

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF CARROLL
CITY OF LANARK

April 7, 2026

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

Mayor Jeri Rogan was present and presiding.

Others present were: Bella Ceoe, Doug Rominski, Attorney Ed Mitchell, Treasurer Deb Throop, Clerk Marilyn Heller, Chief Troy Randall, Officer Zach Plum 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 Justin Rausch to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Brad Knutti, Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Ethan Lartz. Alderperson Mark Macomber was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- None

Young Child Week Proclamation and Abate Proclamation – Possible Action - Mayor read aloud and council approved a proclamation recognizing April 11–18, 2026 as the Week of the Young Child, highlighting the importance of early childhood development and community involvement; the Mayor will sign the proclamation. A representative from Birth to Five Illinois (Region 8), Bella Ceoe, provided an overview of their work supporting early childhood programs, noting a statewide childcare shortage and the importance of preparing children for kindergarten. The Council also acknowledged an ABATE proclamation for May 2026, which was noted in the minutes with a reading.

Heritage Center Rates – Possible Action - The Council discussed the raised Heritage Center rental rates presented, along with clarifying alcohol policies. It was decided to remove the proposed deposit. Renters would be required to obtain host liquor liability insurance if alcohol is served, with no alcohol sales permitted. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Brad Knutti to approve the changes with amendments with May 1, 2026 as the effective date. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Ethan Lartz, Brad Knutti, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Justin Rausch. Alderperson Mark Macomber was absent.

Tree Board Appointments – Possible Action- A Motion was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch appoint Mark Johnson and Brian Hardacre to the Tree Board. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Ethan Lartz, Justin Rausch Brad Knutti, Alisha Metz, and Jim Plock. Alderperson Mark Macomber was absent.

Animal Ordinance – Possible Action - The Council reviewed proposed animal ordinance revisions, including allowing leashed dogs on cemetery paved paths, increasing the animal control reclamation fee to \$50, updating dangerous animal language, and aligning penalties with the general schedule. Changes also clarify livestock restrictions and establish a revised chicken permit system with higher fees, limits, and inspection provisions, though opinions on fee increases were mixed. Additional concerns about public animal slaughter and nuisance issues were discussed, with further work needed on animal quantity limits. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Brad Knutti to approve the changes presented to ord. 5-1-5, 5-1-10, 5-1-12 and 5-1-18. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Ethan Lartz, Justin Rausch Brad Knutti, Alisha Metz, and Jim Plock. Alderperson Mark Macomber was absent.

Attorney Ed Mitchel will draft the updated ordinance for the next meeting agenda.

Playground Equipment – Possible Action - The Council discussed plans to upgrade playground surfaces with mulch and rubber mats before the Old Settlers event, pending vendor response. They also reviewed expanding park surveillance by updating equipment, with plans to contact a preferred vendor to begin the process. Concerns about vandalism and youth behavior were raised, with an emphasis on collecting photographic evidence and encouraging community cooperation for enforcement. A neutral public notice about vandalism is under consideration.

Budget – Possible Action- Tabled - The budget process is moving forward, with cemetery board input completed and budget lines prepared. Treasurer Deb will compile and distribute the full budget for final review, with a vote planned at the next meeting and any changes due soon. The appropriation ordinance is expected to follow within the required April–June timeframe, potentially at the same meeting if ready.

Code Enforcement Contract – Possible Action- Tabled - The Council discussed clarifying the code enforcement contract, including revising “subcontractor” language to reflect use of outside specialists rather than employees and extending the procurement timeframe from 14 to 30 days. The compensation structure was outlined with a monthly retainer with additional fees for only approved major cases, and a flat rate of \$100 for court appearance. They also addressed insurance requirements and limited use of pre-approved subcontractors, while confirming inspections would be performed directly by the contractor. Draft revisions will be prepared and circulated for review ahead of the next meeting to finalize details.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS-POSSIBLE ACTION- Streets and Property – reported multiple engineering work orders with reduced costs and agreed to bundle several projects into a single bid to improve efficiency and savings, with park-related work deferred until after Old Settler’s Day. Bid documents will include language allowing the City to refuse bids within reason. They also discussed the upcoming SURF internet deployment, prioritizing key areas before reconstruction work and excluding high-cost connections like the sewer plant. Installation will proceed as scheduled, with continued negotiations on providing service to municipal buildings. **Personnel** – requested executive session.

REPORTS-EMPLOYEES, ATTORNEY, CLERK, TREASURER, ALDERPERSONS AND MAYOR-
Maintenance Manager Jason Alvarado - He will open park bathrooms once cleaning is completed and signage is posted. An EPA visit resulted in no major deficiencies, with only minor recommendations noted, including cybersecurity improvements and a water main upgrade. City Hall tuck-pointing is scheduled to begin Monday and is expected to take about a week.
Chief Troy Randall - plans to hold another UTV/ATV registration event after a low turnout due to weather, with clearer guidance that renewals may not require bringing the vehicle and a focus on sticker pickup. A bicycle and scooter safety clinic is being planned for the third weekend in May, with expectations of strong participation. **Clerk Marilyn Heller**- share that the city received over 30 FOIA requests this last week. There were also 6 properties shut off this month with 2 reconnected same day. **Attorney Ed Mitchell** - discussed ideas related to historic districts and managing vacant storefronts, examples from other communities (Morrison) that charge registration and annual fees unless an action plan is in place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, REAL ESTATE-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Justin Rausch and seconded by Alderperson Alisha Metz to convene in Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. in order to discuss personnel and litigation. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, Ethan Lartz, Brad Knutti, and Jim Plock. Alderperson Mark Macomber was absent.

REGULAR SESSION-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Brad Knutti and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to reconvene into regular session at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Brad Knutti, Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, Ethan Lartz, and Jim Plock. Alderperson Mark Macomber was absent.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS-POSSIBLE ACTION- Personnel – A Motion was made by Alderperson Justin Rausch and seconded by Alderperson Alisha Metz to approve employee salary increases, effective April 1st, to; Jason Alvarado: salary set to \$75,831.15; Drew Giedd: hourly wage set to \$28.00; Brett Meinsma: hourly wage set to \$24.59; Bryce Meinsma: hourly wage set to \$22.35; Mark Johnson: hourly wage set to \$25.46; Treasurer: salary set to \$21,500; Cleaning position: hourly wage set to \$19.00; Utility Clerk: salary set to \$33,000; Troy Randall: salary set to \$86,000; Zach Plum: salary set to \$54,500. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye

votes; Alderpersons Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, Ethan Lartz, Brad Knutti, and Jim Plock. Alderperson Mark Macomber was absent.

Water Main Project – Possible Action- No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Brad Knutti and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried by 5 voiced aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Heller, City Clerk