

February 20, 2007

Lanark City Council met in regular session at City Hall. Alderman Ardena Grant, Alderman Ron Strohecker, Alderman John Huggins, Alderman Mark Macomber, Alderman Ed Stern and Mayor Kevin Barnes were present. Alderman Ken Weaver was absent.

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Les Guenzler and Chief Page.

Mayor Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to accept the minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Grant to accept and pay the bills from February 6<sup>th</sup> to present. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Huggins to accept the Treasurer's Report for January. All ayes. Motion carried.

MSA Professional Services was not present.

No building permits were presented. The Clerk reported she received a call from a business owner requesting permission to put up a sign on his building – the full length with bright lights. She reported she had given the business owner a copy of the City Code regarding signs. The owner still wants Council's approval prior to purchasing sign. The Clerk was instructed to inform the business owner to check with IDOT.

Police Ordinance – Alderman Stern announced the committee made changes at their meeting. The aldermen were given copies of these changes. Mitchell will have an ordinance ready for the next meeting.

Ordinance to sell real estate – Mitchell reported Lanark Cornerstone Project (LCP) is not an organization as yet, therefore cannot complete the sale. Alderman Macomber inquired as to how long we are going to wait. Alderman Strohecker announced until we set a deadline. Mitchell explained the process for not-for-profit organization. It ends up sitting in a pile at State. Tax exempt process takes even longer. Mitchell explained we do not need to wait for that process to be completed, just the not-for-profit. Alderman Macomber reminded everyone of the timeline which was presented by the LCP. Roof and shored up were to be completed in December. Nothing has been done yet. Mitchell announced the LCP could hire firm to walk through. When asked about cost, Mitchell reported it was about \$100 a couple of years ago. Alderman Huggins thought it was \$300 now. Alderman Macomber announced we have not seen anyone from LCP here. We are left holding the bag if the building falls down. Mitchell was asked to contact LCP. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Grant to have Ed Mitchell call LCP and notify them of deadline of March 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Motion was rescinded by Alderman Strohecker. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to have Ed Mitchell send letter to LPC stating they

need to walk through to get status of not-for-profit organization by March 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

City Attorney, Ed Mitchell reported he received notification that Marianne Meador may lose her house. The City has a lien on the property. Mitchell suggested that the City not get involved. All seemed to agree. Codification came through last week. Everyone needs to turn in Code Books for inserts. When asked about Valente, Mitchell announced he filed to dismiss. Mitchell explained he sent an update letter to Alderman Strohecker as he was the most interested in the situation. Mitchell announced it will go away – slowly.

### **Committees**

Water & Sewer – Alderman Stern reported at the last meeting he announced he was going to make a list of water & sewer projects to be done in 2007. He has completed this list and passed out copies and reviewed. Remaining televising was approved a few meetings ago. Hydrant at Kent's line is an EPA matter. Well at Medallion – Williams did welding. Cost is about \$5,000 to determine if the well is good or not. It is up to the Council to decide if want to go forward. Letter to homeowners regarding smoke test – Stern announced he will probably not get done. His successor will need to do this. Alderman Stern announced there is something going on at West Claremont – may want to have company come in and televise – roots or what, maybe grade of line. Pat Eckburg had a digging permit in March 2005 to replace entire line to house. Stern talked with Jeanine recently – still having problems. Shirley Mauldin has had problems. About five owners – no smoke out of chimney. Stern is concerned about what the problem is that five homes are involved. He thinks may be our main. Alderman Strohecker suggested having televised while company is here. Water tower is dirty and rusty – needs to be power washed and painted. Ten year inspection is due in 2009. Tower went on line in April of 1999. Guenzler announced there is a company in Morrison who cleans towers. Alderman Stern reported if the restroom facility in park is to be done this summer, Maintenance will have to put in a line. Alderman Strohecker announced the consensus is the southwest corner; however it is further to run piping. Eight fire hydrants have been a problem for years. We just don't get around to them. With risk management, we need to get to this. Stern announced the best we know, Will Street sewer line collapsed – can't get televised. New water main on East Leland Street – this is the year to do and budget for. Alderman Stern announced each year something always pops up which can be covered under contingency. This year was Shaner's pond. Sand filters are beyond their expectancy. Alderman Stern reported these are things that could or should be done this year. You're going to have to decide if going to run water. The road won't happen this year. Alderman Strohecker suggested doing in steps – first the street itself then add cul-de-sac. Alderman Stern recommended hiring out to take the line from the tower to Down's. Will need to bore under highway, then Maintenance can take the rest of the way. Stern reported Maintenance does not have time to do all. We are strapping ourselves if contract out. Alderman Strohecker announced we need to do hydrants this year. This could be budgeted for under construct water lines. If we don't get it done, nothing hurt. Alderman Macomber announced we need to prioritize. Council discussed putting in line this year. Alderman Stern will email Marty Beranek of MSA Professional Services for cost to include in budget. Aldermen Strohecker and Macomber discussed having a meeting to discuss what needs to be done before appropriations. All seemed to agree we cannot afford to do Leland Street this year as we need funding. Alderman Huggins reported the water was the bigger chunk. Alderman Strohecker corrected him as the street cost is \$1.1 million and the water is \$400,000. Alderman Strohecker reported the State put it bluntly – there is no more money! We need to try to get another business

or another product line. Alderman Strohecker explained that Dave Keiser had brought up a grant-revolving loan fund. Medallion would get the grant and repay to the City. Then the City could use for infrastructure and loans to other businesses. Alderman Huggins thought only the interest could be used for infrastructure. Dave Keiser was going to contact Medallion. Alderman Stern announced the grant for \$300,000 was good for three years. He questioned when the time clock started. Alderman Strohecker thinks when it was approved. Alderman Strohecker questioned if we cannot get financing, could we get by with standard road? Trucks are using Claremont and it is not a truck route. It would not cost \$1.2 million to do. Alderman Huggins will see Keiser Thursday. He will try to set something up with Medallion. Alderman Stern sees water and road as top priority. Subdivision is filled up – developer has contacted Alderman Huggins – just can't get up here yet – very interested.

Streets & Property – Alderman Strohecker reported he did not get bid to Burkholder as yet. He will do this soon. Alderman Strohecker questioned the \$90,000 for water looping in the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer announced she did not know what had to be done in order to use those funds. It was agreed this would be used for the recent loopings. The Treasurer will contact Sharon Pepin of MSA to see what needs to be done to use these funds.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Personnel – no report.

Police – Alderman Grant reported she worked on the police ordinance with Alderman Stern. Grant announced that office supplies will be ordered through the City Clerk. Grant questioned what kind of copier was in the Police Department. Alderman Huggins had purchased an all-in-one. Chief Page announced it was not very good – having problems. Goes through ink cartridges. Chief Page announced he received a call from Officer Brown reporting the bracket on the garage door broke. Page instructed Brown to open manually. The next day, the door came off the track and fell on Brown. Chief reported the door has been repaired however, there are no guarantees how long repairs will last. Need to look into new door. Alderman Macomber asked Chief to get two bids for the next meeting. After more discussion, it was agreed since Macomber's limit for approval is \$2,500 he could work with the Chief in order to take care of this matter. No reason to wait for the next meeting. Chief Page reported the IL Valley Mobile Training is offering a power test March 19<sup>th</sup>. If Sutter wants to do, he needs to get signed up. Alderman Strohecker announced it was agreed we were not paying for training. Others confirmed. Chief does not know cost as yet. Guessing at \$1,500.

Economic Development – Alderman Huggins announced there is an Economic Development Conference he would like to attend. Cost is \$150. If four go – one goes free - \$89 or \$150. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to approve Huggins going to conference and reimburse up to \$250. All ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance – Alderman Stern reported at the last ordinance meeting a few changes were made for the Police Department. No comp. time. Probation time - if hired full qualified officers, changed to three months from six months. All officers get double time on holidays. If full time officer regular day falls on holiday, just gets regular time. Is that legal? Chief Page announced usually full-time officer takes off and part-time officer

covers holiday. Mitchell has changes. It was reported Bennett thought Old Settler's Days was a legal holiday – wanted double time.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted a written report (copy on file). Alderman Strohecker announced he has list of sidewalks. Now that Guenzler has time to look at (light duty), they will get together.

Alderman Grant questioned if we reimburse for lunches when officers go to training. No one seemed to know. Chief Page explained they usually take care of on their own. Since MSA is not here, cannot set up meeting for CIP.

Alderman Strohecker questioned status of Bennett. Chief Page announced Bennett has already started as part-time officer. Chief reported he thinks Erika is leaving us shortly. She only wants to work Monday – Thursday. No one felt this was fair to the other officers.

Alderman Huggins received contract for IL E-Pay service and gave to Mitchell to look over. This will allow us to accept credit card payments. However, VISA the City must pay. E-Pay will also accept debit cards.

Alderman Macomber and Alderman Stern did not have any other business this evening.

The Clerk announced copies of information from Harris regarding the bonds were in folders. After a brief discussion, no one seemed to feel this needed to be completed by the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline would give more time. The Clerk announced she received a call today concerning the stop sign at south Broad. The Clerk told caller Broad Street is a State highway and directed them to IDOT. All agreed. The Clerk presented copies of the most recent ComEd and Nicor bills for 111 South Broad. These bills are higher now that it is vacant than when Sweitzer Automotive was renting. She feels this should be looked into.

Mayor Barnes received donation request from Crimestoppers. Last year we gave \$750. Alderman Strohecker explained the average municipality, who donates, gives \$500. **Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Grant to donate \$500 to Crimestoppers. All ayes with Alderman Strohecker abstaining as he is the chairperson of Crimestoppers. Motion carried. Mayor announced he received call from new owner of the Tornow home. The water line comes in the front and out the back of the house to the garage, which was renovated as a house. The new owner will live in the back house and fix up the front. Alderman Strohecker reported in the past, we bill for two unless two shut offs. Council went on to discuss how the line would have to be run in order to put in another shut off. Mayor reported the owner is asking to pay one bill for four months then two. Alderman Grant agreed to this request unless someone is living there, and then send two bills. The Clerk announced that she was in this same position with her duplex. She recently had water damage to the apartments due to frozen pipes. She has one shut off valve but receives two bills. She explained currently the water is shut off but she intends to continue service soon. The Clerk feels if the Council agrees to this new owner's request, you will need to do for others. Alderman Macomber thanked the Clerk for her opinion stating it would open a can of worms if this is allowed. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to continue with two bills. Alderman Huggins voted nay with all others voting aye. Motion carried. The Clerk was asked to call homeowner.

Alderman Grant inquired if Alderman Weaver said anything about meeting with Guenzler regarding employee evaluations. Guenzler reported yes. Alderman Strohecker announced Denny Johnson was promised a raise six months ago. Alderman Macomber reported no promise of a raise, just review. Alderman Strohecker feels Johnson deserves one. Macomber agreed. Strohecker feels we need to decide if we are hiring another person. Alderman Grant reported Chuck Strohecker is working on getting his driver's license. Mayor Barnes announced it has been too long for the other guys regarding raises. Others agreed. It will be two years in May since the last raises for Mt. Dept. No one wants to go over committees. When hired, Johnson was promised six months review. Alderman Grant feels we should go back and pay rate increase from six months on. Guenzler reported Johnson has done a good job. While Guenzler is on leave, Johnson calls on phone. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to approve \$1.00 increase retroactive from six months anniversary – September 27<sup>th</sup>. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Huggins to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*