

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF CARROLL
CITY OF LANARK

July 21, 2026

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ROLL CALL-Lanark City Council met in regular session at the Lanark City Hall at 7 p.m. Roll call taken by Marilyn Heller, City Clerk, showed Alderpersons present were Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, Ethan Lartz and Justin Rausch. Alderpersons Mark Macomber and Brad Knutti were absent.

Mayor Jeri Rogan was present and presiding.

Others present were: Derek Humphrey with Midwest Disposal, Alex Stykel with Fehr Graham, Zoning Officer Doug Rominski, Maintenance Manager Jason Alvarado, Treasurer Deb Throop, Clerk Marilyn Heller, and Chief Troy Randall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- was led by Alderperson Jim Plock.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Jim Plock and seconded by Alderperson Justin Ruasch to accept the minutes of the July 7th, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion carried by 4 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Jim Plock, Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, and Mayor Jeri Rogan. Alderperson Ethan Lartz abstained and Alderpersons Mark Macomber and Brad Knutti were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Derek Humphrey, owner of Midwest Disposal, briefly introduced himself and noted that he had attended the previous meeting. He stated that since garbage services were on the agenda, he would step out of the meeting and remain available afterward to answer any questions from the council.

Bid Approvals for E. Pearl and School Dr. Project– Possible Action - The council reviewed bids for the East Pearl/School Drive project, with three bids received. The lowest bidder was Louis Trenching Services at **\$186,916.86**. Fehr Graham recommended the bid, noting the company had performed quality work on the downtown streetlight project and was expected to be available to begin work soon. **A Motin** was made by Alderperson Justin Rausch and seconded by Alderperson Alisha Metz to approved awarding the East Pearl/School Drive project contract to Louis Trenching Services for **\$186,916.86**. Motion carried by 4 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, and Ethan Lartz. Alderpersons Mark Macomber and Brad Knutti were absent.

SURF Internet – Possible Action - The council received an update on the SURF fiber project following a successful pre-construction meeting. Construction is expected to begin the following week with installation of the hub pad, followed by work progressing outward from the hub. SURF will begin a public information campaign, including yard signs, and agreed to

clean up flags and restore disturbed areas as work is completed. The project is estimated to take approximately five months, with completion anticipated in November or December, weather permitting.

Garbage Contract Bids – Possible Action The council discussed developing a public survey to gather resident input on the city's next garbage service contract. Members debated the best way to distribute and collect responses, including through the city website, social media, paper surveys mailed with utility bills, and possible unique codes to ensure only residents participate. They also considered whether residents should rank multiple service options rather than select a single choice and agreed the survey should clearly present service levels and costs before being finalized. The discussion also covered contract features such as recycling frequency, bulk cleanup days, yard waste services, and whether the city should continue subsidizing garbage collection. Council members emphasized the importance of comparing providers fairly and decided to continue refining the survey and contract options at a committee meeting before presenting a final version for public input.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS-POSSIBLE ACTION- – Public Relations/

Communication/ Parks and Rec. – Alderperson Alisha - the city website was nearing completion and, pending final confirmation, could be launched soon. An update was also provided on the park project, excavation work has been completed. **Streets and Property** – Alderperson Ethan Lartz - shared concerns raised by a resident about deteriorating sidewalks on the east side of town. Council members discussed the condition and history of the sidewalks, noting that some areas never received sidewalks, curb, and gutter improvements because they were optional when the homes were originally built. The council agreed the matter warrants further discussion and consideration. Alderperson Ethan also gave updates on upcoming infrastructure projects. The School/Pearl Street project has been approved, and work on the park and parking lot improvements is expected to begin in early August, starting with curb, gutter, and storm sewer work near the park. Additionally, Heritage Center painting is scheduled to begin the following week. He discussed proposed signage for the Heritage Center, with some expressing concerns that the current design does not fit the building's historic character. Alternative signage concepts and branding ideas will be explored before a final decision is made. The mayor also noted an upcoming meeting to discuss marketing, paint schemes, and future uses of the Heritage Center facility. Meeting will be July 28th at 5:30pm. **Personnel Committee** – Alderperson Justin Ruasch - provided an update on the city's employee health insurance, noting that they are exploring alternative insurance options that could provide comparable coverage while reducing costs for both the city and employees, particularly those with family coverage. However, due to upcoming renewal deadlines, the city may need to renew the current plan while continuing to evaluate other options. He expects to discuss the matter further at its upcoming meeting.

REPORTS-EMPLOYEES, ZONING/CODE OFFICER, ATTORNEY, CLERK, TREASURER,

ALDERPERSONS AND MAYOR – Maintenance Manager Jason Alvarado - reported that crews continue to perform hot patching throughout the city. He also provided an update on the Heritage Center tuckpointing project, stating that work is expected to be completed by the middle of the following week. Council members briefly discussed how contractors were accessing the building's peak to complete the work, noting that the contractor was responsible for their own safety methods. **Police Chief Randall** - reported positive news that Officer Plum who has been off work is expected to return in approximately two to three weeks, pending continued progress with rehabilitation and recovery. **Code Enforcement Officer Doug Rominski** - reported that an inspection of 302 N. Broad Street revealed severe health and safety concerns, including extensive toxic mold, structural deterioration, peeling paint, and suspected asbestos insulation. The property owner was directed to either fully remediate the building and provide professional certifications that it is structurally sound and free of mold or demolish the building, with a deadline of August 30 to begin corrective action. The owner has been cooperative thus far, and another property they own at 647 N. Broad Street with a collapsing basement wall is also being addressed. The officer also provided updates on other enforcement cases. At East Lanark Avenue, one property owner complied with the requirement to fill in a pond but has not yet removed rabbit hutches as directed. The issue will be revisited after the city attorney returns from vacation. On West Lanark Avenue, no new complaints have been received regarding the previously reported barking dog, and the property has remained in compliance. City Clerk Marilyn Heller - confirmed she is currently planning for four attendees for the IML conference: herself, Jerry, Ethan, and Jason, with the conference dates being September 17–19. The group also discussed the increasing number and complexity of FOIA requests being received, noting that requests have become time-consuming and are creating a significant administrative burden. Marilyn shared that she has already received over 25 requests this month and will be attending training with Troy on how to better handle the growing issue. **Treasurer Deb Throop** - discussed returning to the regular process of reviewing and approving monthly financial reports at the second meeting of each month. Financial reports will be provided to council members by email once they are available, allowing adequate time for review before meetings. Deb noted that the reports were delayed this time due to the transition of the library and cemetery accounts, but moving forward they will be provided monthly once account information is received. She also discussed the first pay application for the street restoration project with O'Brien Civil Works, noting that some restoration work remains to be completed in the fall and that retainage is being held until the work is finalized. **A Motion** was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to approve the first pay application for O'Brien Civil Works in the amount of \$102,094.20 for the street restoration project, with payment issuance pending direction from Attorney Zeto regarding whether the City or the surety company will issue the payment. Motion carried by 4 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Ethan Lartz, Justin Rausch, Alisha Metz, and Jim Plock. Alderpersons Mark Macomber and Brad Knutti were absent.

A Motion was made by Alderpersons Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Jim Plock to approve the financial reports for April, May, and June 2026 as presented. Motion carried by 4 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Ethan Lartz, Jim Plock, Justin Rausch, and Alisha Metz. Alderpersons Mark Macomber and Brad Knutti were absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, REAL ESTATE, PROBABLE OR PENDING LITIGATION-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Justin Ruasch and seconded by Alderperson Alisha Metz to convene in Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. in order to discuss personnel and litigation. Motion carried by 4 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Alisha Metz, Jim Plock, Justin Rausch, and Ethan Lartz. Alderpersons Mark Macomber and Brad Knutti were absent.

REGULAR SESSION-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Justin Ruasch to reconvene into regular session at 9:02 p.m. Motion carried by 4 aye votes. Aye votes; Alderpersons Ethan Lartz, Justin Rausch, Jim Plock, and Alisha Metz. Alderpersons Mark Macomber and Brad Knutti were absent.

ADJOURNMENT-MOTION-was made by Alderperson Ethan Lartz and seconded by Alderperson Justin Rausch to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried by 4 voiced aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Heller, City Clerk