

December 2, 2008

Lanark City Council met in regular session at City Hall. Alderman Ken Weaver, Alderman Lawrence Derrer, Alderman Ron Strohecker, Alderman Jeri Beverley and Mayor Kevin Barnes were present. Alderman Mark Macomber was absent.

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Les Guenzler, Roger Port and John Huggins.

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

Motion made by Alderman Beverley, seconded by Alderman Weaver to accept the regular and executive minutes of the November 18th meeting as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Derrer to accept and pay the bills from November 18th to present. All ayes. Motion carried.

MSA Professional Services submitted a project update (copy on file).

City Attorney, Ed Mitchell presented Ordinance #843, levying the annual taxes for fiscal year ending March 31, 2009. Mitchell explained the Treasurer reported the Audit fund is low, therefore he made appropriate changes – the Library Audit line was zero, Mitchell increased this as the Library audit is included in the City’s annual audit. Alderman Strohecker suggested moving part of the Community Betterment to Purchase Police Car. Mitchell explained we cannot as that is part of the appropriations. This is levying the property taxes. When asked if the \$50,000 in Cemetery Maintenance on page 6 was for the new rent, Mitchell announced that does not start until March 2009. Mitchell agreed this needs to raise the appropriations to allow for this increase for next fiscal year. **Motion** made by Alderman Beverley, seconded by Alderman Weaver to approve Ordinance #843 levying the taxes. Roll call: Alderman Beverley-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Derrer-aye and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried.

No building permits were presented.

General Audience – Roger Port reported his mother-in-law’s home is for sale. He wants the water on to sell. Port does not feel he should pay \$55 per month when not using services. Uses water some but not sewer or garbage – can’t see paying for all if not using. Alderman Beverley and Alderman Weaver agreed to charge for water only. **Motion** made by Alderman Beverley, seconded by Alderman Derrer to reduce water to \$14 per month while property is vacant. All ayes. Motion carried. John Huggins announced the railroad cars are blocking cross walk on Argyle crossing. Chief Magill will check into. It was also pointed out that the dead end gate has fallen down and needs repaired. John Huggins reported he had contacted Frontier regarding internet service for the Heritage Center. The guy is no longer willing to give free service. Huggins inquired if there were any upcoming projects other than the Southside Utilities project. Alderman Strohecker questioned the sewer plant. Guenzler reported it is doing okay but need to change out the sand filters as they are starting to slow down. Alderman Strohecker feels this should be done next year. Huggins inquired if the tower lease was turned in yet. Mitchell did not know he was to send in. Mitchell will take care of this. Huggins reported he is looking into setting up broad band task force to increase area. Alderman Strohecker announced the CCEDC is looking at consolidating with area counties.

Committees

Water & Sewer – no report.

Street and Property – no report.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Personnel – Alderman Weaver submitted minutes from meeting with Guenzler. It would be nice to have part-time help for spring through fall. They talked about possibly contracting out for snow removal in case we get caught like last winter. They also discussed holidays. Alderman Weaver suggested giving employees the day after Christmas and New Year's as holidays, work until noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Guenzler reported chores have to be done every day. Our policy in the past has been double time for emergency work. Alderman Weaver would like a decision tonight so that the employees can make their plans for the holidays. **Motion** made by Alderman Derrer, seconded by Alderman Beverley to approve request from Personnel Committee for holiday pay for one half day Christmas Eve, December 26th off, New Year's Eve half day, and Friday January 2nd off. (Half days pay for eight hours even though five hours are worked.) All ayes. Motion carried. Alderman Strohecker announced we have three plows and three guys for snow removal. Strohecker suggested when get piled up, start hauling. Guenzler reported it was hard to keep up last year. Alderman Strohecker announced cost for dump truck will be \$105 per hour. Alderman Beverley inquired if it is worthwhile to get part-time help to plow. All three get burnt out. Alderman Beverley suggested having others lined up in case someone gets sick. Alderman Strohecker announced we contract out sidewalks, now snow and questioned what else? Alderman Strohecker suggested contacting French and Burkholder. It was agreed to have Guenzler check with both for rates. Alderman Weaver requested executive session for personnel. After a short discussion on overtime pay, it was agreed to have Mitchell look up labor laws.

Police – Alderman Beverley met with Chief Magill today. Chief is doing an inventory on clothing. They will try to get everyone up to date on uniforms. We need to look at increasing the allowance. We also need to keep an eye on the squad – 90,000 plus miles.

Economic Development – no report.

Ordinance – no report.

Planning – no report.

Mitchell presented farm lease for Mayor's and Clerk's signatures. After signing, Mitchell gave to Alderman Weaver for Jim and Carolyn Weaver's signatures. Mitchell explained there is a problem with the payment schedule of the bonds for the water tower. The Treasurer made the payment, however Depository Trust claims we do not owe any payment this year. Mitchell explained if we wait until next year, another year's interest will accrue. We probably can't make that up. Mitchell reported the bond company agreed we did correctly. Mitchell and Treasurer agreed we did correctly. We all feel Depository Trust is wrong. Alderman Strohecker questioned paying off early. Mitchell explained we can only call at time of payment. It was agreed, Mitchell will continue to work on this problem. Mitchell gave a brief update on Valente.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted written report. Alderman Strohecker feels Mt. Dept. needs to get priority straight – need to get the hydrants done. We will be pretty embarrassed if we need them and they don't work. **Motion** made by Alderman Beverley,

seconded by Alderman Weaver to authorize Guenzler to get Loberg to do drop line at North Broad, Hanabarger, Leland and Carroll. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chief Matt Magill reported he attended meeting with area Sheriffs and Chiefs on November 19th in Rockford. Officer Craft completed CPR training. All officers have completed training on-line for breathalyzer. Chief announced he is progressing with the SRTS grant for the radar trailer. Chief submitted pictures. Limitation is within two miles of school.

Alderman Derrer questioned the roof at 111 South Broad. Alderman Strohecker announced it could be done during the winter.

None of the other aldermen had any additional business.

The Clerk announced she is taking a vacation day on December 4th.

Mayor Barnes did not have any additional business.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Derrer to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*