

April 19, 2011

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

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Chief Magill, John Huggins, Anthony Malone, Mick Parsons, Randy Pepin and Sharon Pepin.

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

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to accept the minutes of the April 5th meeting. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-abstain, Alderman Kocal-aye and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried.

Discussed bill from Rexco for backhoe repairs. All were very disgusted with bill as the backhoe still needed repairs after being returned from Rexco. Backhoe was purchased August 2003 for \$42,697. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Kocal to accept and pay the bills from April 5th to present. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-abstain, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to accept the Treasurer's Report for March as submitted. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Alderman Weaver-aye. Motion carried.

Sharon Pepin of Community Funding & Planning Services reported the Live & Learn grant was approved. Pepin discussed timeframe. Target date is June for bid letting. The Library Board will meet in special session April 26th at 5:00 PM. Pepin passed out information on DECO grant and reviewed. City has already been approved for Energy Efficiency grant for \$71,000. Pepin reported she will send letter explaining we are unable to use the \$4,618 grant per requirements. We can apply again after June 1st and possibly get more funds because we will be ready. The Clerk will put this letter on City letterhead for Mayor to sign. CIP – Pepin held meeting couple weeks ago. She is just fine tuning the CIP. Pepin explained she needs to discuss a few things with Guenzler before completing. Possibly have ready for the next meeting.

General audience – John Huggins, Chamber of Commerce President, passed out budgets for Old Settler's Days (OSD) and reviewed. A map will accompany the brochures with letters to correspond with location of activity. Alderman Strohecker questioned who was paying for this. Huggins announced letters have been hand delivered to businesses, clubs, etc. requesting donations. The committee is selling booklets and souvenirs to earn revenue. Any revenues earned will be put into the Library green space at the Municipal Building. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to donate \$4,000 out of the Community Betterment line item to the Lanark 150th Committee. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye and Alderman Macomber-aye. Motion carried. Alderman Strohecker requested report on how

the funds will be used. Huggins announced they have already booked full carnival for next year's OSD.

Anthony Malone of ESI submitted drawings for the East Lift Station and reviewed. Malone suggested putting the building on south side of lift station. Building will be 12' X 12'. Malone explained as the lift station is able to catch up then will drain back. No pumps are required. The tank will need to be hosed down after each use. Malone suggested the Fire Dept. do the cleaning as there is no access to water there. Page two is the generator. Last two pages are pros and cons of diesel vs. natural gas. If this concept is satisfactory, ESI will continue to finish up plans. Tank will be ten feet in diameter and hold 20,000 gallons. Tank will be fiberglass and underground. It should last 40 to 50 years. Malone will complete construction costs, if approved, then send to EPA. **Motion** made by Alderman Lindsay, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to accept ESI's plans as submitted. Roll call: Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Alderman Weaver-aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance for electrical savings – Ed Mitchell submitted Ordinance #859 providing the submission to the electors of the City of Lanark, Carroll County, the question whether the City should have the authority under Public Act 096-0176 to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program. This will go on next ballot. If City is in favor, Council can enter into agreement. Mitchell announced this must be filed with the County by January 3, 2012. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to pass Ordinance #859. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye and Alderman Macomber-aye. Motion carried. Sharon Pepin suggested checking with Milledgeville, since theirs passed, to get information out to community.

Software for Police Dept. – Chief Magill reported our software is not compatible with County or State. Chief reported our current program is nine years old and is very user intensive work which does not give much information back. There are three other communities in Carroll County using new program-Village Police. Cost is about \$6,000 but Chief got it down to \$3,500. Will take databases from old program to new program and will be able to share information with Savanna, Thomson and Milledgeville. Chief gave examples of what software will be able to do. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to purchase Records Management software for the Police Department. Further discussion. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried.

Building permits – Chief Magill submitted report with the two most recent permits highlighted.

Randy Pepin thanked the Council for the plant and all who came to their open house.

ComEd agreement – Ed Mitchell reported he has reviewed the agreement and it seemed reasonable. Malone reviewed the three options which were discussed at the last meeting. The City will pay for monthly service and if need to be removed or moved, cost will be the City's. The rate can fluctuate since it is not a flat rate forever. Cost will be \$9,000 for soft start. About \$4,500 could come out of grant. The remainder can come out of Water & Sewer fund. Discussed options and costs. ComEd assumed soft start. Peerless went with what was there-hard start. Malone recommended going with ComEd. **Motion** made by Alderman Kocal, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to accept ComEd agreement as is. Roll call: Alderman Kocal-

aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried.

Committees

Water & Sewer – Alderman Fehlhafer reported there is a storm sewer (Rochester) which needs to be done but is not running in house yet. Alderman Fehlhafer has not heard anything from the sand filter man as yet.

Personnel – Alderman Lindsay set Personnel Committee meeting for April 22nd at 10:30 AM. Mayor Stern submitted health insurance renewal for review. This can be discussed at Friday's meeting.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Planning – no report.

Street and Property – Alderman Strohecker discussed agreement with State. Payments are \$9,000 per year for Route 73. Alderman Strohecker reported allowing \$60,000 in Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) for seal coating. Alderman Strohecker wants pot holes done before seal coating. Last year, complaints about seal coating over pot holes. Alderman Strohecker also discussed driveway at Municipal building. Mayor Stern questioned making annual payments or payment all at once. Several thought payments were to be annually. Others agreed payment schedule was in the agreement which was approved and signed by Mayor Stern. Mayor will check into this. Discussed doing seal coating of side streets or not. Mayor Stern submitted picture of Heritage Center which needs tuck pointing. Alderman Fehlhafer explained gutters leak and are wearing on the tuck pointing. Need to address the issue with gutters, possibly get seamless gutters. Alderman Fehlhafer would like to see some changes down there – need to have one person taking reservations. Currently two people are scheduling reservations, too easy to get multiple events at the same time which happened recently. Possibly the Council could take over. Alderman Strohecker recommended making sure if wall is fire safe before renting out basement. Mayor Stern suggested getting quote on tuck pointing and gutters. Alderman Fehlhafer will get quotes.

Police – no report.

Economic Development – Alderman Kocal announced CCEDS will meet at 6:00 PM tomorrow at court house.

Planning – Alderman Macomber reported all are invited to Library Board meeting at 5:00 PM on April 26th.

Ordinance – no report.

Trees – Alderman Strohecker submitted bid sheets for tree removal and gave copy to Alderman Kocal for newspaper. The Clerk has specs. Alderman Strohecker reported the Tree Board is asking for approval of at least \$1,500 for stump removal. Alderman Strohecker pointed out a couple of changes in specs from last year's specs. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to approve letting bids for tree removal and stump grinding. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Alderman Kocal-aye. Motion carried. The Tree

Board received a matching grant of \$3,000 for planting trees. Twenty trees have already been planted. The final ten will be planted Friday.

Ed Mitchell inquired about appropriations for current fiscal year. The Treasurer will get information to Mitchell. Mitchell briefly discussed the Fox property on East Pearl. Mitchell reported new updates to the Open Meetings Act are available on Internet. Mitchell is already certified. Mitchell announced Mayor Stern feels mayor's salary is too high. Mitchell reported Council can pass an ordinance to change (up or down) but does not take effect until the next mayoral election which is 2013. Mayor Stern explained he was hoping to save during his term. Mayor Stern thinks the wards are very disproportioned. Ward I and III are small with Ward II being the largest. Discussed what and why. Most feel Ward II has increased the most over the years. During discussion, Chief Magill announced population is: Ward I 307, Ward II 516 and Ward III 334. Complaint was received from resident there are a couple residents which are registered in the wrong ward. Mitchell announced he will swear in the newly elected officials at the next meeting. Since there is some confusion on the new building codes requirements, Mitchell explained the new codes are for new construction only. Mayor Stern discussed storm water budget. Anthony Malone of ESI, reported City must put storm water fee on ballot if separate line item on bill. If municipality is home-rule, does not have to go to referendum. The City of Lanark is a not home-rule community.

Alderman Strohecker requested Mayor Stern present a list of what projects he wants to accomplish this year. Others agreed, when you can see what needs to be done, more can be accomplished.

Alderman Weaver, Lindsay, Alderman Fehlhafer, Alderman Macomber and Alderman Kocal did not have any additional business this evening.

Clerk questioned how Council wanted to handle the distribution of the Annual Water Report. Clerk received quote of \$480 to publish in the Prairie Advocate. Brief discussion included cost of supplies and time versus cost to publish in paper. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Weaver to publish the Annual Water Report in newspaper at quote submitted (\$480). Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Kocal-abstain and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Stern discussed information from Alderman Kocal regarding time coding which will aid in better accounting of time and cost of projects. During discussion, Alderman Kocal explained that this will only work if done properly. Time coding must be done at the time when work is being done not at the end of the day. Mayor Stern gave review since coming into office of mayor. First year revenue dropped. When he came into office there were two attorneys. Mayor discussed what was done and not done over the past two years as mayor. Mayor Stern reported he is hearing waste, waste, waste. When receive so many complaints, there is something wrong. Mayor Stern reported he has focused on liability and money. He has tried to get away from executive sessions. Mayor Stern feels we are declining. Mayor Stern questioned what we are going to focus on this year. Alderman Weaver feels more optimistic than Mayor as he sees Forster Products expanding, many businesses doing well, Eastland Motor Sports expanded. Alderman Kocal reported not many small communities have the amenities that we have – grocery store, post office, doctor, dentist, etc. Mayor Stern reported according to the 2010 Census, we have lost population where others have gained. We also have dead buildings downtown. Some feel the Municipal Building is going in the right direction. Mayor Stern explained we have a sharp Council but need to figure out how to get out of the waste path and

into the growth path. Economically we are not out of the woods yet. Obviously everybody is cutting budgets. The County is thinking about doing away with the County Highway Dept. and give to the townships – duplication of taxes (County tax, Township Tax, Municipal Tax).

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*