

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF CARROLL
CITY OF LANARK

June 16, 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, Jim Plock, Justin Rausch, Mark Macomber, and Ethan Lartz. Alderperson Alisha Metz was absent.

Mayor Jeri Rogan was present and presiding.

Others present were: Shawna Lott, Misty Lindstrom, Heath Burkholder, Scott Franko with Surf, Attorney Ed Mitchell, Maintenance Manager Jason Alvarado, Treasurer Deb Throop, Clerk Marilyn Heller, and Chief Troy Randall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-was led by Alderperson Ethan Lartz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Mark Macomber and seconded by Alderperson Brad Knutti to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes: Alderpersons Mark Macomber, Brad Knutti, Jim Plock, Justin Rausch, and Ethan Lartz. Alderperson Alisha Metz was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Shawna Lott, Misty Lindstrom, and Heath Burkholder discussed ongoing basement water and drainage issues affecting their homes with the council. Council and Maintenance Manager noted that some properties are not connected to the lift station and that the root cause may involve system capacity, groundwater infiltration, or drainage infrastructure. Residents and officials questioned whether solutions such as additional sewer lines, larger pumps, or check valves would resolve the problem, while engineers had previously indicated that check valves may be the most effective option.

The Council agreed to have Fehr Graham investigate the issue further, inspect affected basements, and provide an engineering assessment to determine the source of the water intrusion and identify potential solutions. Residents were asked to allow access for inspections so the City can obtain professional documentation and recommendations before taking further action.

105% Resolution – Possible Action - Attorney Ed Mitchell reviewed the annual tax levy limitation requirements and discussed the 105% threshold that would trigger publication of a Truth in Taxation notice and public hearing. Based on calculations provided, the combined maximum levy for the City and Library without exceeding the threshold was \$301,365. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Brad Knutti and seconded by Alderperson Mark Macomber to approve the resolution estimating funds needed for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 at \$301,000, remaining below the 105% limitation. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes: Alderpersons

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

Heritage Center Tuck Pointing – Possible Action – Alderperson Ethan Lartz \$9,800 quote to complete tuckpointing on the front façade of the Heritage Center, which would provide a consistent mortar color and finish the remaining masonry work on the building. Members considered funding sources and agreed that using TIF funds designated for façade improvements was preferable to using street department funds. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to approve the \$9,800 tuckpointing quote for the Heritage Center, with funding to come from the TIF/facade improvement fund. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes: Alderpersons Ethan Lartz, Justin Rausch, Brad Knutti, Jim Plock, and Mark Macomber. Alderperson Alisha Metz was absent.

Right of Way Construction Code – Possible Action – Tabled

Playground Equipment – Possible Action - Alderperson Brad presented a proposal for new playground equipment consisting of a Cozy Dome climbing structure and Playsafer tiles to cover a 20-foot by 20-foot area. To lock in current pricing and ensure materials are available when installation is ready, members discussed ordering the equipment in advance while awaiting final information on the concrete pad. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Brad Knutti and seconded by Alderperson Mark Macomber to purchase the Cozy Dome and Playsafer tiles for a total cost of \$11,137. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes: Alderpersons Brad Knutti, Mark Macomber, Justin Rausch, Jim Plock, and Ethan Lartz. Alderperson Alisha Metz was absent.

Fiber Internet – Possible Action - Council continued discussions regarding the proposed Surf Internet fiber project and concerns over changes to commitments made during earlier negotiations. Members expressed frustration that Surf had withdrawn key promises, including a lifetime price lock, free service to City facilities, and service to all requested locations, while also raising concerns about limited business district coverage, additional costs for extending service to the sewer plant, and a legal letter from Surf's attorney that damaged trust between the parties. Surf's Director of Business Development, Scott Franco, acknowledged those concerns and stated that Surf was willing to restore the original terms for Lanark, including a lifetime price lock, service to all 13 requested City locations, no connection fees, and no contracts. Council members emphasized the need for clear written commitments and discussed evaluating competing proposals before making a decision. Given the City's desire to move forward quickly, the Council indicated it would seek additional information from alternative providers while continuing discussions with Surf.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS-POSSIBLE ACTION-- Streets/Properties - Bid opening for current projects is June 30, with council approval slated for July 7. Current work by O'Brien is progressing well despite one worker's major non-work injury and rain delays. Bids out do not

include School and Pearl Streets; that package remains under state (MFT funds) review. The council discussed refreshing the Town Plaza landscaping, restoring or replacing the aging welcome signs, and reporting a hazardous drop-off on state property to the appropriate agency. CIP - A proposal from Graham for a Capital Improvement Plan will be reviewed at a scheduled Streets and Property committee meeting (targeted for June 30 at 5:30 PM) with Water and Sewer committee.

REPORTS-EMPLOYEES, ZONING/CODE OFFICER, ATTORNEY, CLERK, TREASURER,

ALDERPERSONS AND MAYOR- Alderperson Justin Rausch- Garbage Contracts- Multiple offers have been received; one bidder proposed only a one-year term. The council requested confirmation of renegotiation terms and clarity on surcharges (e.g., fuel), and a “legend” mapping anonymized offers to companies. **Chief Troy Randall** - Officer Zach sustained a fractured ankle and two broken foot bones (on duty, slipping off the squad’s running board) and will be out a minimum of ten weeks. A federal LASSO review occurred and went well; e-ticket implementation is scheduled soon. **Maintenance Manager Jason Alvarado** - Heritage Center Operations: Security Builders Plus was contacted to spec industrial-grade locks for the front/back doors, with a vendor visit expected soon. A Rockford firm has been contacted to produce exterior lettering matching City Hall’s style; installation will follow tuckpointing. **Clerk Marilyn Heller** - IML conference classes will be posted soon. Sexual harassment training is mandatory; an in-person session is set for Thursday the 25th at 12:00, with online alternatives available. **Mayor Jeri Rogan** – Shared update from the zoning officer, Doug issued multiple letters expiring this week; next-stage enforcement will follow. Some clean-ups have occurred, though issues persist at East Lanark Avenue and Pearl (front yards, animal pens) and at 203 East Franklin (street trash), potentially requiring ordinance amendments. Due to a conflict for prior counsel, the council voted to engage Sosnowski Zado LLP to represent the city in the Reed Law surety bond matter. Initial correspondence has been received; new counsel will advance remaining notices and next steps. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Brad Knutti to - to sign the engagement letter with Sosnowski Zado LLP. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes: Alderpersons Ethan Lartz, Brad Knutti, Mark Macomber, Justin Rausch, and Jim Plock. Alderperson Alisha Metz was absent.

Also, the mayor declined a proposal from Nathan McCarthy to purchase the planned downtown parking lot or obtain a drive-through easement through it. The mayor noted McCarthy’s responsibilities for the “blue building” and adjacent property maintenance issues.

ADJOURNMENT-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Justin Rausch and seconded by Alderperson Brad Knutti to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried by 5 voiced aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Heller, City Clerk