

STATE OF ILLINOIS)  
COUNTY OF CARROLL)SS.  
CITY OF LANARK)

November 17, 2009

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

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Les Guenzler, Chief Magill, Linda Ludwig, Norm Brinkmeier, Conrad Aschenbrenner, Randy Pepin, Sharon Pepin, Anthony Malone, Lexis Macomber and Denny Pate.

Prior to Mayor Stern calling the meeting to order, City Attorney, Ed Mitchell explained we do have a quorum with Mayor voting.

Mayor Stern called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After roll call, everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk questioned the voting of motion regarding the appointment of Alderman Macomber as Mayor Pro Tem. All were in agreement that Alderman Macomber had abstained from voting. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to accept the minutes of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with correction.

**Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to accept and pay the bills from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to present. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Mayor Stern-aye. Motion carried. Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to approve Treasurer's report for October. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye and Mayor Stern-aye. Motion carried.

No one was present from MSA Professional Services. A project update was submitted (copy on file).

Sharon and Randy Pepin of Community Planning & Funding Services passed out information on the municipal building at 111 South Broad and discussed. First step is to identify what funding is out there. Alderman Strohecker inquired if all Council members need to be NIMS certified. Four Council members and Police Chief are certified. Pepin was not sure all need to be certified. There are a variety of programs that could be tapped into. Pepin discussed the need for an architect. We will need a plan in order to apply for funds. Pepin has received latest report from library planner – Fred Schlipf. Alderman Macomber suggested having architect come in with blank sheet and draw up plan then see how it compares with our plan. Ed Mitchell reported there are statutes which state the process to hire architect. Pepin and Mitchell explained process. Also discussed how Eastland High School did process to find architect. Bidding is very competitive now. All seemed to agree to keep at committee level for now. There are three Library Board members and four aldermen on the Planning Committee. Pepin discussed Census 2010 forms – no income questions. Long form census will be done every two years. City may have to do community wide income survey to get grants. All agreed to discuss further at committee level. Pepin reminded everyone of the Legislative Round Table on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted written report. Alderman Strohecker inquired as to how long Loberg will be here. Guenzler announced today and tomorrow. Guenzler explained there are a lot of utilities to work around at Hanabarger. Discussed all utilities involved and where they come from. Alderman Strohecker inquired why we do not have suction hook up for fire trucks. Guenzler reported it was discussed when Dave Lotz was Chief but nothing was done. Alderman Strohecker reported other towns do when replacing hydrants. Alderman Strohecker announced the current chief wants quick couplers. Discussion went to the problems with the pick up truck. Also discussed picking up leaves – will do until snow flies. Guenzler reported Kosmecki keeps busy with other stuff now that mowing has ended. Alderman Strohecker wants a final date for seasonal employees. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to lay off Quin Kosmecki at the end of day on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Mayor Stern-aye. Motion carried. Alderman Macomber announced need to do exit interview and unemployment due to lack of work. All seemed to agree not to protest unemployment. Sidewalks should be done this week. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to lay off Chuck Strohecker at the end of day on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Strohecker-present and Mayor Stern-aye. (Mitchell was okay with this vote.) Motion carried.

Chief Magill reported he attended final certification NIMS class. Chief explained once all are done with certification, then need to have plan and run through. Chief suggested doing this during Old Settler's Days (OSD) to get idea of how information flows. Taser Class was held last weekend. Officer Craft recently became certified instructor. AED has come in and delivered to Maintenance Department. Chief announced all employees need to be certified. Guenzler reported the Fire Dept. does certification in January and February. Chief Magill discussed the prison tour yesterday. This is very likely to happen. There is a lot of confusion in the community. Everyone thinks **all** the GITMO prisoners (75-100) will be moved to Thomson. There was a meeting today for law enforcement. One of the main things residents are concerned with is when these prisoners are released, they will be released into general public. Chief Magill reported this is not true. They will be released into third world countries. Federal prisons have people from all over the world. State prisons have only Illinois residents. Within the next couple of weeks, decision will be made. Chief explained employees, support staff and Dept. of Defense percentages. People will locate in this area. Mayor Stern feels city website should be beefed up to attract new residents. Eastland schools has brochure – maybe beef up. When Alderman Strohecker questioned if we will feel up here, Chief Magill announced definitely. Chief Magill reported the perimeter (on property) will be extended. Guards will be inside not outside the facility. Mayor Stern reported Thomson was referred to as the “Crown Jewel” of the U.S. prisons at yesterday's meeting. Mayor Stern suggested getting opinions of residents and pass resolution of support. Linda Ludwig suggested having informational meetings to get the information out to community. Discussed holding town hall meeting at Heritage Center. Chief Magill is willing to do. He will contact others to come and talk. Another suggestion was to put information in with next water bills.

General audience – Denny Pate of Moring Disposal was present just to follow up on complaints since hauler letter was sent out. Clerk announced she has not received any complaints since his last visit to Council meeting. Mayor Stern reported receiving only one complaint due to break down of truck. Alderman Lindsay inquired about starting pick up before 6:00 AM. Trucks go by her home at 5:15 AM. Pate reported just doing dumpsters at that time. Other towns give permission to do highway before 6:00 AM. Alderman Macomber questioned if should continue to recycle since recyclables have gone down. Pate explained it is always good to recycle and is starting to come back up again. Clerk inquired about doing a mass replacement of bins. Several

residents have purchased new bins due to just falling apart. Clerk reported current cost of bins is \$10. After a brief discussion, Pate will check on bins.

Cemetery Board – Norm Brinkmeier and Conrad Aschenbrenner were present to update Council on city cemetery. Brinkmeier announced the software is now 100% complete. Brinkmeier showed and explained blocks and what is in them. Reports show owner of lot, co-owner of lot, date of burial, child or adult, and cremation, etc. Report to show veterans. This report was used to locate graves of veterans for Memorial Day. Legion was given report of where and who was buried. Boy Scouts located for Memorial Day. This process used to take about a week, now only one day. Brinkmeier announced a new version of software is coming out. Brinkmeier showed map of cemetery and announced 1,531 were buried in cemetery. Some stones date back to 1858 – possibly get grants to replace old broken stones. Brinkmeier has already started checking into replacement – just wanted to run by Council to be sure okay with this. Discussed ramifications if replaced. Cemetery Board would like Council's blessing if go forward. Sharon Pepin suggested talking with Mt. Carroll as they have been doing some work there. Will replace with same information on stone. All seemed to agree to go ahead. Brinkmeier reported if get another community to sign up for software, then get \$250 credit. Software maintenance is \$450 annually. All seemed to agree cemetery looks great. Brinkmeier announced they are very grateful to have Amy Milby working here. Conrad Aschenbrenner reported Milby is putting mulch around bushes before winter. Cemetery purchased sixteen trees from Forest Green Trees. Cemetery will be taking out soft maples on north side. Someone is coming in this winter to take down. Alderman Strohecker suggested hiring someone to drop and maintenance clean up. There are seven trees to take down and three locust trees near the school. Mayor Stern would like to see the Mt. Dept. take trees out to save money. All seemed to agree if cemetery wants help, just let Council know.

Tax Levy Ordinance – Mitchell passed out draft and reviewed. Some need two-thirds vote and only three aldermen here. Mitchell recommends waiting until the next meeting to take action. Alderman Strohecker requested a couple of changes. EAV comparison was submitted by Brinkmeier. Lanark has increased. Milledgeville and Mt. Carroll have decreased. Alderman Strohecker questioned Brinkmeier about the city's auditors. Brinkmeier reported LCV is the most popular and is used the most in this area. When asked about year end report, Brinkmeier reported it could be done before audit is complete. Clerk explained it cannot be done before audit is complete because that is where the figures for the report come from. Council discussed how late into the year we get the audit – must be in to State by December 31<sup>st</sup>. It was suggested to discuss this with the auditors.

High School Girls Volleyball recognition – Alderman Macomber, Finance Chair approved purchase of plaque for State Champs. Mayor Stern will send letter to IDOT for signs.

Ordinance for Police Dept. – Mitchell announced he has not received notes from Alderman Kocal regarding the Police Dept. ordinance.

Building permits – no permits were submitted. Clerk submitted draft of new building permit for review. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to approve newly revised permit as submitted. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye and Mayor Stern-aye. Motion carried.

### **Committees**

Street and Property – Alderman Strohecker submitted lists of projects, wants and needs. John Huggins is willing to start Strategic Plan in December. Alderman Strohecker explained he put

skid loader on list for dual purposes – sidewalks and sand filters. Alderman Strohecker feels city Mt. Dept. can do filters. If do one at a time, don't use all at same time. Alderman Strohecker is not in favor of spending all funds on hiring outside contractor. Alderman Macomber reported contractor wants to salvage house at 322 S. Argyle – go through and give price. Discussed putting out for bids. Alderman Strohecker was not in favor of this. Mayor Stern feels there is interest, put ad in paper. Chief Magill announced all the good fixtures are gone. Alderman Strohecker inquired where the furnace went in maintenance building. Guenzler reported the one upstairs went to junk. Discussed how to put out for bids. It was agreed to check with insurance company and discuss at next meeting. Discussed demolition of home on East Locust. Not all were in favor of just burying foundation. There is no ordinance against it.

Ordinance – Mayor Stern suggested allowing employee to quit at 2:00 PM on Thanksgiving Eve. Discussed changing ordinance to include Thanksgiving Eve. Mayor Stern discussed the emails going back and forth regarding serving alcohol at the Heritage Center. Nothing in ordinance. Discussed how done in the past and how to handle in the future. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to allow John Huggins to serve wine as long as proof of insurance is submitted. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye and Mayor Stern-aye. Motion carried.

Planning – no report.

Personnel/Police – no report.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Economic Development – no report.

Water & Sewer – no report.

Aldermen did not have any additional business.

City Attorney – Ed Mitchell reported he has form ready for tax exempt property (322 S. Argyle). As soon as he receives deed, he will file. Discussed again liens due to unpaid water bills. During discussion, Clerk recommended putting lien on North Broad property due to hearing it may be sold soon. All seemed to agree to put lien on this property. Mitchell reported MSA has requested him to file ELUC. This has been taken care of. Bill for attorney fees of \$135 for farm lease was given to Clerk. All seemed to agree to deduct \$135 from the \$1,000 received for lease agreement and issue check to cemetery for balance.

Clerk did not have any business this evening.

Mayor Stern discussed time off at Christmas. The past couple of years, Maintenance Dept. employees work until noon with pay for full day on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Stern recommended work until noon on December 24<sup>th</sup> and noon on December 31<sup>st</sup> with pay for full day. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to allow employees to work until noon on December 24 & 31 with pay for full day. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye and Mayor Stern-aye. Motion carried. Mayor Stern then discussed city employees's business item on agenda. With winter, there isn't much going on. In order to cut expenses, alternate attendance and only one report per month. After a short discussion, it was agreed to leave up to Chief Magill and Guenzler. They should let the Council know their thoughts. Guenzler was okay with one report per month. Alderman

Strohecker and Alderman Macomber reported the city does not own septic tank. Loberg gave to Burkholder. Clerk announced MSA told her Loberg paid Holm for October septic tank.

**Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*