

May 19, 2009

Lanark City Council met in regular session at City Hall. Alderman Ken Weaver, Alderman Anne Lindsay, Alderman Ron Strohecker, Alderman Mark Macomber, Alderman Tom Kocal and Mayor Ed Stern were present. Alderman Ed Fehlhafer was absent.

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Karen Sloan, Les Guenzler, Chief Magill, Steve Haring, Harold James Smith, Sue Poffenberger, Kevin Wills, Ron Gronewold, and John Huggins.

Mayor Stern called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After roll call, Mayor Stern asked for someone to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Harold Smith proudly volunteered.

Alderman Strohecker pointed out a correction on last page of minutes referring to bill from Cook for the year 2008 which should be 2009. Clerk explained the bill was for 2008 as we have not received a bill for 2009 as yet. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to accept the minutes of the May 5th meeting as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Kocal to accept and pay the bills from May 5th to present. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to accept the Treasurer's Report for April as submitted. All ayes. Motion carried.

Steve Haring of MSA Professional Services submitted a project update (copy on file) and reviewed. Haring announced Beranek and Wagner's report is self-explanatory. Southside Utilities Extensions – bid opening is scheduled for May 28th at 3:30 PM in city hall. Haring reported the City is fortunate to have six major contractors interested. Alderman Strohecker inquired if Guenzler is still waiting on upgrade for pane on Well #4. Since he is, MSA needs to keep up with project. Haring announced the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) was completed in November 2006 for 2007 through 2011. Strategic Plan was included in CIP. Haring offered the opportunity to update the CIP due to new Council members. Haring suggested checking off completed projects and looking at current ones – need to be looking ahead. Alderman Strohecker feels we need to wait a year. Haring passed out CIP overview. Several others agreed with Strohecker on waiting a year or so in order for the new members to review current CIP. Haring explained the process of establishing a CIP. Haring reported Blackhawk Hills RC&D have resources to help fund CIP. Alderman Strohecker questioned for sure or maybe. We have heard “maybe” too many times when funds did not come through. Haring announced for sure. All seemed to agree to wait for now. Alderman Strohecker announced he is not happy with MSA due to the last time CIP was completed, the City was told would get funding and didn't. Also when starting road project, funds were promised and nothing resulted. The City was to put together figures and present. CDAP did not come through. MSA and CDAP representatives came to meeting and informed the City we were not getting funds. Alderman Strohecker announced it was a good thing the City did not go forward as MSA had recommended; it would have drained our funds for many years.

First Mid-state, Inc. – Kevin Wills submitted written report on calling the bonds. Wills gave background on bond issues. Wills explained this report is preliminary. The City has an opportunity to refinance/reissue bonds. Bonds were issued in 1997 for the water tower project. Wills announced the remaining principal and interest is \$428,974. Wills explained option for

reducing City's expenses saving about \$15,000 after expenses. City would not see any cash flow. Discussion went to several inquiries if the City paid some first and then refinanced the remainder. Wills agreed these options would work. When asked if there is a penalty to pay off the bonds early, Wills reported there is. Wills recommended trying to market the bonds locally. Wills explained how this would work. Bonds are callable only on date of payment – May 1st & November 1st. By July we could put the ball into motion. Wills explained the time line and be ready for November 1st. Wills reported even though his company does all the work, they use the “no pass, no pay” policy. When reported this has been tried in the past and the local banks were not interested, Wills announced they would take further. Wills discussed options if we cannot sell bonds. Wills wants the Council to know they have options. Wills reminded everyone again of the November 1st deadline.

Bonding for city officials – Ron Gronewold of Gronewold Insurance presented draft of quotes. Gronewold reported in the past, the Clerk and Treasurer were one person therefore saving due to only needing to bond the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer. Gronewold reported the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer were bonded for \$200,000 each. If paid in advance, there is a savings of fifteen percent. Gronewold explained his draft. Some felt mayor was too high and treasurer too low. The Clerk requested Gronewold to explain to everyone what the bonding covers. This discussion led to discussing the requirement of two signatures on checks. Gronewold announced the insurance company recommends two signatures. Most members feel the Treasurer should be higher. Discussion continued as to how much each should be bonded. **Motion** made by Alderman Kocal, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to reduce bonding of mayor to \$50,000, increase Clerk to \$500,000 and Treasurer to \$800,000. After more discussion, all seemed to agree to table motion until next meeting when cost figures could be presented.

Sidewalks – Alderman Strohecker reported he has a list of sidewalks for each ward. Alderman Strohecker suggested waiting until we know what we are doing for employment - not spend time now on this. All seemed to agree. Mayor Stern feels list needs to be prioritized. Alderman Strohecker announced he has already done so.

Consider two seasonal employees for Mt. Dept. – Mayor Stern submitted report to consider positions for part-time summer help. Alderman Weaver asked for this discussion to be in executive session and hold for now. Others agreed.

Rate reduction requests – no requests have been received.

One building permit was presented. Dave Giedd is requesting permission to add on a small porch in front of home. Clerk explained this is not within the required setbacks however it does fall under “Notes: b” on page 497 of City Code Book. This note states “where adjacent structures have front yard setbacks different from those required, the minimum front yard setback shall be the average setback of said structures. (Ord. 659, 3-15-94)”. The Clerk reported since she was not familiar with the area in which the Giedds live, someone else would have to determine this issue. Others, who were familiar with the area, felt Giedds would be in compliance. However, Alderman Strohecker volunteered to check tomorrow to be sure. The Clerk suggested the Council approve the building permit pending inspection by Alderman Strohecker. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to pre-approve building permit pending inspection. All ayes. Motion carried. Alderman Lindsay discussed the issue of late permit for Tom Weber. Weber gave Lindsay a run down of expenses for his driveway (which was discussed at the last meeting). Weber's expenses are under \$1,000, therefore not requiring a permit. Alderman Lindsay, reported since there is no zoning officer, she referred to the City Code Book. Alderman Lindsay explained how she gave the Webers

wrong information as the City Code Book is not up to date. After consulting with the Clerk and received the correct information, Lindsay went back to the Webers and discussed again. Alderman Lindsay announced since Weber's expenses are under \$1,000 no permit is needed. Alderman Lindsay reported Webers are planning on replacing existing fence and extending it further. Their cost will not be over \$1,000 therefore a permit is not required. Alderman Lindsay just wants everyone to know about this fence before a complaint arises. The Clerk reported she received letter from Judy Weber requesting building information. The Clerk had information ready to reply to Weber's letter when Alderman Lindsay came into office and took the information to the Webers herself. The Clerk announced there are updates ready for the Code Books and for everyone to give Mitchell their copy in order to update. Alderman Huggins announced the updates are already on the City's website.

General audience – John Huggins announced the Blackhawk Hills RC&D met last night. They took on help for small businesses in the area. The Stimulus Package gives Illinois four hundred million dollars. They have formed a broadband task force. They will turn in application to get broadband in northwest Illinois. The Stimulus Package will cover eighty percent of total cost, if awarded grant – possibly one hundred percent if cannot afford twenty percent. Huggins explained matching contribution. They are currently working on letter to governor. Huggins discussed the closing of EPDC at Highland Community College and Sauk Valley College. RC&D will take on assisting funds to continue on to work towards another avenue. Huggins discussed Reinvestment Act, which the City may be too late for summer help. Huggins suggested looking at possibly next year. April first is the deadline. Huggins discussed requirements. Huggins announced the Lanark Chamber of Commerce is requesting approval to put newsletter in the next water bill. They will copy and fold. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Weaver to allow the Chamber to include newsletter in the upcoming bill. All ayes. Motion carried. When asked about the clean up of the cemetery entrance, Mitchell announced cement was being poured as of tonight. Mayor Stern announced he and his wife went to visit the homeowner recently. They discussed this issue but did not get far. Huggins volunteered to lead Strategic Planning sessions if the Council decides to move forward with this. This will save the City money. Huggins reported a draft was completed in November 2006. Huggins has gone through and checked off what has been accomplished. Huggins explained the City would do the groundwork and expenses. Huggins would conduct the meeting free. Huggins explained how process works.

Sue Poffenberger and Harold James Smith were present to discuss building permit. Smith announced his complete name is Harold James Smith but has several nicknames that he goes by. Smith gave some background information on himself and home. When he applied for building permit, he used Jim Smith as owner. Legally Susan Poffenberger is owner. Since the neighbor is complaining about legality of permit, Smith questioned if he should get a late permit and change owner to Poffenberger. Alderman Strohecker suggested Smith apply for late permit and pay the \$50 fee. The Clerk suggested waiving this fee as Smith did get a permit as required. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Kocal to reissue permit as late building permit and waive fees. All ayes. Motion carried.

Committees

Water & Sewer – Alderman Strohecker announced Water & Sewer committee met with MSA to discuss Southside Utilities Extension on May 8th at 10:00 AM. Concerns were shared about cost for service to only a few places. The Committee feels the project should be kept as is. Committee felt all concerns were met. Several Council members looked over drainage problem at Preston's. Alderman Strohecker announced the City has talked about doing something for years but has done nothing yet. Alderman Strohecker suggested widening the storm drain. After some investigation, it was found a neighbor up the street had junk out which washed down and

plugged the drain. Need to keep garbage off the street. Alderman Strohecker reported John Huggins paid a water bill for Peugh while serving on Council. Alderman Strohecker explained in negotiations with Peugh of an easement for the Southside Utilities Extension, it was agreed to give Peugh's water and sewer free. However, Huggins did not have Council approval prior to negotiations. Therefore the Council refused to pay for Peugh's bill. Huggins paid out of his own pocket. Clerk reported payment was made by Huggins of \$99.20 for three months plus late fee. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Weaver to reimburse John Huggins what he paid for Peugh's bill. Alderman Strohecker and Ed Mitchell explained negotiations. Mayor Stern called for vote: all ayes. Motion carried. Clerk will issue reimbursement.

Planning – Alderman Macomber announced committee met earlier at the 111 South Broad building. Alderman Macomber submitted proposal which was given to the Library Board President, JL Hunter. Alderman Macomber would like to see an aggressive timeline. Mayor Stern would like to know where the library wants to go by October 1st. Mayor Stern would like to add four more to the Planning Committee the first of July. Discussion continued on what to do with the city building located at 111 South Broad. Most Library Board members want/needs to know the site. It was suggested doing in phases. Another suggestion was to set in black and white an estimate for each option submitted. Once a plan has been established, go to Carroll Service and have plans drawn up. Council discussed what and how best benefits all involved. All seemed to agree all the Library Board is asking for at this time is square footage. Alderman Strohecker and Alderman Macomber feel 3-in-1 is the best option. City hall, library and police department all three located in the building at 111 S. Broad. The Clerk pointed out if these three are combined in one building that creates two vacant city buildings; what will be done with these? Could these be used for storage? Alderman Macomber announced could be sold or torn down. Alderman Strohecker reported the library talks about renting out rooms. This will take income away from the Heritage Center. Alderman Macomber suggested August 1st as a projected date for plan with a committee of four: two from Library Board, one from “Friends of Library” and one from Maintenance Department. We need to have a clear cut plan and stick with it.

Economic Development – no report.

Ordinance – no report.

Street and Property – Alderman Strohecker will review the sidewalk lists. Holly Mason left message at Strohecker's home. Strohecker has tried to contact Mason – will tell her civil issue not city. Others agreed. Mitchell announced the city should not be in the middle of this.

Personnel – Alderman Weaver requested executive session to discuss personnel.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Police – no report.

Ed Mitchell announced Midstates is not the original firm who put the bonds together. Mitchell suggested contacting original first and maybe one or two others. Mitchell discussed who holds bonds and if could find out. Code Books are due for update – drop off at Mitchell's office. Mitchell inquired if want to have committee meeting to review Tax Levy Ordinance and decide if we want to go over 105%. After a short discussion, all seemed to agree to have Mitchell put together proposal. This must be done by end of December. Mitchell explained process.

Property taxes will be affected due to housing market. We will probably see decrease in taxes. Mitchell also explained senior citizen freezes. Mitchell requested executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted written report. Alderman Strohecker inquired about contact with Burkholder. Guenzler reported he talked with Jameson Burkholder and he will pass on to Roger. Alderman Strohecker inquired if Guenzler has a price on sand yet. Guenzler reported not yet, has two more quarries to contact. Alderman Strohecker inquired when Loberg would do the hydrants. Guenzler announced when we call. When Alderman Kocal inquired about where Burkholder started the sidewalks, Guenzler explained the route – roughly 4,000 square feet. When asked if Council wanted Burkholder to finish the remaining sidewalks on list, Alderman Strohecker told him just to finish what's started. Guenzler reported Mark Meador has truck parked blocking hydrant at café. There is no way for Fire Dept. to access hydrant if needed. Guenzler reported truck is parked on City property. After some discussion, it was agreed to have Chief Magill have truck towed and bill sent to owner.

Chief Matt Magill reported grant was submitted for bullet proof vests. Grant will pay up to 50%. Some thought vests were purchased recently – few years. Treasurer was asked to check. Chief Magill announced within next two years he would like to purchase all new vests. Cost will be \$750 each for grant. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to proceed with grant to replace vests over next two years. All ayes. Motion carried. Chief Magill discussed another grant – JAG – Justice Assistance Grant. Chief Magill would like a mobile laptop in squad – Mobile Data Computer (MDC). Chief explained uses. Alderman Strohecker suggested asking the 911 committee. Chief announced probably not as they are basically broke. Hardware is \$1,500. Chief gave example of events where this would be helpful. Chief Magill explained he does not want to apply and be approved then turn down. **Motion** made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Macomber to let Chief Magill pursue grant for MDC. All ayes. Motion carried. Chief reported the previous Council did not request a written report. Alderman Strohecker feels Chief does not need to attend both meetings each month. Mayor Stern feels Chief should attend both. Mayor Stern discussed entrance to cemetery again and vandalism at park. Mayor feels we should have surveillance cameras there. Not all agreed. Mayor Stern went back to discussion of two seasonal employees. Mayor reported Tigges left the City high and dry. Maintenance is hurting – need mowing and concrete guy. Mayor Stern submitted proposal for two seasonal employees to work from April 1st through end of November. When asked how many hours Tigges worked last year, the Clerk reported 350.25 hours. Mayor Stern would like two seasonal employees in addition to the new full time employee. Discussion went to how many hours it takes to mow city properties. Council also discussed hiring another full time employee rather than two seasonal. Discussion went to what all the full time persons will be doing. Brian Ferry will be retiring June 10, 2010. Alderman Lindsay announced it would have been helpful to have the proposal of seasonal employees when the committee was doing interviews. Council then discussed projects which need to be done. Mayor Stern announced many things carry over from last year. Recent storm has also produced projects. Alderman Weaver suggested going into executive to discuss further.

All seemed to agree to skip alderman, clerk and mayor's business due to late hour.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and pending litigation. All ayes. Motion carried. Entered executive session at 10:23 PM.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Kocal to exit executive session. All ayes. Motion carried. Exited executive session at 11:09 PM.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Weaver to hire Matt Haverland full time at \$13.50 per hour and Quin Kosmecki for seasonal at \$8.50 per hour. All ayes. Motion carried. Guenzler will contact Kosmecki and Alderman Macomber will contact Haverland.

Motion made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*