STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF CARROLL
CITY OF LANARK

September 15, 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 Aldermen present were Alisha Metz, Justin Rausch, Jim Plock, Ethan Lartz, Mark Macomber, and Brad Knutti. Mayor Jeri Rogan was present and presiding.
Others present were: Darin Stykel and Alex Stykel with Fehr Graham, Derek Humphrey with Midwest Disposal, Ryan Wildes with Republic Services, Jamie Randall, Lesli Saunder, Attorney Ed Mitchell, Zoning Officer Doug Rominski, Clerk Marilyn Heller, Chief Justin Despain and Officer Zach Plum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-was led by Alderman Jim Plock.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-MOTION-was made by Alderman Mark Macomber and seconded by Alderman Justin Rausch to accept the minutes of the September 1, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Aldermen Mark Macomber, Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, Brad Knutti, Jim Plock, and Ethan Lartz.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Jamie Randall requested a copy of Troy Randalls employee file with a signed letter from Troy Randall. She also shared her concern as a resident with an internet issue in the police squad cars over the weekend and her concerns with the financial aspect of the squad car being taken to Shannon to the new chiefs house.

Garbage Contract Bids – Possible Action – The Council discussed the revised garbage contract bids, including the difference in recycling schedules, with one proposal providing weekly recycling and the other continuing with every-other-week pickup. Members also discussed the larger recycling containers, five-year pricing, budget impacts, and the fact that the containers would be replaced regardless of which company was selected. **A Motion** was made by Alderman Mark Macomber and seconded by Alderman Brad Knutti to award the garbage contract to Midwest Disposal, pending review of the contract, with authorization for the Mayor to sign, effective January 1, 2027. Motion carried by 5 aye votes and one nay. Aye votes; Aldermen Mark Macomber, Brad Knutti, Jim Plock, Alisha Metz, and Ethan Lartz. Nay vote; Alderman Justin Rausch.

Surplus Police Equipment – Possible Action – The Council discussed surplus police equipment, specifically a grenade launcher capable of holding multiple canisters and used for crowd control applications such as tear gas. The item was identified as having a value of approximately

$2,750, which the City would receive. **A motion** was made by Alderman Justin Rausch and seconded by Mark Macomber to declare the police equipment surplus. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Aldermen Justin Rausch, Mark Macomber, Alisha Metz, Brad Knutti, Jim Plock, and Ethan Lartz.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS-POSSIBLE ACTION- Public Relations/ Communication/ Parks and Rec. - Alderman Alisha Metz – reported that she has been working with Tiffany on website updates and that training videos will be provided for staff members who will need access to update the site. Fall Fest planning is progressing well and is scheduled for October 11. The new park equipment is scheduled to be installed by LCC on September 20.
Streets and Property – Alderman Ethan Lartz - provided an update on the Pearl Street parking lot and park projects. The parking lot project is progressing well, with some elevation and storm sewer issues being corrected, including a potential water main relocation estimated at approximately $10,000–$12,000. The retaining wall and lighting work are also moving forward, with minor adjustments made to accommodate existing conditions. The park project is progressing toward completion, with the improperly installed flume to be replaced by the contractor at no cost to the City; the goal remains to have the projects completed by Homecoming and Fall Fest. Also, both contractors are making good progress and communicating well. CIP ordinance and raised concerns regarding the condition of 101 South Broad Street, stating that the City should determine what steps are necessary to address or condemn the property before winter. Zoning Officer Doug discussed the ongoing structural and safety concerns regarding **101 South Broad Street**, noting that previous inspections, photographs, and engineering reports documented significant deterioration, which has continued to worsen. Council discussed contacting the property owner and pursuing the legal process for condemnation, including the required 15-day notice and potential court action, while also considering whether a structural engineer should further evaluate the building. Attorney Mitchell advised that he would consult with the City's engineer regarding what corrective action should be required and the appropriate next steps. The Council reached a consensus to have Attorney Mitchell move forward with the process and determine the appropriate course of action.

Water and Sewer – Alderman Brad Knutti – The Water Committee met prior to the Council meeting with Darin to review the sanitary sewer capacity evaluation for the Carroll/High Street area. Darin was asked to provide additional information and pricing for installing new water or wastewater force mains, potentially utilizing the existing right-of-way to avoid reconstructing the entire street, as well as options for improving drainage and addressing surface water issues. The Committee will reconvene after Darren provides the requested information and proposals.
Personnel – Alderman Justin Rausch - obtaining pricing comparisons between the City's current Blue Cross health insurance plan and a potential new plan. The potential plan requires a

minimum two-year commitment, after which the City could discontinue participation, with the hope that increased participation would result in lower costs.
Economic Development – Alderman Mark Macomber –
Finance – Alderman Jim Plock - discussed the upcoming bidding process for the City-owned farmland, which provides income for the cemetery. The current three-year cash-rent agreement ends after the 2026 crop year, so a new three-year contract will need to be awarded. Members discussed the bidding process and agreed to continue the practice of allowing the **top three bidders one opportunity to increase their bids**, with that procedure clearly stated in the bid notice. The City will advertise the opportunity through the City website, Facebook, notices to previous bidders, and local newspaper advertising, with the bid opening tentatively planned for the second Council meeting in October.
Police, Public Safety, Ordinance, and Policy – Mayor Jeri Rogan -

REPORTS-EMPLOYEES, ZONING/CODE OFFICER, ATTORNEY, CLERK, TREASURER, ALDERMEN AND MAYOR-
ZONING/CODE OFFICER Doug Rominski- reported some progress on outstanding property violations, including a contractor now being secured for one property. Doug also provided an update on the City's code enforcement software, noting that the system still needs to be built out with City-specific ordinance language and violation letters, which will require significant initial work. Concerns were raised about retaining the City's enforcement history and records if the software service is discontinued, and the Council discussed options for maintaining independent backups or cloud storage. Approximately seven major structural/building violations remain, while efforts to contact property owners and address residential violations continue. The Pearl Street demolition has been completed and the site approved, although additional grading may be needed as the fill settles**.**
City Clerk Marilyn Heller –reported that a representative from Birth to Five contacted the City regarding the need for additional daycare providers for children ages birth to five. The organization is seeking potential properties and individuals interested in opening a daycare and can assist with the process. Alderman Brad Knutti volunteered to contact the representative and discuss the opportunity further.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, REAL ESTATE, PROBABLE OR PENDING LITIGATION-MOTION-was made by Alderman Mark Macomber and seconded by Alderman Ethan Lartz to convene in Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. in order to discuss pending litigation and employment. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Aldermen Ethan Lartz, Mark Macomber, Alisha Metz, Brad Knutti, Jim Plock, and Justin Rausch.

REGULAR SESSION-MOTION-was made by Alderman Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderman Brad Knutti to reconvene into regular session at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Aldermen Ethan Lartz, Brad Knutti, Mark Macomber, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Justin Rausch.

A Motion was made by Alderman Mark Macomber and seconded by Alderman Ethan Lartz to hire officer Despain full-time as the Lanark Police Chief. Motion carried by 6 aye votes. Aye votes; Aldermen Mark Macomber, Ethan Lartz, Brad Knutti, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Justin Rausch.

The Mayor will sign the employment contract with Despain, and an official swearing-in ceremony is planned for the next Council meeting.

REPORTS- Continued - EMPLOYEES, ZONING/CODE OFFICER, ATTORNEY, CLERK, TREASURER, ALDERMEN AND MAYOR- Police Chief Despain - provided several updates, including plans to use funds from the Range Watcher program to purchase three firearms so that an additional firearm will be available for the full-time officers in the event of an emergency. Squad decals are being updated, with the existing squad scheduled to be rewrapped and the new squad receiving matching decals. The Department is also planning to modernize its badge and patch designs to better incorporate the Lanark community. The new squad will include additional equipment, including a spotlight and a "howler" warning device designed to improve emergency vehicle visibility and response from motorists, resulting in a slight increase to the previously approved cost. The Department also reported a successful community presence during the Labor Day Parade.

ADJOURNMENT-MOTION-was made by Alderman Justin Rausch and seconded by Alderman Brad Knutti to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Motion carried by 6 voiced aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Heller, City Clerk