

October 2, 2007

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

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Les Guenzler, Jim Holz, Norm Brinkmeier and Conrad Aschenbrenner.

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

Motion made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Macomber to accept the minutes of the September 18th meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to accept and pay the bills from September 18th to present. All ayes. Motion carried.

Jim Holz of MSA Professional Services submitted a project update (copy on file) and reviewed. Work on the Brownfield should start within the next 30 days. Alderman Strohecker inquired about changes – more cost? Holz reported no additional cost – under scope. Flow monitor – need to schedule a Water & Sewer Committee meeting with Marty Beranek. Alderman Strohecker announced he was available early next week only. Leland Street – DOT has put in different language. Sharon Pepin will contact Medallion and review. Medallion will need to agree. Alderman Strohecker did not think Medallion would be bound to anything. Alderman Huggins announced they still need to report employment figures. Holz announced if any concerns, call him. He has been with MSA for ten years. Alderman Strohecker discussed the difference in percentages of Leland Street project costs from other engineering firms compared to MSA's costs. After a short discussion, Holz announced if the Council is concerned with costs being too high, to ask Beranek for cost estimate. Possibly reduce costs if Mt. Dept. can do some of the work. Holz gave an example of another town trying to reduce costs and it ended up costing more in the long run.

Norm Brinkmeier and Conrad Aschenbrenner of the Cemetery Board were present to give an update on the new software. Brinkmeier showed map and pointed out what areas are completed so far. They have a really good start. They are trying to tag all veterans. After explaining and showing reports of what the software can do, Brinkmeier announced he is very pleased with this new program. Brinkmeier admitted he is really addicted to the program lately. This winter Amy will work in back room of Brinkmeier's office entering data into the program. Brinkmeier presented several reports for Council's review. Brinkmeier explained the handwriting from past records is very hard to read – faded. Brinkmeier thinks they are about one year away from completion. Due to tax season, Brinkmeier will have to put aside for awhile. It is very time consuming – have to take records out to cemetery to verify. Brinkmeier announced once complete, we will have good set of records. Brinkmeier thanked the Council for buying the software.

Aschenbrenner thanked the Council for the roads. Brinkmeier invited everyone to come over for a demonstration.

No building permits were submitted.

Committees

Water & Sewer – Alderman Huggins addressed a letter from property owner regarding business with part of building not rented out. Alderman Huggins feels businesses are very visible and easy to track renters. Apartments are less visible. Huggins thinks it is OK to only charge one bill when other half is not rented out. Alderman Grant inquired about Fogell as he has several buildings. Alderman Macomber agreed with Grant. Alderman Huggins feels we need to make a decision. Alderman Macomber feels owners need to put in second shut off. Alderman Strohecker agreed. Alderman Huggins announced if owner does not want to get two bills need to put in second shut off. Alderman Strohecker asked Guenzler what the cost of the valve would be. Guenzler explained need to tap line. Cost of valve is about \$60. It would cost about \$500 to put in shut off valve. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to approve two bills be paid unless a second shut off is installed. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Grant-aye and Alderman Huggins-aye. Motion carried. Alderman Huggins inquired if it was OK if they say it is part of their business. Alderman Strohecker inquired about if they come in after six months and rent out part – back pay? Alderman Huggins did not feel they should have to pay back. Alderman Macomber feels meters would make it fair. Alderman Grant announced the businesses are metered. Others reported not all only about twenty. Alderman Huggins reported we need to get real specific. Huggins suggested all businesses under the same name bill as only one. Alderman Strohecker warned to be very careful as he can see three buildings coming under one name. The Clerk agreed. Alderman Huggins suggested having a Water & Sewer Committee meeting at the same time as meeting with Beranek. For now two bills unless second shut off. Alderman Huggins will set meeting date and contact everyone. Alderman Huggins agreed to contact Flikkema and Meyers. Beranek has not gotten back with changes as yet. Peugh is on city water but Wyeth is not.

Streets & Property – Alderman Strohecker announced Aschenbrenner is not done painting the doors for the park restrooms as yet. Once done, Strohecker will hang. Will Street is done. Alderman Macomber suggested thanking the Community Club publicly for their work on the restrooms. The Clerk suggested putting in newspaper. Mayor Barnes will get list of volunteers and the Clerk will put in paper. Alderman Macomber also suggested drafting a letter for the Council to sign for the Community Club to hang on their wall. Alderman Strohecker announced Doug is checking on the sinks and urinals as promised by Medallion. Alderman Strohecker announced if Medallion comes through put up a thank you plaque.

Purchasing and Finance – Alderman Macomber announced the truck is in and at Bonnell's. The white one is gone.

Police – Alderman Grant announced there has always been an issue on number of hours. In February when Chief Page was asked, he told us 86 hrs./2 weeks. Anything over is overtime. We dropped comp. time. Alderman Grant reported at the Police Committee

meeting some wanted Mike Lewis to prove that he called Chief Page. Where is the proof that Page called Lewis? Alderman Grant reported she is going through bills and inquired what you are going to do. Alderman Strohecker feels always seems to put out one fire and another starts. Strohecker suggested sitting him down and talk to – maybe a little harsh with most people. Libberton was bit by dog. She is upset about Chief's handling of issue. Alderman Grant does not like how he treats people in town. He continues to do over and over again. Alderman Grant announced residents would like to get rid of Chief. Alderman Strohecker read report. There are conflicting reports of Libberton being in garage or not. Have all the facts. Alderman Strohecker announced we don't need a reason to fire. Alderman Grant reported the dogs attacked the mail lady. Libberton was on city Tree Board business. No dog was quarantined at vet's office – at owner's property. Alderman Macomber has mixed emotions about Chief. Macomber announced during his time on the Council Coble, Melland, Sodergren, Bennett, Page – all problems. Maybe it's something we're doing wrong - hiring the wrong people. Alderman Huggins agreed. Alderman Strohecker reported citizens are upset and call Alderman Grant. Where are they? Usually hear say issues. The school superintendent, principal and business owners like him. They like that he is tough. Alderman Strohecker suggested rather than firing out right, give a period of time. Not all were sure that would work either. Alderman Strohecker announced he did not believe some of what he heard the other night. He explained Lewis wanted to work but by the end of the night he would not work for Chief Page. Chief is doing Rapid Response training. The school is happy with this. Bigger schools do not have – feel safer. Alderman Huggins recommended if we get rid of Chief, we should take our time to investigate. Do background checks. There will always be some who do not like him. Mayor Barnes announced Stoner was Chief in Shannon for years - some liked and some didn't. Alderman Grant reported at the committee meeting, Chief was asked if he wanted the City's insurance. He does. **Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Huggins to drop Chief's salary back to \$40,000 as originally hired at. All ayes. Motion carried.

Personnel – no report.

Economic Development – Alderman Huggins announced the TIF Joint Review Board met recently. He presented the TIF annual finance report for Mayor's signature. The Treasurer asked about the monies received. Alderman Huggins not sure if we need a separate account. The Clerk announced she understood it was all right to add a TIF fund to our multi-fund account. Alderman Huggins feels we can put it in and transfer it to General fund.

Ordinance – Alderman Huggins announced a possible meeting.

Ed Mitchell reported he talked to the State's Attorney as of Monday and is still reviewing report on Chief. Annexation – no commitment as yet. Another five acres has been sold – want to annex in 2009. Mitchell also contacted Peughs about running sewer line across property. They would like to know where. They were very cordial.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted written report (copy on file). Salt contract was received. Alderman Strohecker inquired about the hydrants. Guenzler reported two at school will be done on Columbus Day. Guenzler announced he needs a utility permit for the one at Zier's garage. Has the form to fill out. Alderman Huggins

reported Chamber would like to use picnic tables for Hometown Days. Guenzler will block off parking lot Thursday morning.

Alderman Grant obtained bid of \$9,100 from Burkholder for slab. She gave them specs from company (75 X 30).

Alderman Strohecker reported the Council had asked for Deb Zuck's resignation. Alderman Strohecker has asked Ed Stern to serve on the Tree Board. Stern has agreed. Stern informed Strohecker there are to be five people on the Tree Board – resident of Lanark. Alderman Strohecker reported Cathy Sweitzer is willing to serve. Bob Zuck also. Alderman Strohecker recommended appointing Lisa Libberton, Rick Weber, Cathy Sweitzer, Bob Zuck and Ed Stern. Mayor Barnes inquired if there was any restriction on serving on more than one board. Mitchell did not know of any. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to appoint to the Tree Board Lisa Libberton, Rick Weber, Cathy Sweitzer, Bob Zuck and Ed Stern. All ayes. Motion carried. Alderman Strohecker announced most of the money is used up. He inquired what if there is a storm. Alderman Macomber inquired who was in control of the money. Some feel we do not want to micromanage but need to control the spending. Alderman Macomber would like to see a plan before spending – more control. Alderman Strohecker inquired why trees could not be taken down in the winter – trim in fall. The Clerk suggested if want to make changes, sit down with new Board and explain the changes. It is only fair both to Council and Board. Guenzler announced we are going to lose a lot of trees due to diseases. We do not know of any elm disease as yet. ComEd has educated us on trees. Libberton has been doing for at least ten years. No one has made any changes. If changes are made, need to discuss with Libberton. Alderman Strohecker feels small trees can be removed by Mt. Dept. in winter. Alderman Huggins suggested sending message through new members.

Alderman Huggins announced he will not be at the next meeting. Alderman Strohecker announced he also will be absent. Alderman Macomber was not sure if he would be able to attend. Mayor Barnes cancelled the October 16th meeting due to absences.

Alderman Macomber reported he was confronted by James Hazelbower. Mayor asked to wait on this for a few minutes.

The Clerk announced Hazelbower left messages and stopped in the office. Hazelbower pointed out the invoices are due upon receipt. The Clerk explained the bills are only approved at the Council meetings. Hazelbower told her he cannot afford to have open accounts. Payment is due when service is completed. Hazelbower announced there were no problem with the tires. The Clerk explained to him that purchase was pre-approved. Hazelbower told her to get everything pre-approved first. After some discussion, all agreed to take business elsewhere.

Mayor Barnes read letter from Hazelbower stating the City is abusing easement agreement in regard to dumping and City charging fees. Mayor Barnes asked Mitchell what the easement entitled us. Alderman Macomber reported contractors are using our chips. Hazelbower confronted him about this. The garbage is the remains of the café's recent sale. Mitchell will check the easement and report back at the next meeting. Alderman Strohecker inquired about extra wear and tear on the sewer system. Guenzler

reported none only some on the sand filters. Alderman Huggins reported the money goes into the sewer fund. Mayor Barnes reported someone asked if the City has any perks to come in and build. Prowant told Mayor Barnes Alderman Strohecker said \$3,000/lot. Alderman Strohecker announced that was hypothetical and explained. Alderman Huggins reported there is no official TIF committee as yet. He will get names to Mayor for the next meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*