

August 7, 2007

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

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Chief Page, Officer Randy Craft, Jeff Lessman, Patty Lessman, Mark Meador and John Daehler.

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

Chief Page presented Officer Randy Craft with a certificate from Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists. Chief Page read letter as he presented the certificate.

Alderman Huggins announced a correction to the minutes: the second line from the bottom of the first page should read 80,000 not 800. **Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to accept the minutes of the July 17th meeting with change. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Treasurer pointed out the bills to Ramaker for the cemetery program have put the line item of cemetery maintenance over budget. She suggested moving all of these bills to community betterment. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Grant to accept and pay the bills from June 5th to present and to move Ramaker bills to community betterment. All ayes. Motion carried.

When Mayor Barnes inquired about the ordinance violation on the agenda, the Clerk announced the resident was not present.

Jeff Lessman was present to inquire if the City had made a decision regarding annexing property on the south side of Route 64 as well as running water and sewer to this property. Alderman Huggins announced he put copies of information from Marty Beranek of MSA Professional Services in everyone's folders. This information gives recommendations and costs of running water and sewer lines to this property. After looking over this information, Alderman Strohecker inquired why MSA recommended running sewer line over to Prowant Construction and then back again to property. Several felt the sewer plant is already on the same side of Route 64 as the property in question. This back and forth did not make sense to many of the council members. Ed Mitchell reported at the last meeting, it was asked if Stengel would be interested in annexing in his property which runs along Route 64. Mitchell has discussed this with Stengel and he is hesitant due to taxes. All seemed to like the idea of pre-annexation agreement. Alderman Strohecker suggested running sewer line west from Lessman's acres to hook in line at about trailer – no reason to bore across highway. We might possibly need a lift station to the south. Alderman Huggins guessed the highest total cost to be \$110,000 with the lowest being \$90,000. Alderman Huggins feels we would be foolish not to do this. We would miss out on property tax and sales tax. If this does go further, there will be even more property and sales taxes. Alderman Huggins announced at a recent Economic Development meeting, it was noted the area between the two subdivisions on the west side is too small for developers. Developers are looking for one

hundred plus acres. TIF district would be hard to do at this time for the amount of property. However, it could be done later. When asked, the Clerk presented print out of totals of savings and CDs in order to be more informed of the funds available in water and sewer. When Alderman Strohecker inquired about the average expenses and income for the water & sewer, the Clerk reported average income is \$46,000 and average expenses are \$47,000 for this fiscal year. She also reminded everyone the income is affected due to the option (which about 25 residents took advantage of) of paying for eleven months and getting the twelfth month free. Lessman announced the purchase of this property all depends on this and access to Route 64. Alderman Weaver announced he would like to see the expansion but would like to see how we are going to pay for it. After more discussion regarding MSA's figures, the Clerk tried to contact Beranek by calling Shannon Village Hall as he was to be at their Council meeting tonight. After doing so, the Clerk announced Beranek was not present at Shannon's meeting and MSA's representative had left five minutes ago. Lessman reported after the access on Route 64 is approved, then sell property in town (already close to selling), he will be ready to break ground ASAP. Mayor Barnes thought spring with all the red tape. Lessman agreed with spring. **Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Grant to give commitment of annexation agreement contingent on purchase of property. Roll call: Alderman Huggins-aye, Alderman Grant-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Alderman Macomber-aye. Motion carried. Mitchell will draw up agreement.

MSA Professional Services were not present but submitted a project update (copy on file).

Skateboard park – Alderman Huggins received letter from Mark Hansen stating he has no objection. John Daehler was present to support the skateboard park as long as the City can get the money. Alderman Huggins announced the youth have been kicked out everywhere in town. They need something. Alderman Huggins has checked with other towns and not much vandalism. Freeport has instituted helmet law – must wear helmet. Alderman Huggins would like to see a cement slab with ramp and fence with a curfew. Any above ground equipment could come from fundraisers. Alderman Grant announced can bring in models and add to as can afford. The slab is the key – run out of space. Aldermen Strohecker and Huggins feel could be added to. Alderman Macomber suggested having them come in and give numbers. Alderman Huggins will research grants. Alderman Weaver questioned whether the kids would use this or the concrete jungle in town. Chief Page feels they will use it. Chief suggested having a street light – will reduce liability as he feels kids will sneak in. It will be easier to patrol with light. Must have a time limit due to the noise. Alderman Weaver inquired about the location. Alderman Grant announced where the volleyball court is. Weaver asked how this would affect current activities. Alderman Grant reported it would be minimal. Volleyball court is only used for Old Settler's Days (OSD). The basketball court is not big enough for skateboard park. Alderman Weaver announced the main shelter is used a lot on weekends. Kids are using the basketball court not the volleyball court – no net. Alderman Grant explained it would not only be for skateboards but also roller blades and bikes. Alderman Huggins inquired what happens if it is not utilized or goes out of style. It was suggested to use for tennis or basketball courts. Chief Page suggested putting on east side near Boyd Street. This will make it easier to patrol – more visible. Alderman Huggins announced will probably see expansion out of Chicago – already in Ogle County. Alderman Huggins suggested getting solid numbers. See if rep will look at park for location.

Roller purchase – Alderman Macomber reported he has not had a chance to talk with Guenzler. Alderman Grant announced demo roller is all fixed. When asked if the bugs are all out, Alderman Macomber explained that's the chance you take with used equipment. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to approve the purchase of roller at \$15,000 plus \$1,500 trade in for total of \$13,500. All ayes. Motion carried.

No building permits were submitted.

Mark Meador was present to discuss the tagging of vehicles in town. He announced he is not here to cause problems. He has four vehicles at his shop – three operable and one non-operable. One was tagged and is compliant. Meador reported just across the street there are no tagged vehicles at Southside – Burkholder also. None of these were tagged by Chief. Meador announced, if going to do, do everyone. His are part of his business. He needs to work on some of his vehicles for his business. Chief Page explained why he tagged Meador's vehicles. A couple have not been tagged for several years. Chief reported he tagged forty-four cars in town. Vehicles at Southside are behind repair business – exempt. Alderman Strohecker reported we have received complaints about vehicles and grass. Meador announced he will cut his grass. Alderman Strohecker explained we are not picking on him. Alderman Grant agreed. Chief Page reported he will check out Burkholder's tomorrow as he was unaware of any vehicles there. Chief's intentions are to have all tagged by the end of the week – first of next week for sure.

Committees

Water & Sewer – no report.

Streets & Property – Alderman Huggins has contacted people for Safe Route to School (SRTS). We should not be doing any more sidewalks. Alderman Strohecker will contact Guenzler tomorrow. Storm drains need repaired. There are ten to do. Hydrants do not drain. Alderman Huggins reported it is not in Chuck's job description. Alderman Grant feels if can't do sidewalks then do hydrants. Alderman Strohecker reported need to do streets first. County is to be here Monday. Alderman Huggins looked at maintenance report. He would like to know what they are doing. Alderman Macomber feels we have good equipment. There's no reason not to get things done. Alderman Grant has information on vacuum but forgot to bring to meeting. She will get info to Macomber. Alderman Strohecker reported he has doors up for the park restrooms. The blocks are multi-color, which will be painted. Alderman Strohecker will get bid from D&L for tin roof. What color? One suggestion was blue like our signs. All seemed to agree on cheapest color. Alderman Strohecker requested executive session to discuss personnel. Alderman Huggins inquired if we wanted to do anything with the Mt. Dept. – put on time card what they are doing. Alderman Macomber reported this was done in the past. Everything was recorded as shop maintenance – still didn't know what they were doing. Alderman Weaver feels Guenzler should be present to explain.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Police – Alderman Grant announced she had scheduled a meeting with Officer Mike Lewis. Due to Lewis testifying in a trial, the meeting was cancelled. Grant will inform everyone when meeting is set again.

Personnel – Alderman Weaver announced Guenzler should be here to give itemized statement on what they are doing.

Economic Development – Alderman Huggins reported at the July 19th meeting, discussed annexation – developers feel too small – need larger scale. Alderman Huggins announced the feed lot odor is still cropping up. Chamber of Commerce meeting at 4:30 PM on August 16th will be discussing this topic. County does not want to get involved. EPA is not responding. The main agenda item will be the feed lot. Alderman Weaver received calls regarding the smell. Alderman Grant has also. The Clerk reported she had had many calls with complaints on the odor. Alderman Macomber feels they are trying. Alderman Grant feels it is not as bad as it was. Mayor has also received many complaints. Possibly putting up bales along the highway and towards town will help. Alderman Huggins would like to know they are doing all they can. Alderman Huggins reported he talked with Don Fosler and Becky Coomes today; they are not aware of what Ron and Joe talked about. They will contact Craig. Alderman Huggins announced he and the Clerk will be attending a TIF meeting. Alderman Huggins recommended becoming members of the Tax Increment Association. Annual dues are \$375. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to pay \$375 for TIF annual dues. All ayes. Motion carried. Huggins explained he needs to be reappointed to the Joint Review Board (JRB) as our liaison. **Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Macomber to appoint John Huggins to JRB as liaison to Council. All ayes. Motion carried. Alderman Huggins reported he is currently working with Medallion, Shannon and Lanark Chambers of Commerce to establish natural work teams – possibly check with school. Small business development – try to get spray paint classes going maybe with Highland’s shop class to make stronger work force.

Ordinance – no report.

Ed Mitchell reported Mayor Barnes contacted him regarding vacant position on Zoning Board. Brett Farrell is willing to fill this space. Mitchell passed out resolution appointing Farrell to Zoning Board. **Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Grant to approve resolution. All ayes. Motion carried. Mitchell announced he is working on agreement with school. We need to be thinking about levy. Mitchell passed out copies of Ordinance #821 and information from Carroll County Clerk. If we go over 105%, we need to do black box. Mitchell recommended if don’t plan to go over, then pass tonight. No one felt any need to go over 105%. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to approve resolution for levy of \$210,700. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Grant-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Alderman Huggins-aye. Motion carried.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted written report.

Chief Page submitted written report. Chief Page announced McColley damaged squad. Alderman Grant questioned the \$420 bill from Kunes on tonight’s bills. Chief explained the lift gate on squad 2, motor went out, could not lock, also a new key fob. Chief reported of the forty-four vehicles tagged there are only about a dozen left to make compliant. Allen Reed has several vehicles in his wife’s name – deceased. Chief is willing to work with as long as he knows they are trying. Chief reported the Clerk received a complaint about Burkholder’s grass and weeds. Chief is sending ordinance violation and cars also. Alderman Grant will let know about meeting with Officer Lewis. Chief Page inquired about raise for Officer Craft. Alderman Grant tabled this for now as

she wants to schedule a committee meeting. Chief reported a seminar at Galena tomorrow on internet safety. Starcom radios came about 911. We have one – never used. Chief Page requested a 10X12 storage room at the Hart building. Police reports are above Mt. Department. There is already a room there, just need to put on a deadbolt. It is secure – no windows. Someone suggested putting in the “old” maintenance office once Guenzler has moved into the “new” office – wait and check with Guenzler. Chief announced cost of \$359 for racks from FS.

Alderman Weaver, Alderman Grant, Alderman Strohecker did not have any additional business.

Alderman Huggins reported issues with bushes overhanging into alley at East Franklin and School Street – lilac bushes. Also across Will Street and East Franklin. It was agreed to send Chief over and give seven days to trim.

Alderman Macomber inquired if Burkholder poured the cement. Alderman Strohecker reported not yet, it was a gentleman’s agreement. The sidewalk was not part of the bid. The bill was paid. The sidewalk should not come until after the blocks.

The Clerk inquired how the Council wanted to handle the water and sewer bills at Special Touch since On the Move has moved out. The Clerk does not know what Special Touch plans to do with vacant space – rent out or expand. Alderman Huggins reported she has it listed with realtor to rent. Several feel it should be two bills. The Clerk explained with businesses we have given some leeway with bills and rental property. She reported with Brinkmeier’s Accounting there is an apartment upstairs of business – all on one connection. Brinkmeier informed the Clerk he was not going to rent apartment again. Therefore the Council, at the time, agreed to bill only one. What happens if he decides to rent again? Several feel send two bills. The Clerk suggested the same issue could come up with Kipp Meyers as LandMark is building new office. The Clerk announced Mark Meador is now living above Fogell’s building. All seemed to agree to send two bills. The Clerk received a call from Cindy Jacobs requesting permission to block off two parking spaces in front of Dave’s Place on Saturday, September 15th for a benefit for Relay to Life. Papa Murphy’s Pizza will need two parking spaces. The Clerk suggested Jacobs park two vehicles in front of Dave’s rather than using barricades. All seemed to agree. The Clerk inquired about one year’s free service for the new owners at The Blues Barn (Kurtz). All agreed as in the past, since metered equivalent to one year standard rate. The Clerk submitted renewal packet for insurance with Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association. She asked if anyone wanted to look over. All seemed to agree to leave as is. Discussion went to guy living on street level and what to do about it.

Alderman Macomber inquired if the Lanark Cornerstone Project was using City electricity. No one could think of how they could. Chief Page announced he is working on Saturday and will check out. Alderman Macomber reported resident feels we gave them \$35,000 and now they are using our electricity.

Mayor Barnes proclaimed September as Save a Life month. The Clerk will set up date with Moring Disposal for clean up day. Mayor Barnes reported problems with emails. The Clerk also has also had problems. Alderman Huggins announced the internet service changed servers. He will contact them and see if it can be straightened out. Mayor Barnes reported we received \$2,000 grant for the Strategic Plan from ComEd – possibly do picture with Jim Fox for PR.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Huggins to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. All ayes. Motion carried.

Entered executive session at 9:51 PM.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Grant to exit executive session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Exited executive session at 10:23 PM.

Alderman Grant suggested setting up a meeting with Guenzler and Libberton to see what she is doing. Alderman Macomber feels we need to have a real meeting with Guenzler – everything is at a stand still – Will Street. Alderman Strohecker does not think Guenzler has enough time to get the hydrants done before the snow flies. Alderman Macomber will call Marty Beranek.

When asked about attendance for the next meeting on August 21st, several members reported they would be absent or were not sure as yet. Mayor Barnes cancelled the August 21st meeting – next meeting is September 4th.

Motion made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*