

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF CARROLL)SS.
CITY OF LANARK)

February 21, 2006

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

Also present were Les Guenzler, Ed Mitchell, Nick Soja, Ali Zimmerman, Caleb Feltmeyer, Trenton Diehl, Tamara Schreiner, Tessa Walker, James Hazelbower, Jr. and Acting Chief Gerry Bennett.

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

Prior to approval of the minutes, the Clerk asked for clarification of Congressman Manzullo's request for support. Manzullo is in favor of keeping the Rockford location – not moving to Palatine. **Motion** made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Huggins to amend the minutes concerning Manzullo's request. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Barnes announced the deletion of tapes should read prior to June 2004 rather than June 2005. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to amend the minutes to read June 2004 regarding the tapes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Grant to accept the minutes of the February 7th meeting as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Macomber to accept and pay the bills from February 7th to present. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Grant to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of January. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Motion made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Weaver to move our retirement plan from the current bank to Exchange State Bank – Brent Peters to set up a SIMPLE IRA with the City matching up to 3%. All ayes. Motion carried.

Tamara Schreiner was present requesting permission to park semi-tractor on Claremont. The City has put up “no truck parking” signs. Schreiner's husband drives truck. Mayor Barnes announced that he told the Schreiners to park the trailer on Tower Street and the tractor on Claremont until this meeting. When asked why driver could not park on Tower Street, Schreiner explained that they have only one vehicle other than the truck. She would have to take the children out every time she had to pick husband up on Tower Street. Sometimes the truck does not start and can plug in at home – cannot on Tower Street. After several suggestions, all seemed to agree that the trailer would be parked on Tower Street and the tractor could be parked on Claremont. **Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Macomber to allow to park tractor on Claremont. All ayes. Motion carried.

No building permits were submitted as a variance is needed before Council approval.

COMMITTEES

Water & Sewer – Alderman Stern reported that a well head protection ordinance is not necessary. Stern received a letter from Illinois Rural Water Association (ILWRA) stating why – there are already State Statues in place. Radium testing is now being done quarterly at \$500 per quarter. We are done for two years. Thursday is Water & Sewer Committee meeting with Marty Beranek of MSA at 3:30 PM in City Hall.

Streets & Property – Alderman Strohecker reported that he has talked with Medallion and they do not feel there will be any more water usage than Elkay – probably less. Strohecker announced that he is still working with the Mt. Dept. on the list from Risk Management. Currently working on the tin at the shelter houses – waiting on Scott’s Electric. Strohecker reported that he has received two bids for Mt. Dept. office renovations. The Clerk opened and read: 1.) Circle T Construction \$3,650.00 2.) Diehl & Lott Construction \$3,352.34. Both have certificates of insurance as requested by Strohecker. **Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Macomber to accept D & L’s bid. All ayes. Motion carried. Strohecker talked with Mark at V-Brand and all is OK. Mitchell would like to have survey done before resolution. It was agreed to have Zimmerman bill V-Brand for the appraisal. Strohecker questioned whether to rebuild the sweeper rather than replacing it. Alderman Macomber feels it should be repaired as needed and used as long as possible. Strohecker gave the OK for replacing hydrants. Strohecker has work list with estimated costs for the budget.

Purchasing & Finance – Alderman Macomber questioned which is the highest priority – van or mower? Strohecker and Guenzler think that the fuel pump is going out on the mower. It has 2,000 hours on it. Curtis & Sons says usually get 3,000 to 4,000 before see problems. It was a concern if it received proper maintenance from the cemetery. The cemetery is looking at trading their newest mower as it has more problems. Some of the attachments will need to be changed. Macomber is concerned if we have the correct machine for what we are using it for. The 455 is a lawn tractor not a mower. It was suggested to get a good used one and use for 3 to 4 years. It was questioned if we need to look at subcontracting the mowing. We used to do that way. It was a fixed amount and knew what the City’s expenses would be. The cemetery uses their mower to do the sidewalks. Strohecker feels a good used mower is sufficient. We don’t need right now but will need come spring. Macomber announced that he will freshen up his information for the next meeting. Discussion then went to the purchase of a van. **Motion** made by Alderman Weaver to go with the van previously suggested, if available. Macomber had one in mind but is not sure it is still available. Weaver rescinded his motion. Guenzler has not looked at Monroe as yet. There is a truck available at Kune’s Auto in Mt. Carroll. Alderman Macomber inquired as to what is the breaking point. All seemed to agree to \$28,000 or less. **Motion** made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Grant for Macomber to do comparison at Mt. Carroll on new van and if can be purchased for \$28,000 or less or opt for used one if available. Alderman Weaver rescinded his motion. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Personnel/Police– Alderman Weaver reported that the committee met and has information as a result. Weaver started with the residency requirement. He explained the three options. Alderman Stern asked Officer Bennett if there was any problem if an officer lived in Iowa and

worked in Illinois. Bennett explained that it depends on the department. There is no State law preventing this. Need to look at each agency. The County has removed this requirement. Part-time does not apply. Mitchell reported that he does not think there is a State Statute but he is not familiar with this. Alderman Stern feels they should live in Illinois. Alderman Strohecker would like full-time to live in the city. Bennett shared that when the City was hiring the last time, no one wanted to move. Alderman Weaver explained that the reason the Council changed the ordinance was to increase the pool for employment. Weaver's priority is to have the most capable and qualified employees. Strohecker feels if person wants to be employed by the community, he should be part of the community. Possibly give one year to comply. Another suggestion was to have a probationary period and then reassess. Alderman Grant feels officers should live in town. Weaver suggested tabling until the next meeting as it seems we have too many issues at this time. After more discussion, several changes were made and Mitchell will bring an ordinance with changes to the next meeting. Weaver reported that at the Police/Personnel Committee it was suggested changing the committee. Possibly have two chairpersons with one member each. Think about it.

Economic Development – Alderman Huggins announced that on February 17th the Joint Review Board (JRB) met. There were three taxing bodies in attendance. Huggins was appointed as Chairperson and Bill Piper was appointed as the at-large member.

Ordinance – Alderman Stern submitted a written report. Stern has reviewed the draft ordinance on abandoned vehicles that Chief Sodergren started. Stern has made several changes. He would like everyone to look this draft over and have a meeting to discuss further. Stern asked Bennett to be at the meeting also. Weaver announced that he will not be here next week and suggested waiting until the next meeting to set a date. Stern asked Bennett to look the draft over and call him. Stern announced that everyone has a copy of the water and sewer proposal. Please look over. This will be the next ordinance to work on.

Ed Mitchell presented a resolution per Manzullo's request of support to keep sorting in Rockford. Mitchell called Manzullo's office to get sample. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to approve the postal service resolution. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Grant-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Huggins-aye and Alderman Stern-aye. Motion carried. Mitchell announced that a codification has been sent in but has not come back yet.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted a written report. Guenzler reported that Jim Closson of Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) is willing to come and go through everything to see what and how things need to be improved. Alderman Strohecker announced that it's OK to have him come but keep in mind that list will increase. Others seemed to agree. One item on the list is paint cans. Strohecker feels it would be cheaper to build a room for storage. Goggles and eye washer at the lab room are needed. This has not been done as yet. Eye wash station is needed at the Mt. building also. Nothing was mentioned about the water tower. Most everyone seemed to feel a call or e-mail with questions was sufficient for now. Street light covers are fixed. Alderman Stern is looking up caps for the light poles. Continue working on the list. Guenzler has noticed trucks going through town using jake breaks as they approach the stop sign at Route 64. Do we need a sign on the south end of Broad Street? Not at this time.

Acting Chief Bennett reported that everything is going well at this time.

Alderman Weaver did not have any additional business this evening.

Aldermen Grant inquired if workman's comp. covered the library and cemetery. Mayor Barnes reported that they have their own policy.

Alderman Strohecker requested executive session to discuss personnel.

Alderman Huggins and Alderman Macomber did not have any additional business tonight.

Alderman Stern inquired about getting started on appropriations. A meeting was set for 6:30 PM prior to the March 7th Council meeting.

City Clerk reported that in order to take the \$25 per week insurance deduction from employee's paychecks a section 125 plan needs to be put into place. She has contacted LCV and it will cost \$400 for the installation of this plan. The Clerk explained that this plan must be in place in order to take a pre-tax deduction. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to approve \$400 for section 125. All ayes. Motion carried. The Clerk reported that she also discussed the retirement plan with LCV. The retirement plan should cover this. Mayor Barnes asked the Clerk to contact Brent Peters to inform him that it has been approved and question the pre-tax issue.

Mayor Barnes went over briefly the details of the run on Saturday with Acting Chief Bennett. Mayor Barnes announced that there is a kick off meeting for the Brownfield Grant at 3:00 PM on Friday, March 3rd. Mayor asked the Clerk to post this meeting. The Heritage Center has an opening on the Board. They need to replace Barry Lee-Brown who has moved away. Mindy Walrath is interested in serving on the Board. Mitchell will draft a resolution. Mayor announced that Boyce Humphreys also wants off the Board. There is a message on the answering machine from someone who is interested. Barnes will get that information to Mitchell. Paul Warner has informed Barnes that the Mason's have a million dollar liability insurance plan in place. Carroll County Economic Development (CCED) Corp. sent letter requesting donation. They are asking for it to be based on \$1.50 per capita. They are only asking for a letter of intent at this time. The Clerk reported that \$1.50 times 1582 (capita) equals \$2,376. Alderman Weaver verbally supported the CCED. Weaver went on to share that he is really impressed with Dave Keiser with what he is getting done. Alderman Huggins agreed. Keiser is constantly going to seminars. He is very passionate about his job. Weaver feels that the donation would go to good use as he feels Keiser is very prudent in his finances. There is no deadline on the letter. All seemed to agree to send letter of intent and to put on next fiscal year's appropriations. Strohecker questioned what if some municipalities donate and others don't. Weaver shared that we can only speak for ourselves. Mayor Barnes discussed the kick off meeting set for March 3rd. Barnes reported that he and Alderman Strohecker along with Alderman Stern attended the last Library Board meeting. The Board voted to pursue the 111 South Broad building. However, other options are being explored. The next step is the kick off meeting and testing. The Board is not going to do referendum this year. Alderman Strohecker announced that he went to Sweitzer and explained that the contract will probably not be renewed come December 31st. The Board went to the Lion Club for a donation. The Lions voted down giving money to go into the building. Alderman Stern reported that he heard Markley say he wanted to tear the building down – likes the

location. Stern thinks that the grant was written stating that it was to be transformed from a garage into a library. Stern feels we have to have a time that we stop putting money into this project. Alderman Strohecker reminded everyone that the referendum was voted down. Strohecker feels there needs to be unity in the Library Board. Another feels also here. Mayor Barnes asked what everyone was feeling – push forward with grant? Meeting is March 3rd at 3:00 PM. The meeting can be set back. If we don't go forward with grant, then what? Alderman Huggins reported that it can be sold to use as is. Alderman Grant feels that we should at least start testing. Will we lose the grant if we don't test? Yes, we will lose grant if we do not clean up. If it doesn't become a library, may have to pay back grant. The Library could be held responsible for payback. In order to keep State money, it must be a library. Alderman Macomber asked if the library could go in the Shumway building. Strohecker reported that they didn't want it. Alderman Macomber would like to see something in writing where they want to do this with timelines and a commitment. Mitchell announced that right now they don't have the money. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Strohecker to delay the kick off meeting. Roll call: Alderman Macomber-aye, Alderman Strohecker-aye, Alderman Grant-aye, Alderman Weaver-aye, Alderman Huggins-aye and Alderman Stern-aye. Motion carried. Alderman Macomber does not feel that we should run our renter out until we know what they are doing. The Board is not planning on referendum this year. Alderman Strohecker took Bob Zuck and Boyce Humphreys through the Shumway building. Strohecker explained to them that they would be helping the City. They could tear it down, renovate it or take the top half off, etc. They were not interested. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to ask the Board for a letter of intent with timelines, if they don't go through – they repay the grant and declares site and referendum date. Mayor Barnes will talk with JL Hunter, Library Board Chair. Mayor will also call Sharon Pepin and Mike Charles to delay the kick off meeting.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Macomber to enter executive session to discuss personnel. All ayes. Motion carried.

Entered executive session at 9:50 PM.

Motion made by Alderman Strohecker, seconded by Alderman Macomber to exit executive session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Exited executive session at 10:30 PM.

Motion made by Alderman Weaver, seconded by Alderman Huggins to move ahead to make offer to potential employee to hire at the next meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*

