pay for Johnson – June 2-5. All ayes. Motion carried. The Clerk announced she will be attending a funeral Thursday morning and the office will be closed for about an hour. The Clerk announced we have been approved by IDOT for seal coating. Dawn Preston left message wanting to know if any decision has been made about drainage. Alderman Strohecker announced he spoke to her husband – we will widen but not right away.

Mayor Stern announced he will contact library persons for appointment to the Planning Committee.

Motion made by Alderman Fehlhafer, seconded by Alderman Macomber to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*