

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF CARROLL)SS.
CITY OF LANARK)

March 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 at roll call but called earlier and will be late.

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

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

Motion made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Grant to accept the minutes of the March 6th meeting as submitted. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Grant to accept and pay the bills from March 6th to present minus payment to MSA. The Clerk was instructed to hold the check for \$6,618.53 to MSA Professional Services. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to accept the treasurer's report for February. All ayes. Motion carried.

No one was present from MSA Professional Services. No project update was submitted. The Clerk reported Marty Beranek of MSA called today and was going to send an update via email. She checked up until 7:15 PM for this email. No email was received with current update from MSA.

The Clerk presented one building permit. Marcia Behmer is requesting a permit to put in a cement patio, sidewalk and cement slab behind the garage for parking. Council had no objections to this permit. Owner will need to work with Mt. Dept. with the slab in the rear along alley.

No one was present for the public hearing for delinquent water bills.

Leigh Ann Piper was present to discuss the parking and traffic on her street (East Claremont). Piper is frustrated with this situation as there have been many times when she leaves for work a vendor's truck is double parked blocking in her vehicle. She also reported vision of cross traffic is blocked at the intersection. When she is home at noon, semis are parked for an hour to eat lunch. Piper reported she has talked with Jeanine (manager of Shell station) concerning these issues. Jeanine will try to talk with the vendors. Piper is concerned that the recent decision of the Council to eliminate parking on the south side of East Claremont will cause even more problems. Chief Page announced he can resolve the issue of double parking as it is against State Statute. All seemed to agree it is a bad situation. Semis are parking on Broad Street in no parking area. One suggestion was to put up "residential parking only" and "no double parking" signs. Truck traffic to Elkay was never an issue. It is more Shell's traffic. Chief Page

suggested doing the whole block for residential parking only – not singling out one person. All agreed to do what we can to help resolve this issue.

City Attorney, Ed Mitchell when asked about Valente, reported he will get an update as there have been a series of pleadings.

Committees

Water & Sewer – Alderman Stern reported NIEA is doing televising of the sewer on the southwest side. Last Thursday, did area by city park. No problems were detected at Shirley Mauldin's or at the next house. However, the next house was closed up. Alderman Stern does not understand why those people are not having problems. There are some light roots but are not causing any problems. There is one protruding tap but is not causing any problems at this time. Alderman Stern reported the Mt. Dept. jetted out the line at Lamoille Poffenberger's last week. Alderman Strohecker inquired if Dave Sloan's was also jetted out. Guenzler reported it was not as yet but will be done. FHN – trouble spot with two sink holes. It looks like new line – can't find why there is a sink hole. Alderman Strohecker suggested possibly a spring runs through. Guenzler has filled in a couple of times and still sinks. Alderman Strohecker does not feel it is our problem – they need to dig up and see what's going on. There is a utility easement along lots 2 & 3. Only our sewer line is in there. Forster Products – NIEA run through there to look for problems – comes out through Witmer's house. Not sure if it goes under house or what. East Locust – Sam Preston is having problems. Six inch line starts at Folk – Benell – Zemke also on line. Mt. Dept. has been going over and jetting for Preston but could not get through due to sharp turn. Alderman Strohecker suggested digging hole in ditch and going in there. Some questioned whose line it is. Who owns? Who is responsible? Guenzler reported there is a plastic line in front of Benell's. Benell put in last year due to problems. Guenzler reported they found phone cable in sewer line when dug up – possibly still is.

Streets & Property – Alderman Strohecker announced Burkholder is ready to dig for the restrooms in the city park. Burkholder has drawing. Guenzler announced he does not have drawing. Guenzler was given a drawing. Alderman Strohecker reported we need to stay off V Brand's property. Alderman Strohecker announced the doors will face north. Burkholder and Guenzler talked yesterday. Alderman Strohecker reported electricity can be run in by conduit. Water and sewer lines go underground. All seemed to agree to run a one inch line. Alderman Strohecker would like to send a letter to MSA about how disappointed we are in their service. MSA missed the last quarter report for EPA. No one from MSA has attended for the last four meetings. Alderman Strohecker asked the Clerk to send letter or maybe the mayor. Alderman Strohecker announced the Community Club was approached about doing work on restrooms. The roof will be contracted out. Alderman Strohecker will install the doors. Keep the old restrooms until done, then knock down and haul away. We do not have to remove the cement just the building. We have three years to complete. This is in our agreement with V Brand.

Purchasing and Finance – Alderman Macomber set a Finance Committee meeting for Tuesday, March 27th at 6:30 PM to work on appropriations for the next fiscal year. The Clerk was asked to supply copies of the budget. Alderman Weaver arrived at 8:05 PM. Alderman Macomber will discuss the garage door with Chief Page later. Three quotes were received.

Police – Alderman Grant announced the bill for workshop was not pre-approved, therefore we are not responsible. A copy of letter requesting payment of grant workshop was in Alderman Grant’s folder. Alderman Strohecker addressed Chief Page and asked if he knew he had to have pre-approved. Chief did not know that. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Weaver to pay this bill with the understanding that all other bills are to be pre-approved. All ayes. Motion carried. Alderman Grant announced Officer Erika Zinke resigned verbally. Grant would like to hear Zinke’s side of it. Alderman Grant requested a written resignation from Zinke. Copies of letter from Chief Page regarding Officer Zinke were in everyone’s folders. Alderman Macomber feels we should have an exit interview with anyone who quits. It was agreed to have Alderman Grant set up committee meeting for this. **Motion** made by Alderman Grant to reduce Chief’s salary by \$730 per month and freeze salary for one year to be reviewed annually. When asked about the \$730 per month, Grant explained we promised \$40,000 per year – nothing was promised about reimbursing for insurance. Alderman Strohecker announced he did not remember any discussion regarding reimbursement of insurance. Alderman Stern announced if you make a verbal promise, you must uphold. Mitchell reported sometimes you remember the way you want to remember. Alderman Grant reported Chief Page declined the city’s insurance and then about one month later, we voted to reimburse due to all thinking it was promised at interview. No one at the interview recalls offering it and if refuse we reimburse. Alderman Weaver asked Chief Page if he recalls this discussion. Chief Page reported yes and he only asked for reimbursement the same amount as other employees. Alderman Weaver announced he would not think we would offer any option of reimbursement. Aldermen Strohecker and Huggins remember Chief did not need our insurance. Mitchell explained there is no contract – at will – can do what we want. Alderman Weaver feels this is unusual but in not inclined to take away. Alderman Macomber feels this sets precedence. Mitchell announced we do not have to do for all – can handle each case individually. Alderman Grant reported executive session minutes states we will review in three months. Grant repeated her motion. Motion died due to lack of second. Mitchell announced he reviewed the policy for the grant writing class. It states can be taken up to one year. All seemed to agree to allow attendance as we are paying for it anyway. Mitchell inquired about free training – paying for time to go to training. Must this be pre-approved? Mayor feels at least mentioned. Chief Page explained what he looks at when choosing training. Alderman Grant inquired how many training sessions Chief has attended recently. Chief announced four in the past month, Officer Groharing four and Craft is to attend soon. Alderman Huggins would like to revisit insurance issue. **Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to leave open the option to take away reimbursement at one year review. All ayes. Motion carried.

Personnel – Alderman Weaver announced he will let everyone know when he and Guenzler get together. After a brief discussion, committee meeting was set for Saturday, March 24th at 7:00 AM.

Economic Development – no report.

Ordinance – no report.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted a written report (copy on file). In report, Guenzler was requesting approval to attend waste water convention. He has been

allowed in the past with City paying expenses. When asked about wife attending, Guenzler announced he was not sure she could go. **Motion** made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to allow Guenzler to go to waste water convention. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor questioned the request to rent chipper to Rolling Hills. Alderman Macomber does not feel we should get into that. Alderman Strohecker feels it's OK if we supply a man to run it. Alderman Strohecker inquired what if they haul down and we chip. Guenzler announced we would burn it. Others feel there are services to do chipping and we would be taking work away from contractors. Shannon has asked us to sweep their streets. All seemed to agree with this as it has been done in the past. Guenzler reported fee is \$200 per hour as of last year. Alderman Strohecker announced we need to get going on cemetery streets. Guenzler will contact the County. Council briefly discussed roller. Alderman Macomber has only one outlet.

Alderman Strohecker asked Chief Page if we do sweeps at the school. Chief Page announced one was done in December. Alderman Strohecker asked Chief Page to talk with Mark Hansen. Chief announced six dogs were brought in on December 6th. Another can be arranged.

Alderman Weaver – inquired if Leigh Ann Piper was here. Mayor reported she was and quickly filled Weaver in on discussion.

Alderman Grant – no additional business.

Alderman Strohecker – no additional business.

Alderman Huggins reported he had a meeting with Mark Hansen about the Safe Walk to School program. Application cannot be turned in until June. Alderman Huggins inquired if Mitchell looked over the credit card information. Mitchell has not.

Alderman Macomber – reported one of the school crossing lights was knocked down. Guenzler thinks it was an accident. After a brief discussion, all seemed to agree to take down the other light also.

Alderman Stern – no additional business.

The Clerk inquired if we were ready to pay the Lanark Cornerstone Project. Alderman Macomber inquired if we would pay in one lump sum or as bills come in. It was agreed one lump sum and go ahead with payment. The Clerk announced a resident has inquired if the City is receiving sales tax from Fischer and Quality Concrete. The Clerk announced this was discussed recently possibly after the last Council meeting. Mitchell and a couple aldermen remembered this discussion. After some discussion, all seemed to agree we were probably not receiving any sales tax from them as they are both based out of town one of which is in Iowa.

The Clerk reported copies of financial report were in folders showing end of year balances for the various funds. She pointed out the Audit and Social Security funds were both in the red (shown by parentheses). She explained this happens annually due to the expenses are due before the revenue is received. In the past, we have loaned to these funds from the General Fund then repaid after the new fiscal year. This is done in order

to finish out the fiscal year without showing a deficit. The Clerk recommended moving monies to these funds rather than loaning as this situation will continue as the property taxes are not received until July. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Weaver to move funds from General to Audit and Insurance Funds by the end of the fiscal year. All ayes. Motion carried. The Clerk also suggested putting some of the balance in the General Fund into a CD as well as some of the Water & Sewer fund. There is no reason to keep such high balances in the checking account. All agreed to let Finance Chair, Alderman Macomber and the Clerk allocate funds as deemed necessary.

Mayor Barnes read Arbor Day Proclamation. Mediacom rates are going up. Mayor received letter from Carroll County Economic Development Corp asking us to consider donating \$1.50 per capita again. Alderman Strohecker was in favor for giving but wants results. Mayor Barnes announced a reimbursement check will soon be issued for Brownfield Grant.

Motion made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Macomber to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*