

November 2, 2010

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

Also present were Les Guenzler, Jamie Soutar and Anthony Malone. Ed Mitchell arrived at 8:35 PM. Sharon Pepin arrived at 8:52 PM. Alderman Kocal arrived at 9:08 PM.

Mayor Stern called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. After roll call, all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion** made by Alderman Fehlhafer, seconded by Alderman Weaver to accept the minutes of the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Roll call: Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Alderman Macomber-aye. Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Macomber to accept and pay the bills from October 19<sup>th</sup> to present. Roll call: Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye and Alderman Lindsay-aye. Motion carried.

Copies of Treasurer's recommendations to transfer funds were in everyone's folders. Everyone was asked to look over for next meeting. Treasurer announced she received bill from WW Builders' bill for \$3,098. Discussed whether to pay or not as all of the work is not completed as yet. **Motion** made by Alderman Fehlhafer, seconded by Alderman Weaver to pay WW Builders for \$3,098. Roll call: Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Alderman Macomber-aye. Motion carried.

Consider Bray's fees – Alderman Macomber reported Library has agreed to pay half of these fees. Total fees are \$35,720. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to pay \$17,860 - half of Bray's fees. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye and Alderman Weaver-aye. Motion carried.

Resolution – support of Friends of the Library fundraiser – Mayor Stern submitted resolution. Several questioned the term “Lanark Community Center”. All seemed to agree to change this term to Municipal Building. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to support resolution for fundraiser for Friends of the Library. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye and Alderman Macomber-aye. Motion carried.

Resolution – forestry tax – Mayor Stern reported Mitchell will bring. Alderman Weaver inquired what the positives of this were. Mayor Stern explained this came up when we were looking for ways to increase funds. Tree removal and planting currently come out of General fund. Alderman Weaver did not feel this is the time to raise taxes. Others questioned when a good time is.

Consider grant for city park – Jamie Soutar submitted documents and announced corrections to figures. \$1,200 should be \$12,000 which will also change the total amount. Soutar reviewed

documents. The grant requires the City to show they can pay upfront the full cost of project which is \$134,455.80 plus additional costs. Several felt the \$52,000 for sidewalks was too high. When asked how much the Lion's Club was donating to this, Soutar announced \$5,000. During discussion, Anthony Malone explained IEPA Storm Water Pollution Prevention Control Plan – if less than one acre is probably N/A. Total cost includes taking down and rebuilding shelter house, parking lot on north side, lighting and sidewalks. Soutar reported Mayor Stern told her the City is thinking of moving the park to another location. Alderman Strohecker questioned the aldermen if they wanted to do any, all or none. Grant application is due November 29, 2010. Soutar is looking for decision tonight in order to put everything together before deadline of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Malone announced this is a new, quick grant only have two months to put together. Several feel grants may disappear after tonight due to the election. Discussion continued with City coming up with funds and what line item these funds would be drawn from as this was not budgeted for – possibly Community Betterment or Contingency. When asked if City was committed if grant is approved, Malone reported the State looks badly on cities who don't use. It is better to tell up front if not using. Some feel it is better to do partial rather than none. If don't get grant, we are out engineering and permit fees. Mayor Stern asked for a decision. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Lindsay to go ahead with grant for sidewalks in park. Discussion continued. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-nay, Alderman Weaver-aye and Alderman Macomber-nay. Mayor Stern announced vote failed – need four out of five. Mayor Stern voted aye and announced motion carried. Alderman Strohecker announced we need an engineer to complete grant application and requested Anthony Malone of ESI. Ed Mitchell arrived at 8:35 PM. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to appoint ESI as engineer for sidewalks. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried. Malone announced need topographic report for grant and there will be a cost. There were concerns with drainage. Survey cost should be less than \$2,000.

General audience – no one present.

Forestry tax resolution – Mitchell submitted draft. This will be put on the April ballot. When asked what increase in property tax would be on a \$100,000 home would be, Mitchell announced he would have to go back to office to calculate. After some quick figuring, some thought \$15 - \$16 per home. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Fehlhafer to approve forestry tax resolution. Discussion continued. Mitchell showed last year's tax levy. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye and Alderman Strohecker-aye. Motion carried.

Ed Mitchell reported receipt of foreclosure to approve sale. Mitchell discussed ordinance changing Treasurer from elected to appointed. Code Book (2-4-8) needs to be amended. All seemed to agree to take this out. Mitchell left meeting to go to office to calculate the property tax increase for \$100,000 home as requested by Council.

### **Committees**

Water & Sewer – Alderman Fehlhafer submitted Committee's recommendation for rate increase and reviewed. A CIP fee has been added. Late fee increases to 30%. Water and Sewer increases 15%. Alderman Strohecker requested the senior citizen discount be removed. Mayor Stern does not agree that the garbage rate should increase. Alderman Weaver questioned if the CIP fee needs to be taken to referendum. Discussed concerns with people who were affected with flooding, not all residents were affected. Once again the topic of installing meters was discussed. Discussed Moring Disposal's fees. When asked about senior citizen discount, Sharon

Pepin announced there is only one other community who offers it. Pepin pointed out there are a lot of swimming pools in Lanark. Others agreed this is added expense. Alderman Fehlhafer would like to put a notice of increases in the December's billing to take effect March 1, 2011. (Ed Mitchell returned at 9:05 PM. Alderman Kocal arrived at 9:08 PM.) **Motion** made by Alderman Fehlhafer, seconded by Alderman Macomber to go ahead with 15% increase, 30% late fee increase and \$5.00 CIP fee to be effective March 1, 2011. The Clerk read the motion for clarification. Mayor Stern inquired if he can veto an ordinance. When asked why, Mayor Stern explained he did not feel the garbage fees should increase only the water and sewer fees. Discussion went back to Moring Disposal's fees. Moring just came to the Council a couple of years ago for increase due to high gas prices. The Clerk/Treasurer reported income total from sewer fees plus sewer fees through property taxes are higher than the City's expenses for garbage, therefore garbage rates should not be increase. After approximately twenty-five minutes of discussion on this topic, Mayor Stern called for roll call vote: Alderman Fehlhafer-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye and Alderman Kocal-aye. Motion carried.

Community Funding & Planning Services – Sharon Pepin announced the City has been awarded the emergency grant. It will take some time to complete the paperwork. Upon arrival, Pepin will need to meet with Mayor to sign paperwork and send copy to State. Pepin inquired about recent recommendation to publish press release. Clerk announced this has already been done – Prairie Advocate, WCCI and Carroll County Review. Pepin discussed the municipal building. She attended a video conference and learned of a Live & Learn grant and Library grant. No one is sure what the status of grants will be after today's election. Pepin discussed grant and suggested submitting Statement of Interest which is due December 3, 2010. Reviews will be done in March with awards made in April. Pepin was pleased when Alderman Macomber reported Bray's fees were approved earlier this evening. Once we know what grants we get, we need to figure out what the library and City will pay and how to fund this project.

Streets and Property – Alderman Fehlhafer requested a committee meeting. Alderman Strohecker scheduled a committee meeting for November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

Ed Mitchell reported the property tax increase due to the Forestry Tax would be \$13.67 for a \$100,000 home. Mitchell announced the increase would be approximately \$13.00 - \$17.00 per home.

Economic Development – Alderman Kocal reported no word on prison. No budget as yet – waiting for results of election of Governor.

Ordinance – Alderman Lindsay announced she needs to discuss with Mayor Stern before bringing to Council.

Personnel – no report. Mayor Stern questioned if we need a “Key to the City” for boys or girls. All agreed nothing as yet. Mayor Stern inquired about hams for employees for Christmas. All seemed to agree to continue with this. Mayor Stern asked the Clerk to put a Christmas greeting in the newspaper. Some feel Mayor should put a greeting in the December billing.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Police & Public Safety – no report.

Planning – Alderman Macomber reported all was discussed earlier.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor, submitted written report (copy on file). Discussed brake line repairs to truck. Guenzler questioned ordering materials for Well #4 before grant paperwork is received. Pepin will check on this and get back to Guenzler. Alderman Strohecker questioned pumping out Sally Grove's basement – was it City problem or hers? Alderman Fehlhafer explained Grove called him and he called Guenzler to pump out. Alderman Lindsay reported the Council never heard who was hired for the employee pool. It had been agreed the names were supposed to be brought to the Council. Jeff Stern was hired to help with leaves. A couple names were suggested for the pool. The Clerk announced payroll will be done next Monday and questioned what Jeff Stern's rate/hour would be. Mayor Stern announced \$9.00/hour. Alderman Fehlhafer reported Karen Sloan called him stating she read in the paper something was going to be done on Blair Parkway. Discussed what his response should be at this time. Alderman Strohecker feels the retention pond on Argyle should be first priority. Alderman Strohecker has looked at this and reported we will need an engineer for this project. Mayor Stern feels city maintenance crew can tackle Blair Parkway. Discussion went to all projects this year have been on the east side of town. There are other projects which need attention throughout the town. Alderman Strohecker requested a list of priorities. Mayor Stern inquired about going with MSA about the retention pond since they started some time ago. Alderman Fehlhafer agreed to use MSA. Some feel with MSA, you never know who will be here. Malone reported that happens with firms. It will be the same with his firm. He will not always be the one to attend meetings.

Alderman Strohecker questioned if the storm water on Leland goes to tile. Guenzler explained the route to Shaner's pond. When asked if this has been televised, Guenzler reported it has not. Alderman Strohecker thinks it should be televised questioning if it has collapsed. Alderman Strohecker announced the Tree Board will put notice in water bills about tree permits. Trees will be planted in the spring, not this fall due to the removal of trees is so late.

None of the other aldermen had any other business tonight.

City Clerk announced she will be on vacation December 11-18. Clerk announced filing of petitions for the April 2011 election begins December 13<sup>th</sup>. After checking with the County Clerk regarding vacation during these dates, Clerk announced the office **must** be open during regular office hours in order for petitions to be filed. This means someone must be in the office December 13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, closed 12:30 – 1:30. An alderman suggested Mayor Stern be available. Clerk announced Marge Brinker (Clerk's sister) is willing to come in during these two days. When asked about compensation, Clerk announced in the past, Amy Barnes has been paid \$10/hour. All seemed to agree to pay Marge Brinker \$10/hour for her time on December 13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Stern discussed notice from Ardena Grant sticks in park have not been picked up. Grant has had to do the last two times she mowed. City pays Pat Eckburg \$100 per month to do this.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*