

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

July 18, 2006

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

Also present were Les Guenzler, Gerald Bennett, Randy Craft, Rob Williams, Marty Beranek, Nick Wagner, Diane Komiskey, Myrna Gruhn, Mike Rausch, Donald Shaner, Duane Gruhn, Tymi Currens, Jeff Currens, Gary Downs, Edward Felhafer, and Robert Groharing.

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

**Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Huggins to accept the minutes of the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Barnes inquired about the Steiner bill. Guenzler reported that it was for repairs on the back up generator which was purchased from Wilson Electric in Rockford. The Clerk reported that the check for \$3,028 to Illinois Public Risk has been voided. Illinois Public Risk will be sending a refund of about \$4,000. Alderman Huggins inquired if the fax machine at the Police Dept. was worth the \$65 in repairs. Acting Chief Bennett announced that it probably was not.

**Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Macomber to accept and pay the bills from June 20<sup>th</sup> to present. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Grant to accept the Treasurer's Report for June. All ayes. Motion carried.

Marty Beranek of MSA Professional Services presented a project update (copy on file). Beranek submitted maps to the City Clerk. Beranek announced that Dave Keiser has requested an infrastructure map. Beranek explained that he cannot give them to Keiser without Council's permission. All seemed to agree to supply maps to Keiser. Sharon Pepin and Beranek met with Keith Durnford last week. Durnford is looking forward to this project. Paperwork needs to be signed by Mayor Barnes. All agreed. The Brownfields grant is on hold. Beranek is wondering where to go with it. Mike Charles needs to know where we are going. He can't hold off much longer. Alderman Huggins announced that we need to have an executive session before making a decision. Alderman Stern inquired about the well at Medallion. Beranek reported that Durnford wants to move ahead. The building does not fit into their theme. Medallion would like to see a better appearance. The Committee recommended doing testing of the well – take samples. The Water & Sewer Committee should invite Durnford to a meeting after samples are taken. There is a broken valve which the committee discussed having Bob Williams repair. If the well has issue it is a moot point. Cost for samples is about \$3,500 for the lab in Dixon or Lyons Well. Beranek announced that we cannot go through the State as we do not own the well. It could take up to twelve weeks for the results.

Beranek presented a master services agreement with MSA and explained that it acts as a contract rather than a task order. This is for small projects only. This was given to Ed Mitchell a long time ago. Alderman Huggins agreed to talk with Mitchell.

Two building permits were presented. Terry Smith wants to enlarge his current garage. Carol Runyan wants to put up a fence. **Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Huggins to approve permits as submitted. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **General Audience**

Officer Jeff Currens expressed his concern of liability due to the new time clock. Currens explained that if an officer is going to work and comes up on something, he is obligated to stop and take care of it. The officer has not punched in as yet. Who will take care of if anything happens? Officer Currens just wanted the Council to know that he does not approve of the use of a time clock for the Police Department.

Don Shaner announced that the storm sewer is going into his pond. The runoff has killed his fish, plants, etc. Over the years, it has caused twelve feet of sludge. The pond has been dredged and the sludge was spread around the pond area to dry. Shaner feels this is too much of a burden for him. He is not sure who is liable for all of this. Shaner announced that Tautz has twenty hours in. The cost is already \$1,400. Shaner announced that he does not know what else to do. The pond has been there for thirty years. Alderman Huggins inquired what the storm sewer will do once the Leland Street project is completed. Beranek reported that the Leland Street improvements should not cause much difference. Shaner explained that it wasn't the water he was concerned with, it was the sediment. It adds up over the years. When asked how long since it was last dredged, Shaner reported thirty years ago when the pond was put in. Beranek reported that annual maintenance would be easier to concentrate on. Possibly a sediment trap could be put in to knock down. This will not keep all sediment out. Alderman Stern feels that right now the City needs to pay for all the past years sediment. Ed Mitchell arrived at 8:00 PM. Mayor Barnes quickly reviewed the discussion of Shaner's pond for Mitchell. When asked if we need a written agreement, Mitchell felt it would be best – need to figure out what's fair to all and write an agreement. **Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Macomber to help financially to clean this up as it is the City's problem. All ayes. Motion carried. Alderman Macomber requested a written agreement. Shaner requested the City's help to haul away the sludge once it is dry enough. Alderman Macomber inquired as to when – next spring? Shaner feels it needs to be done yet this fall. Shaner reported that it could possibly be hauled to Tautz's quarry later this year.

### **Committees**

Water & Sewer – Alderman Stern reported that the committee met to discuss the water and sewer rates. Stern has talked with Sheila Macomber and Helen Rogers at the Exchange State Bank regarding ACH (American Clearing House). The bank feels that December is not a good time to start this program as they have a lot of end of the year work to do. They are recommending implementing this in March of next year. ACH agreements have to be sent out. Stern showed a copy of the ACH rules booklet stating that the Bank's copy is much thicker. Stern suggested having several Council members sign up and learn the procedure. The Bank requires someone other than the Clerk/Treasurer to know the process. We must enter into an agreement. We must also be

bonded. This will take more work on the Clerk's part. Alderman Stern announced that he is not saying that we should not offer this but we need to look further at this option. Stern announced that he is getting input to keep the billing the same.

Streets & Property – Alderman Strohecker submitted a written report in his absence.

Purchasing and Finance – no report.

Personnel – no report

Police – Alderman Grant reported that the committee met to go over the applications and held interviews. The committee is recommending hiring Rob Groharing and Brian Sutter as part time officers. Rob is here tonight but Brian is not. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to hire two part time officers Robert Groharing and Brain Sutter at \$11.00/hour for the first year. All ayes. Motion carried. Alderman Grant announced that the committee has started interviews for Police Chief – more tomorrow. Training for defibrillator and CPR has been scheduled for next Friday. Officer Currens is certified and will do the training – approximately two hours.

Economic Development – Alderman Huggins reported that the committee met to discuss draft for TIF funds. Huggins passed out copies and asked everyone to look over, make changes and get back to him. Huggins announced that one couple has asked for funds. They need land preparation, water, sewer and electric. If can't get funds, will go to other town that will help. Huggins inquired what the Council's response is to getting money up front. There are no estimates as yet. Mitchell inquired if this was permissible with TIF. Alderman Huggins announced yes it is. Huggins was guessing \$190,000 - \$250,000 total for everything. Alderman Huggins announced that bonds, low interest loans, etc. available and permissible with TIF. Alderman Grant and Alderman Macomber feel that our hands are tied – no estimates and no TIF funds. Alderman Huggins reported that we need to work on a comprehensive plan to get an idea on income. If build, that will make a significant amount for TIF. Alderman Huggins inquired – what if we say \$40,000. Alderman Macomber suggested putting together more figures and discuss again. Alderman Huggins reported that the first things that need to be done are the JRB (Joint Review Board) and Comprehensive Plan. Huggins would like to see these done by the end of this year. The JRB should consist of two Council members, two citizens and two at large business owners. MSA and maybe Dave Keiser, if he has time. Huggins suggested himself and Alderman Strohecker possibly from the Council. Huggins will set up meetings.

Ed Mitchell, City Attorney presented resolutions for the Library Board. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to approve the Library resolution. All ayes. Motion carried. Mitchell received a letter of response from Foxes regarding the sink hole. Foxes will take care of this. No bids were received for the Valente building. Mitchell requested an executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Ordinance – Alderman Stern announced he will break out the fees and give to Mitchell for the next meeting. Dave's Place closing hours – Class C license allows selling until 2:00 AM Friday and Saturday and allows customers to consume until 2:30 AM on weekends. Acting Chief Bennett announced that he has not had any problems there.

Officer Currens announced that other towns require must be out at closing. Alderman Grant would like to see stopped at 2:00 AM. Mayor Barnes announced that they have to be out at 2:30 AM. Alderman Grant feels they stay around until 2:30 – 2:45. Sometimes 3:00 AM. Acting Chief Bennett announced that he has never issued a citation. No one else felt the need to change. Alderman Stern announced that the City's website is maintained by City staff. Must post minutes within seven days of approval. Alderman Stern reported that Alderman Huggins is gracious enough to do this. Stern inquired as to how other towns do this. Alderman Huggins announced that they hire it out. Stern then inquired what happens when Huggins is off the Council, then what? Alderman Huggins reported that he could train the Clerk to do. Beranek announced that MSA does websites for communities. If it is an elaborate site, it can add up. If kept simple, fairly inexpensive. Alderman Huggins offered that he could set up easily for the Clerk to upload minutes and agenda. Beranek announced that MSA set up Stockton's for \$3,500. Alderman Macomber inquired about the status of the Clyde Kent water line. Mitchell announced that Kent is willing to sell. Kent is ready to get rid of it. Willing to sell but does not know its worth. Alderman Macomber suggested drawing up something formally to purchase. Alderman Stern inquired as to the legal position on the line – privately owned. After a short discussion, it was agreed to offer \$100.

Les Guenzler, Maintenance Supervisor submitted a written report. Guenzler inquired about the status of the cell phone. Acting Chief Bennett announced that he cannot find the contract. Scott Sodergren is coming in Friday and will help find. No bids were received on the old van. Alderman Stern reported that during last night's storm the electric was off from 12:15 to 4:00 AM. All three Maintenance workers were out. Guenzler announced that this was good training for Johnson as well as a refresher course for Ferry. More limbs down and a big tree in alley – Dave Lotz. Tree hit Lotz's garage. Scott Burkholder approached Guenzler about low water pressure. Guenzler explained that Ralph Burkholder had wanted split years ago. Guenzler thinks it was split at Ralph's but did not know if went back to the main. May have to dig up to see. May need to dig up if not done properly. At this point, just guessing. Guenzler reported that City policy is if only one line across street, we correct. Guenzler will put on list. Alderman Huggins inquired about timeline of water looping. Guenzler reported that it was to be this week.

Acting Chief Bennett announced that he did not have a written report tonight as the storm took out one computer, slowed another and took out the answering machine. The time clock was out for awhile. Bennett called Chris Prowant to look at the computers. Bennett reported there were problems with the water heater which have not been repaired. Mayor Barnes inquired that Bennett's name was not on the list of applicants for Police Chief. Bennett announced that he was not interested.

Alderman Grant announced that the person parking on Claremont is parking there again. The Council had agreed to allow the tractor only. Alderman Grant will talk with them. Grant wants signs put up again. Trees were put up, cannot see, need to be trimmed back.

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

Alderman Stern inquired about Lisa Libbertons' proposal on the plaza – decision on hardscape. Several felt that the hardscape could wait – look at again next year. **Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Grant to wait on the hardscape for

now and look at again next year. All ayes. Motion carried. Libberton has requested water available at the plaza for watering. She has asked Mitchell. Mitchell's concern was that if there was a leak and backs up in his basement, that the City should be responsible. Mitchell explained that he keeps closed files in the basement – all papers. He wants an agreement if there is damage, the City would pay. Libberton had suggested giving a break in water bill. Alderman Grant feels this is a big liability for the City. Beranek explained that it could contaminate the water supply. Other members agreed – did not like the idea of hooking into Mitchell's line.

The Clerk announced a new business in town T & R Transmissions and Auto Repair. Does the Council want to give one year's free service? Council approved. The Clerk presented to Alderman Macomber, Finance Chair quote from D&L to put up the sign at City Hall. Quote is for \$800. The Clerk explained that this project is more than just hanging the sign. The sign lights up however, the sign must be completely removed when it comes time to change the light bulb. The back panel is the only access to the bulb. Scott Lindstrom of Scott's Electric and Duane Diehl both suggested not to light the sign at all – waste of money. The sign will be located over top of the current mail slot. Diehl recommended just adding a mail slot and box under the current drop box. **Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Macomber to have D&L put up the sign without electricity. All ayes. Motion carried. The Clerk suggested putting liens on three properties due to outstanding balance. The properties are vacant and for sale. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to put liens on properties as submitted by Clerk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Barnes reported that a bush has been pulled out at the plaza as well as several in the planters. Do we want to submit to the insurance? All seemed to agree not to turn into insurance. Mayor Barnes read a letter from Lanark Ag thanking the Council for the sale of the property at the park. ComEd is finding ways to help pay for rising costs – some brochures included. The Eastland Athletic Boosters are requesting donations for a golf outing. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant to donate \$100 in Chamber Bucks to Eastland Gold Outing. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Alderman Huggins, seconded by Alderman Macomber to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation and possible sale of real estate. All ayes. Motion carried.

Entered executive session at 9:20 PM.

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

Exited executive session at 10:05 PM.

Alderman Macomber recommended putting the Shumway building out for bids for demolition and debris removal. Include clause for ninety days completion after bid opening and right to reject any and all bids. When asked if there were any issues with the removal, Beranek asked if there was any asbestos involved. No as there is nothing left but a shell. Mitchell inquired once knocked down, filled with what? Discussed what to do with once filled. SELL! Alderman Macomber would like to open the bids on August

1<sup>st</sup> at the Council meeting. All seemed to agree to publish in the Sauk Valley Newspaper and Freeport Journal. **Motion** made by Alderman Macomber, seconded by Alderman Grant not to proceed with Phase 2 on the Hart building. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Alderman Grant, seconded by Alderman Macomber to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Hawbecker, City Clerk*