STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF CARROLL
CITY OF LANARK

October 6, 2026

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ROLL CALL-Lanark City Council met in regular session at the Lanark City Hall at 7:04 p.m. Roll call taken by Marilyn Heller, City Clerk, showed Aldermen present were Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, Ethan Lartz, Mark Macomber, and Brad Knutti. Alderman Justin Rausch was absent.
Mayor Jeri Rogan was present and presiding.
Others present were: John Debernardi with Republic Services, Mike Miller, Dale Kaney, Sue Kaney, Randy Despain, Christi Depain, Les Guenzler, Shawna Lott, Tanny Miller, Check Mckenna, Gale Haverland, Health Burkholder, Attorney Ed Mitchell, Maintenance Manager Jason Alvarado, Treasurer Deb Throop, Clerk Marilyn Heller, Chief Justin Despain, Officer Zach Plum and Office Artis Taylor III.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- was led by Mayor Jeri Rogan.

Swear in Chief – Action Required - The City of Lanark officially swore in Police Chief Justin Despain and part-time Police Officer Artis Taylor III. Both officers took the oath of office, pledging to uphold the United States and Illinois Constitutions and faithfully perform their duties to the best of their abilities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-MOTION-was made by Alderman Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderman Mark Macomber to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion carried by 5 aye votes. Aye votes; Aldermen Ethan Lartz, Mark Macomber, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Brad Knutti. Alderman Justin Rausch was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Residents addressed the City Council regarding ongoing flooding and sewer backups on High Street, reporting significant basement damage, damaged furnaces and water heaters, and concerns about the lack of an immediate solution. The City explained that it is working with Fehr Graham on potential drainage and sewer infrastructure improvements, with an initial proposal estimated at approximately $700,000 and an alternative option estimated at $366,000. Residents also requested interim relief, storm drain maintenance, and consideration of alternate drainage routes to avoid private property. The City acknowledged the seriousness of the issue, explained that any temporary measures must comply with EPA regulations, and committed to continuing work with the engineers, exploring options, and keeping affected residents informed.

First November Meeting Date – Action Required - The Council discussed the need to reschedule the first November meeting because state law prohibits holding the meeting on

Election Day. November 2 was proposed as the new date, with the meeting remaining at its regularly scheduled time of 7:00 p.m. The Council confirmed that the November 17 meeting would remain unchanged. **A motion** was made by Alderman Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderman Alisha Metz to move the first November meeting to Monday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. The motion passed with 5 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderman Aldermen Ethan Lartz, Alisha Metz, Mark Macomber, Jim Plock, and Brad Knutti. Alderman Justin Rausch was absent.

Condemnation of 101 S. Broad – Possible Action - Tabled

Cemetery Maintenance & Reorganization Plan – Possible Action - The Council was updated on the Cemetery Board's decision to terminate the cemetery sexton's employment for cause on September 16 and its subsequent plan to place cemetery maintenance under the City's Maintenance Department. The proposed arrangement would eliminate the sexton position and designate a primary maintenance employee to handle cemetery duties, with additional staff trained to provide coverage as needed. The Cemetery Board would cover employee wages for cemetery work and provide $4,000 annually to Maintenance Manager Jason for additional supervisory responsibilities. The Maintenance Department would oversee grave locating, digging, and general cemetery upkeep, while cemetery lot sales would initially be handled jointly by the department and the board. The Council also discussed the possibility of hiring seasonal help for mowing and trimming. Part-time employee Bryce Minsma has expressed interest in the full-time position, and the City is considering promoting from within. No action was required at this time; an updated ordinance will be prepared to reflect the proposed changes.

Maintenance Building Proposal – Possible Action - The Maintenance Manager presented a proposal to construct a 20-by-56-foot lean-to addition at the East Lift Station to address the department's storage needs and protect materials, vehicles, and equipment from weather-related damage. Three quotes were received, ranging from $23,500 to $54,499.35, with the lowest bid submitted by Alex York. The Council discussed the benefits of covered storage, access for larger vehicles, and the need to provide contractors with written notice of prevailing wage requirements. A Council member requested additional time to discuss another idea with the Maintenance Manager before making a decision. Tabled

Park Improvement Proposal – Possible Action - The Council discussed planning for improvements to the park following the planned removal of the existing shelter house this fall. To pursue grant funding, the City needs to begin planning early and work with Fehr Graham to understand the grant's scoring criteria and project requirements. The proposed next step is to meet with Fehr Graham and involve the Streets, Properties, and Parks Committee to identify eligible improvements and develop a project that could qualify for grant funding. Potential ideas discussed included pickleball courts, picnic tables, and playground equipment, with the understanding that the City would need to provide a matching share of the grant funds.

REPORTS-EMPLOYEES, ZONING/CODE OFFICER, ATTORNEY, CLERK, TREASURER, ALDERMEN AND MAYOR- Police Chief – reported that the new squad car is in the process of being outfitted, with completion expected by the end of October. The department has also obtained discounted computer equipment to reduce costs. The department responded to 64 calls for service last month, with flooding and traffic stops among the notable activity. The Council discussed the importance of having two squad cars available, particularly for Halloween, while the new vehicle is being completed. The Chief is coordinating with the City of Fulton to transfer the Hummer and surplus parts, which will free up garage space, and is also reviewing two ATVs to determine their ownership documentation and potential disposition. The Chief noted that assistance calls to other departments totaled five last month following a recent change in coverage arrangements with the county. **Attorney Ed Mitchell –** reminded the Council that bids for the City farm will be opened at the next meeting. A newspaper advertisement is scheduled for the following week, and letters or emails have been sent to approximately 20 individuals who previously submitted bids or may be interested. Bid packets have been prepared and are available for pickup. **City Clerk Marilyn Heller –** The City Clerk reported that the finance and human resources information has been imported into the new software system. A scheduled test payroll could not be completed, so another call is planned for Thursday to determine the next steps. Utility billing is expected to be imported by the end of the week, following a few manual adjustments to the current system to help ensure a smooth transition. The new software is still a work in progress, and a launch date has not yet been determined.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS-POSSIBLE ACTION- Public Relations/ Communication/ Parks and Rec. - Alderman Alisha Metz – reported that the new park equipment is installed and the park is looking great. Website training videos are still being developed, and the City is awaiting confirmation regarding a grant opportunity. Upcoming events include the Fall Festival and the Halloween lighted parade. Planning for the parade is underway, with five participants registered so far and efforts being made to establish a designated route. The Council also reiterated that alcohol is prohibited along the parade route.

Streets and Property – Alderman Ethan Lartz – gave an update on ongoing street and infrastructure projects. Burns Street near the park is scheduled to be torn up beginning Monday and resurfaced from the alley to Claremont Street to address ponding issues. The Claremont Street chip-and-seal work may be postponed until spring due to concerns about temperatures and loose chips damaging nearby yards, while the planned blacktop work will continue. The uptown parking lot is scheduled to be paved Thursday and striped Friday, and the Pearl Street project is expected to be ready for paving by Friday following a redesign of the drainage connection at School Drive. The Council also discussed confirming responsibility for parking lot landscaping and notifying the school about potential access impacts.

Mayor Jeri Rogan – discussed concerns regarding the property at 112 East Claremont, including trees overhanging an active alley that may be interfering with a homeowner's solar panels. The Maintenance Manager and Tree Board will review the property boundaries to determine whether the trees belong to the City or the homeowner and identify the appropriate party responsible for trimming them. The Council also addressed a parking complaint involving a large truck parked near the alley and a "Resident Parking Only" sign. Members discussed relocating the sign to clarify the parking restriction and having an officer speak with the vehicle owner to ensure the active alley remains unobstructed.

The Mayor presented a written veto of the previously approved garbage contract with Midwest, citing concerns about the lack of a competitive bidding process and inaccuracies in the submitted contract regarding fall cleanup services. The Council was informed that both Midwest and Republic will receive the same written specifications and be asked to submit new sealed bids for consideration at the next meeting. The Council also discussed the need to establish a clearer bidding process for future contracts.

ADJOURNMENT-MOTION-was made by Alderman Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderman Mark Macomber to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried by 5 voiced aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Heller, City Clerk