

April 28, 2022
Regular Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Meeting in Council Chambers

Harry Brumbaugh, William Garner, Don Gephart, Reilly Hopkins, Tyler McCollister and Josh Parks were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was presented to Council.

PARKS/MCCOLLISTER: Motion to approve the agenda. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from April 14, 2022 and April 21, 2022 were presented to Council.

PARKS/MCCOLLISTER: Motion to approve minutes. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS & REALLOCATIONS

BRUMBAUGH/MCCOLLISTER: Motion to approve bills and reallocations. All voted yea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mr. Gephart reported a regular finance committee meeting was held on April 14, 2022. The committee discussed solid waste and requiring direct deposits for employees. A special finance committee meeting was held at 5:45 p.m. on April 21, 2022. Discussion included creating a new position for an administrative assistant/records clerk for the police department that would also assist as backup for the front desk and cemetery records. Also discussed was an audit of the evidence room in the police department, and increasing the police shift differential rate from \$.25 per hour to \$1.00 per hour. The committee recommends to council the approval of the new position and the shift differential increase.

Safety & Service Committee

Mr. McCollister reported the committee discussed signs to be placed in crosswalks and the replacement of bulbs in the traffic lights.

NEW BUSINESS

Five resolutions were introduced, 4 of which pertained to the federal funding received by the village. Mr. Sollmann explained that though the expenditures were previously approved by council, it is recommended that a resolution for each project with the dollar amounts be approved.

Resolution 2022.010 – Adoption of Standard Allowance: ARPA, Fire Hydrants
MCCOLLISTER/PARKS: Motion to approve resolution. All voted yea.

Resolution 2022.011 – ARPA, Water Meters
HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to approve resolution. All voted yea.

Resolution 2022.012 – ARPA, Skid Steer
GEPHART/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to approve resolution. All voted yea.

Resolution 2022.013 – ARPA, E. Fancy Street Engineering Costs
PARKS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to approve resolution. All voted yea.

Resolution 2022.014 – Supplemental Appropriations for Cemetery – Mrs. May reported that a check had been received from IOOF for approximately \$7000.00. However, those proceeds must be added to an amended certificate and approved by the county budget commission prior to appropriation and spending. Therefore, the appropriations are from the General Fund.

PARKS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to approve resolution. All voted yea.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sollmann indicated he had nothing to report. Councilman Hopkins asked about the progress with Ken Geise and TIFs. Mr. Sollman reiterated that specific parcel numbers of property were needed to present examples. Council discussed various locations for consideration.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Parks – Mr. Lee reported the Easter Egg Hunt was a success. The first party in the park at Dewy Park with a live band and food trucks is scheduled for May 20, 2022.

Police – Chief Houghton thanked everyone for the successful fundraiser.

Street – None

Zoning – Mayor Carman reported there are still some things being worked on. There is a Dollar General store coming to the edge of Blanchester outside the corporation limit. The mayor spoke with UDF. They are still working on clean up. The timeline for Taco Bell is this fall.

Fiscal – Mrs. May thanked council for passing the resolutions. Mr. Gephart mentioned the issue with outstanding checks. Mrs. May explained that there are over 5 years of outstanding checks that need to be cleaned up. The goal is to keep current with outstanding checks so that eventually, there will be no unclaimed funds.

Mayor – Mayor Carman shared the following:

- Making Friends Award & Certificate of Appreciation to Blanchester Municipality from the Girl Scouts
- A Proclamation for National Police Week – May 11 – 17, 2022
- A Proclamation for Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1) IMPA Rate Freeze – Mr. Parks stated concerns over electric rates being increased and suggested IMPA be asked to freeze rates. Mayor Carman explained that IMPA is non-profit and passes on decreases as well as increases. Mr. Gephart mentioned interest by IMPA regarding solar panels that would decrease rates. Mr. Hopkins pointed out that when costs for Duke Energy increase, it is automatically passed on to consumers. When IMPA rates decreased, the BPA passed that along to residents and had increased rates for 5 years. Donna Johnson, BPA employee stated that IMPA had increased rates the past 2 years and those increases were absorbed by BPA. For 2022, there was another increase and rates to residents were increased by 1.825%.
- 2) Sidewalk Grant – Mr. Parks suggested providing an incentive to residents to repair sidewalks. Discussion followed regarding how to address repair of sidewalks and how to handle the process. Mr. Sollmann offered to provide examples of resolutions, statutory requirements and processes of how other municipalities have addressed the issue. Also discussed were obtaining bids and the damage done by trees to sidewalks.

Executive Session

MCCOLLISTER/HOPKINS: Motion to recess to executive session to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee or official pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22 (G)(1), for the Police Department. The mayor invited Council, the solicitor, Chief Houghton and the Fiscal Officer. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Council recessed to executive session at 8:13 p.m. Roll call was made. Council resumed at 8:50 p.m.

HOPKINS/MCCOLLISTER: Motion to approve Mayor Carman's recommendation of the Village Employee Payscale. All voted yea.

PARKS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to authorize Chief Houghton to move Kristen Jeffers to After 5 years step on the Detective pay scale. All voted yea.

GEPHART/HOPKINS: Motion to increase shift differential rate from \$.25 to \$1.00 per hour for the police department. All voted yea.

PARKS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to create a new Administrative Assistant/Records Clerk position at Step D for the police department. All voted yea.

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PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Approved: May 12, 2022

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Theresa A. May