

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2024

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on November 14, 2024 at 7:02 p.m. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

All Present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and had Opening Prayer

Mr. William Garner	Absent
Mr. Don Gephart	Present
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hill to excuse Mr. Garner from the meeting.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Hopkins to approve the agenda.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Public Comment - James Constable 135 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester – Wanted to address the appropriations that are due by the end of the year, and wanted to give suggestions on what to spend money on. He is suggesting with the new income tax for the Police Dept. the general fund will have an additional \$500,000 and he would like to see that money spent on giving the Police Department \$100,000, spend \$100,000 to hire a Village Administrator. Would like to see the village allocate \$50,000 for a new Zoning Officer, \$50,000 for a Safety Director, \$50,000 to repair sidewalks, and that all interest received be given to the BPA.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the Minutes from the October 24, November 4, and November 8, all of 2024.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the Bills and Reallocations from the October 24, 2024.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Nothing to Report

Safety & Service – Nothing to Report

Cemetery – Had a big limb come down, Lakeside will be cleaning it up at a cost of \$2,300.00

Old Business

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to move forward with Crossroots to put together a Logo for the Village of Blanchester from the winners of the Logo contest for the cost of \$650.00

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Ordinance 2016.020 titled Ordinance Establishing various fees for Zoning Certificates was brought forth for updating the cost of the street cuts. It was recommended to increase this cost to be based on the square footage of the cut with a minimum of \$500.

Item 13, violation of a zoning permit ordinance be moved 1st offense be \$100 and a second offense \$200.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to move forward to allow the solicitor to proceed with updating this Ordinance.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

New Business

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to Report

Parks – Boo Bash was a success, and the next event is Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 7th. The tree lighting ceremony and the parade will also be on Dec. 7th.

Police – The Chief went over the monthly report. Increased enforcement of violations due to complaints. Grant was submitted for body worn cameras. The chief is looking to get 8 body cameras with this grant. Trick or treat was successful, had drug take back day at Kroger, had search and rescue in for training, sent officers to additional training. No shave November is in effect and all funds received will be going to the Glen Thomas Memorial Fund. The Police Department will be adopting a family this Christmas. This is funded solely by the individuals in the police department.

Street – Paul recommended his two employees receive step raises.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve a one-step raise for both Jude Huston, taking him from step A to step B and remove him from probation, and for Josh Allen, taking him from step B to step C

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

BPA – Nothing to report

Zoning – Nothing to report

Fiscal – The fiscal officer reported on the collection from RITA, and reported that we have so far this year collected \$118,629.81

Mayor – The mayor reminded everyone we have a public meeting set for December 12, 2024 at 6:45 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to go into executive session at 7:46 PM per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Council, Mayor, Solicitor, Fiscal Officer, and Paul Dainels were invited.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to return from executive session at 7:59 PM.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Action Taken: No action taken

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks that the meeting be adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Approved: 12-12-24

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina Johnson