

May 3, 2011

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

Also present were Ed Mitchell, Steve Haring, Nina Cooper, Doris Bork, Norm Brinkmeier and Mick Parsons. Alderman Ken Weaver arrived at 7:55 PM.

Mayor Stern called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After roll call, all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Strohecker inquired if there were any reimbursements to employee. Alderman Lindsay reported none were found in the Finance Report.

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

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

City Attorney, Ed Mitchell administered the oath of office to the newly elected officials – Tom Kocal. (Ed Fehlhafer and Ken Weaver were absent.)

Community Funding & Planning Services – Mayor Stern announced Sharon may come later.

Cemetery Board – Norm Brinkmeier submitted annual report and reviewed. Cemetery's total funds at the end of the fiscal year are \$105,894.35. Brinkmeier announced the Cemetery Board fixed some stones this year and hope to repair others that are broken up. The prepaid burial fees are due to new requirements. Brinkmeier read from an article in today's issue of Freeport Journal. A tractor was traded off a couple weeks ago. Brinkmeier announced Amy Milby takes good care of the equipment and does an exceptional job. Brinkmeier explained new cemetery laws require prepayment, but this may be done away with. Lanark is probably one of the few who are up to date on these new laws. Brinkmeier showed report of what has to be turned into the State. No one seems to know about license requirements. Discussed when the farm lease was up – end of February 2012.

Health insurance renewal – Alderman Lindsay reported the Personnel Committee recommends staying with what we have.

School crossing lights – Police Chief Magill found solar powered lights acceptable to IDOT. (Alderman Weaver arrived at 7:55 PM.) Cost is \$6,000 for everything – installation, etc. Aldermen Strohecker and Lindsay reported Mark Hansen never showed up for meeting to discuss safety concerns. Mayor announced Chief Magill helped about twenty students cross a couple of times a few weeks ago. Alderman Strohecker inquired who would pay for the light. Mayor Stern thought the City would. Alderman Macomber reported a permit will be needed from IDOT.

Mayor Stern asked Alderman Weaver to report on the employee's health insurance. Alderman Weaver announced no changes to current policy. Alderman Weaver reported there was a 4.3% increase in 2008-2009, an increase of 13.5% in 2009-2010 and a 14% increase in 2010-2011. Alderman Weaver reported the Personnel Committee's recommendation is to stay with current policy as there is a 28% decrease for 2011-2012. When asked why there was such a decrease, Mayor Stern reported we were paying too much. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Kocal to accept Committee's recommendation and keep employee's contribution the same. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye and Alderman Weaver-aye. Motion carried.

General audience – Doris Bork inquired about the old stones in the cemetery and need for contact with families. Brinkmeier explained they would keep old stones in case any of the heirs would want them.

City Attorney, Ed Mitchell administered the oath of office to the newly elected official –Ken Weaver.

### **Committees**

Personnel – Alderman Weaver passed out Personnel Committee minutes and announced the Committee recommends rate increases for Police Department. Alderman Lindsay explained the Committee met with Chief Magill and Officer Craft. Both seemed very pleased with all. **Motion** made by Alderman Lindsay, seconded by Alderman Kocal to accept pay increases as Committee suggests for Police Department. Officer Craft started TRIAD in the area and is the lead person. Roll call: Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye, Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye and Alderman Weaver-aye. Motion carried. Mayor Stern inquired when these increases would take effect. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Weaver the increases will be effective the start of the next pay period. Roll call: Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Lindsay-aye, Alderman Kocal-aye and Alderman Macomber-aye. Motion carried. Alderman Weaver reported he discussed with Les his lack of pay raise. Alderman Weaver was told it was due to over time hours. Alderman Weaver did not feel he could answer adequately.

Water & Sewer – no report.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Street and Property – Alderman Strohecker discussed Route 73 improvements and payments. Monthly payments of \$7016 for twelve months and then one lump fee.

Economic Development – no report.

Ordinance – no report.

Police – no report.

Planning – Alderman Macomber announced the Live and Learn grant was approved but still waiting on the \$311,000 grant. The Clerk/Treasurer inquired what the plan is if the \$311,000 grant is not approved. Alderman Lindsay announced there is no plan. Alderman Strohecker announced the Council has to think this through where the funds will come from – loan or if the

City can afford to continue. Council has to look at all our upcoming projects. Alderman Lindsay feels we need to sit down and go over projects and prioritize. When asked why Sally Grove's was done before others, Mayor Stern announced it was emergency – line was blown out of ground. Alderman Strohecker questioned who was steering these projects – Mayor? Alderman Lindsay reported this was not brought to the Council. Alderman Strohecker wants two guys doing sidewalks again. (Anthony Malone arrived at 8:20 PM.) Discussion on sidewalks continued. Concerns were: liability, utilizing personnel to perform efficiently and some sidewalks being replaced before others which have deteriorated more. When Mayor Stern asked Alderman Strohecker to prioritize sidewalks for this year, Alderman Strohecker announced he had already done this and it has not been followed in the past. Discussion moved on to all City projects and priority. These projects include: water main, sewer problems at Forster Products and storm water drainage. Finishing up the well project should be top priority. Mayor Stern finds the last two years infrastructure in hellacious condition – two wells break down at the same time. Mayor Stern reviewed equipment purchases and repairs. Mayor Stern thinks we can do storm water fee even if not home rule. Mitchell investigated some but did not find anything that says we can. Mayor Stern contacted Pepin to work on this. Discussed storm water fee or CIP. Some feel CIP is too gray.

Ed Mitchell inquired about appropriations. Treasurer will get figures to Mitchell for the next meeting.

Anthony Malone of ESI submitted new option for tanks for the East Lift Station and reviewed.

1 <sup>st</sup> Phase	pumps and controls	\$60,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase	generator – building and electrical modifications	\$124,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Phase	put in tanks (2) underground	\$200,000
		+ contingency
4 <sup>th</sup> Phase	put in other tanks (3)	\$260,000

Malone reported this allows this project to be done in phases. Discussed overflows and not cost effective. Malone announced EPA agreed to look at underground tank proposal which is not typical of EPA.

Alderman Weaver announced he would not be at the next meeting.

Alderman Lindsay reported Guenzler went on three day conference and feels this should have gone through Council. Mayor Stern did not know about this. Alderman Strohecker announced since it was not approved, there was no chance to send other employee to get training. Need to check to see if IRWA class was set up. Mayor Stern suggested having Chuck Strohecker go to this class with Haverland. Others did not agree as Strohecker is part time employee. Annual Sewer Conference only one went and several aldermen feel two should have gone. Discussed Maintenance Department and conference.

Alderman Macomber and Alderman Kocal did not have any additional business this evening.

Clerk received notification from unemployment on Jeff Stern. Stern is now drawing unemployment off of City. Discussion went to “pool of employees”. Alderman Strohecker feels physicals should be required for “pool”. Mayor Stern talked with Chuck Strohecker about lay off for winter. Alderman Kocal volunteered to pursue the unemployment.

Mayor Stern discussed prison help and canceling the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mayor Stern announced he took a beating because a tree was cut down and resident did not want it down. Alderman Strohecker explained the Maintenance Dept. trimmed the tree and found rotten in crotch then

removed the tree. The stump was also removed. Mayor Stern announced the resident has an Ash tree and wants it taken down. Mayor Stern feels we should have the City Maintenance crew take down the Ash tree because it will probably be infested and City plant two large trees. The tree was a memorial to wife's father. Alderman Strohecker apologized to the resident. Owner told Mayor he was willing to cable the tree if it was weak.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*