

July 21, 2009

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

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Les Guenzler, Chief Magill, John Huggins, Steve Haring, Marty Beranek, Roger Burkholder, Jameson Burkholder, Leigh Ann Piper, Randy Beverley, Jeri Beverley and Anthony Malone.

In the absence of Mayor Stern, Clerk Hawbecker called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After roll call, Clerk Hawbecker asked the Council to appoint mayor pro tem. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to appoint Alderman Macomber as mayor pro tem. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor pro tem Macomber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to accept the minutes of the July 7th meeting as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to accept and pay the bills from July 7th to present. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Lindsay, seconded by Alderman Weaver to accept the Treasurer's Report for June as submitted. All ayes. Motion carried.

Steve Haring of MSA Professional Services submitted highlights of the capital budget. Carroll County was lumped in with Quad Cities. Haring pointed out on the last two pages Lanark is listed twice for a total of \$150,000. Haring explained there is no money as bonds have yet to be sold. Haring will keep us informed. Haring passed out grants and loans information and briefly reviewed. Marty Beranek submitted a project update (copy on file). **Southside Utilities Extensions** – Beranek announced boring under the highway will save dollars. Loberg still needs to get IDOT permit. Beranek explained how and where will set manhole and bore. Beranek presented the Notice to Proceed for signature. Mayor pro tem can sign. Beranek announced final completion is November 4, 2009 but does not think it will go this long. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to authorize mayor pro tem to sign agreement to proceed. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye and Alderman Macomber-aye. Motion carried.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted written report (copy on file). Alderman Strohecker announced the sidewalk crew would like a hammer drill. After a brief discussion, it was agreed Alderman Macomber would pick one up. Guenzler talked with Adeline Quarry & Gravel in Forreston about sand filters and has prices for sand. Discussed spreading old sand as sludge – possibly farmer put on field but will need permit (\$500) in order to do so. Alderman Fehlhafer is working on cost of skid loader. Alderman Fehlhafer has contractor in Stockton who wants to do all of removal. All seemed to agree to get quote.

Chief Magill reported he has been working on abandoned cars – getting good response in cleaning up. Chief will be working with Guenzler on mowing a couple of yards yet.

Appoint library board member – Alderman Fehlhafer passed around a list of possible candidates submitted by the Library Board. Jeri Beverley was present asking for clarification why her appointment was rejected at the last Council meeting. Alderman Strohecker feels Beverley is very aggressive and too involved for the appointment. Beverley announced she was the liaison for one year when she served on the Council. If the Board was comfortable with her, she feels that should be sufficient. Beverley announced personal issues should not apply. Alderman Strohecker feels Beverley may turn some off and will turn back the project. Beverley feels Council members need to put personal feelings aside. Alderman Lindsay announced she does not know Beverley personally but feels Beverley is very passionate about library. Alderman Lindsay has seen Beverley at only two meetings where Beverley was telling what the City will do for the library. Beverley feels she has worked very well with the Library Board over the past couple of years. Beverley feels she was blind-sided and in the media without being notified to be present to discuss. Alderman Weaver explained he did not understand the sentiments at that meeting. Alderman Fehlhafer announced he has worked with Beverley in different ways. He feels she is very strong willed and strong hearted in projects. Alderman Macomber announced Beverley served the City very well but does not feel she is a good fit for the Library Board. Beverley reported no one (Council) has attended meetings to see how the Library Board has progressed on this project. Beverley explained the hold up was the Brownfield, now that it is clear, can move forward. Beverley feels she was blind-sided on this. Beverley announced she has always done her best to keep personal feelings out of Council and Board. She is not asking for Council to reconsider appointment but clarification on why she is not qualified in order to eliminate hearsay. Alderman Fehlhafer recommended tabling appointment until Mayor Stern is back for the next meeting.

Policy review – Alderman Lindsay explained she has nothing more at this time. Committee has suggested four days regular pay for bereavement leave. Alderman Lindsay read from page 29 (5.4) of the City Employee Handbook regarding bereavement leave. **Motion** made by Alderman Lindsay, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to change policy for full time employees up to four paid full days for bereavement leave. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consider AEDs – Alderman Fehlhafer reported committee had discussed with Chief Magill AEDs. Chief Magill suggested putting one in the city maintenance building and van. Alderman Strohecker announced there are two in squads and people manning the Fire Department. Discussed if these are necessary. Chief Magill announced approximately \$1500 per unit. AED is operated by lay person. Chief Magill explained Fire Dept. may be on call when needed. Alderman Weaver feels we should respect committee's recommendation. It was agreed to table for now.

Payment schedule request – Clerk read letter asking for rate reduction. All were in agreement to deny due to voiding all rate reductions as of August 31st.

Plaza memorial – Mayor Stern had previously sent out information for review in email. The veterans are requesting permission to move the war memorial in the city plaza to the city cemetery. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to let the veterans move the stone. All ayes. Motion carried.

Two building permits were presented.

1. Joseph Drozd is requesting a permit to put up storage shed.\
2. Todd Poffenberger requesting permit to put up retaining wall to hold up driveway so it can be blacktopped.

Motion made by Alderman Lindsay, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to accept permits. All ayes. Motion carried.

General audience – Jameson Burkholder and Roger Burkholder were present to ask permission to put sidewalk up to the fitness center and remove parking blocks. Cost will be over \$1500 to do. Alderman Strohecker instructed them to submit a building permit application. Discussed possible variance. All seemed to agree since it is city property, Council can approve. **Motion** made by Alderman Fehlhafer, seconded by Alderman Weaver to allow sidewalk in front of fitness center upon submitting building permit application. All ayes. Motion carried.

Tony Malone of ESI Consultants, Ltd. was present informing the Council of recent opening of office in Elizabeth for engineering consulting. Malone gave some background information about firm and handed out several business cards.

Leigh Ann Piper announced her daughter is getting married September 5th in their yard. She is requesting suspending parking for that day. She has already obtained permission from Elkay to use front parking lot for the day. Piper is willing to cover signs. **Motion** made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to allow parking on south side of Claremont for wedding on September 5th. All ayes. Motion carried.

John Huggins announced he held a meeting last night to go over the franchise license agreement which is up for renewal in November. The City can ask for several things and explained. Huggins reported Mayor Stern had shared Heritage Center wants to remodel the basement and would like cable in basement. Discussed public access channel. Huggins suggested not asking for fee as it is indirectly charged to customers. Huggins will keep Council updated on his research. Bigger cities are negotiating for several years. Renewal is for fifteen years. This is just cable TV.

Committees

Water & Sewer – Alderman Strohecker announced he will schedule a meeting in the next month or so to discuss drainage at Prestons on East Prairie. Alderman Strohecker asked everyone to think about adding \$10 drainage fee on the water & sewer bill. Beranek announced it is just like any other utility – need to take attorney’s lead on establishing another utility. This will benefit all in town. It will give avenue to raise revenues for projects. Beranek announced poor job of storm water disposal is not just in town but in creeks, rivers, etc. Currently using water & sewer to fund projects. Alderman Strohecker reported he checked into the DOT agreement to maintain Route 73 through town and found City is responsible to replace curb and gutter. We need to delegate where money comes from. Sewer plant is going to need to be replaced sometime – need to bank sewer funds. Alderman Weaver feels now is a bad time to hit residents with increase – discussed when time is good. Alderman Strohecker reported many communities are in bind due to putting off improvements. Preventative maintenance fund continually puts into. Alderman Weaver feels we need to reduce somewhere else. There are no grants like in the past. Alderman Strohecker and Guenzler will look at installing four inch drain tile and both (neighbors) can tie into storm sewer.

Streets and Property – Alderman Fehlhafer discussed the need of a sidewalk on east side of grade school. Alderman Strohecker feels this should be looked at next year. Guenzler is getting streets ready for seal coating. Leland Street should be done about mid-August. Chief Magill inquired if could chloride. Alderman Strohecker reported it could not.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Police/Personnel – Alderman Fehlhafer requested executive session to discuss personnel.

Economic Development – Chief Magill has requested video cameras in squads. Two units will cost about \$1200. All digital. Current one is broken. Alderman Strohecker inquired about liability. Chief explained funding in stimulus package. Grant will take time. Alderman Strohecker recommended going for grant. Alderman Macomber recommended negotiating price. Chief Magill reported price will be \$5600 for both installed. **Motion** made by Alderman Fehlhafer, seconded by Alderman Weaver to install two units for \$5600 in our location in both squads. All ayes. Motion carried. Chief Magill announced he will wait for new squad to install.

Ordinance – no report.

Planning – Alderman Macomber announced copies of Option G have been passed out for review. Alderman Fehlhafer talked with State plumbing inspector about project and found restrooms could be smaller allowing more room to be shared with Council chambers and library. Alderman Macomber asked everyone to review for the next meeting.

Ed Mitchell passed out letter he received from bonding company. Mitchell announced he has agreement letter ready for Lanark Ag. Mitchell submitted revised resolution for Library Board appointments – Hunter and Zuck. Mitchell requested executive session to discuss pending litigation. Alderman Lindsay inquired about the legalities of Hazelbower. Mitchell explained Council has no obligation to appoint Hazelbower because he ran in the April election. Mitchell reported mayor appoints with Council approval. All seemed to agree to wait until Mayor Stern is back.

Alderman Weaver and Alderman Fehlhafer did not have any additional business.

Alderman Lindsay questioned who takes care of Broad Street. Alderman Strohecker reported City maintains and inquired where she had concerns. Holes in front of her home are city's responsibility.

Alderman Strohecker recommended having Kathleen Orr do the annual report for the TIF District as done in the past. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to hire Kathleen Orr to do our TIF District annual report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Alderman Macomber reported Stacie Kalina has four trees which need to be removed. These are not listed on the recent Tree Board report. Alderman Fehlhafer agreed. Discussed what to do, hire someone or use other funds for removal. Alderman Strohecker would like to see plan with priority of trees to be removed. Tree report was submitted at the last meeting. Discussed Ralph Eads, forester who retired three years ago and is now doing consulting. Chief Magill or Guenzler will get estimate for consultation. Need to find out if John Kelly has looked at these trees.

Clerk reported disconnect notice was sent to homeowner by certified letter which just came back. She questioned if the Council wanted to turn water off as no payment has been received for several months. Council agreed to disconnect. The Clerk asked for approval to sign checks tonight in Mayor Stern's absence. **Motion** made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to approve Clerk signing checks tonight. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Lindsay, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and pending litigation. All ayes. Motion carried. Entered executive session at 9:40 PM.

Motion made by Alderman Lindsay, seconded by Alderman Weaver to exit executive session. All ayes. Motion carried. Exited executive session at 9:58 PM with no action taken.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*