

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF CARROLL
CITY OF LANARK

March 17, 2026

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ROLL CALL-Lanark City Council met in regular session at the Lanark City Hall at 7:00 p.m. Roll call taken by Marilyn Heller, City Clerk, showed Alderpersons present were Brad Knutti, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, Justin Rausch, Mark Macomber, and Ethan Lartz.

Mayor Jeri Rogan was present and presiding.

Others present were: Ryan Wildes and John Deburnand with Republic, Randy Beverly, Lynn Landherr, Kevin Barnes, Tanner Clenney, Trevor Knutti, Attorney Ed Mitchell, Treasurer Deb Throop, Clerk Marilyn Heller, Chief Troy Randall, and Maintenance Manager Jason Alvarado.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-was led by Alderperson Justin Rausch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Brad Knutti and seconded by Alderperson Ethan Lartz to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion carried by 5 aye votes and 1 abstain. Aye votes; Alderpersons Brad Knutti, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, Justin Rausch and Ethan Lartz. Alderperson Mark Macomber abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Ryan Wildes introduced himself as operations manager for Republic Services out of the Forreston office; tenure 3.5 years at Republic, previously 10 years with Moring Disposal as operations manager. John Deburnand introduced himself, 12 years at Republic in commercial/industrial and announced plan to finalize a VIP email for direct operations team contact and reply-all visibility. The VIP email is intended for city/public works managers, not residents; inquiries would route to local Forreston operations.

DONATION REQUESTS – POSSIBLE ACTION – Lanark Community Club (LCC) representatives request a liquor license and a small donation from the city for Old Settler's Day (OSD). Prior donations have been \$3,500 with liquor license fee waved. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to approve the \$3,500 donation to the LCC for OSD. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes: Alderperson Ethan Lartz, Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, Mark Macomber, and Brad Knutti. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to approve waiving the fee for the LCC liquor license for OSD. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes: Alderperson Ethan Lartz, Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, Mark Macomber, and Brad Knutti. Additionally, the Old Settler's Day committee, historically receives \$3,500, covering activities (e.g., blow-ups) on the other side of the park for OSD. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Brad Knutti and seconded by Alderperson Mark Macomber to approve the donation of \$3,500 to the OSD Committee. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Brad Knutti, Mark Macomber, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, Justin Rausch, and Ethan Lartz.

BEE VARIANCE – POSSIBLE ACTION – The council determined that bees fall under police ordinances, not zoning, and that agriculture is already a permitted use in the area. The decision was based on the property's size (2.5 acres), distance from nearby residences, and the purpose of pollination rather than commercial use. A Motion was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Brad Knutti to grant Nick Mosca a one-time, case-specific approval for beekeeping on the 2.5-acre orchard property. Attorney Ed Mitchell will draft a letter confirming permission, and any future requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE MINUTES – ACTION REQUIRED – A Motion was made by Alderperson Brad Knutti and seconded by Alderperson Mark Macomber to keep the executive session minutes sealed. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Brad Knutti, Mark Macomber, Justin Rausch, Ethan Lartz, Alisha Metz, and Jim Plock.

BACKHOE PURCHASE – ACTION REQUIRED – A Motion was made by Alderperson Mark Macomber and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to approve the purchase of a John Deere backhoe, with payment scheduled for April 21. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Mark Macomber, Justin Rausch, Ethan Lartz, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Brad Knutti. The decision aligns with prior budget discussions. The purchase includes a \$29,000 trade-in allowance for the existing unit, no delivery charge, and free side mirrors to be installed by city staff.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – POSSIBLE ACTION – The council is exploring playground surfacing options, particularly for a toddler area, with a focus on safety, cost, and practicality. While the vendor's lowest-cost option involves a concrete pad with tiles, concerns about expense and durability led to discussions of alternatives such as pylons, mulch, or modular panels. Additional considerations included avoiding materials like wood chips, sand, or rubber mulch for young children, as well as heat and shade issues.

A conference call and follow-up with the vendor/contractor will be arranged to review options, and no final decision has been made. The group also discussed expanding the area, pursuing donations or memorial funds, and developing a more comprehensive plan before moving forward.

BUDGET – POSSIBLE ACTION – More work needed with the Library and Cemetery. **Tabled**

CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT – POSSIBLE ACTION – Attorney Ed Mitchell is working to finalize minor updates to the code enforcement contract. Council agreed to keep the item on the April 7 agenda to ensure timely completion as the spring season approaches. Once the contract is finalized, the city plans to review ordinances and associated fees, though there have been delays in gathering information related to comparable fee structures.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS-POSSIBLE ACTION- Streets and Property – The Heritage Center rate increase on a future agenda and continues gathering input on potential street light locations. They also approved moving forward with the adjusted corner lot project, which includes ADA-accessible features and revised parking layout. Additionally, a compromise was reached for the farmers market to be held at the City Hall parking lot this year due to vendor concerns and the upcoming empty lot project. The council emphasized that future adjustments may be made based on how this year's setup performs and reiterated that public concerns should be addressed through official channels, not social media. **Personnel** – meeting to be held on March 25th, 2026, at 5:30pm to discuss employee reviews.

REPORTS-EMPLOYEES, ATTORNEY, CLERK, TREASURER, ALDERPERSONS AND MAYOR- Chief Troy Randall – Will be attending Homicide Investigation training in Dixon for the entirety of next week. **Maintenance Manager Jason Alvarado** – Reported that the maintenance crew will be attending training at the J & R Expo tomorrow and will be unavailable for the day. He also noted that the white truck has been taken in for warranty-related repairs. An update was provided regarding the water main break on S. Broad Street during last Sunday's snowstorm, which required approximately six hours to complete. Jason commended Brett, Drew, and Bryce for their excellent work in resolving the issue. Additionally, work on the north lift station is scheduled to begin on Thursday. Jason expressed his appreciation to Darin Stykel with Fehr Graham for coordinating pole support. **City Clerk Marilyn** – Shared information from an article in the Mirror-Democrat highlighting State Representative McCombie's efforts in securing \$112,500.00 in funding for capital infrastructure improvements. She also reported that the order for city polos and blouses has been placed.

WATER MAIN PROJECT – POSSIBLE ACTION – No Action Taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, REAL ESTATE-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Brad Knutti and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to convene in Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. in order to discuss Litigation. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Brad Knutti, Justin Rausch, Ethan Lartz, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Mark Macomber.

REGULAR SESSION-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Mark Macomber and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to reconvene into regular session at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Mark Macomber, Justin Rausch, Ethan Lartz, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Brad Knutti.

REPORTS-EMPLOYEES, ATTORNEY, CLERK, TREASURER, ALDERPERSONS AND MAYOR- Alderperson Ethan Lartz - discussed with council the plans to have police or maintenance set up barricade on the 100 block of East Franklin during the famers market.

ADJOURNMENT-MOTION- was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Mark Macomber to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried by 6 voiced aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Heller, City Clerk