

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 11, 2025

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on December 11, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

Mrs. Marie Brooker	Present
Mr. William Garner	Absent
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to excuse Mr. Garner.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to add the swearing in of new council members to agenda and to then approve the agenda.

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

Motion Passed

The swearing in of all new council for 2026 was sworn in. New members serving in 2026 was Reilly Hopkins, Lynn Lewis, Josh Parks and Grant Coffman.

Public Comment

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester, OH wanted to discuss Mr. Bowling comments during the last regular council meeting where Mr. Bowling discussed electric rates. He wants the \$21 service charge dissolved. Mr. Constable also gave his thoughts on the budget.

Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the minutes from November 13, 2025

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

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the Bills/Reallocations from December 11, 2025.

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

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Hopkins recommended to council that they approve the new Police Rate increase for the Police Department.

It was moved by Mrs. Brooker and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the New 3% Pay scale increase for the Police Department.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to approve the step raise to the Police Chief.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the withholding of the last 2 (two) health payments from employees who receive benefits. This is due to the savings we received from our insurance this year.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brooker, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis
Nay – Mr. Parks
Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Mr. Parks and Ms. Brooker discussed the sidewalks and making a sidewalk committee. They discussed the lights at the smoke shop by the “S” curve at the edge of town.

These lights they feel are a hazard. They also discussed the dead tree on Columbus St. They will be taking it down.

Cemetery –The Cemetery Board said Kiley Trees are removing 3 (three) trees that had to be taken down.

Old Business

New Business

Mr. Reilly also stated that Finance Committee agreed on the Temporary Appropriations with the statement that anything over \$10,000 in capital outlay that is not an emergency be submitted to council for approval prior to purchase

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis that Ordinance 2025.024 – An Ordinance for the Temporary Appropriations be passed as an emergency.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill that Resolution 2025.025 – A Resolution to Adopt a new Cyber Security Policy be passed as an emergency.

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

Motion Passed

Discussion Item

Creating a sidewalk committee was tabled until all new council members were present.

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor received a message from the Ohio Auditor stating we need a new Credit Card policy. You cannot use your own personal credit card for the Village and it be tax exempt. The only way it is tax exempt is if the Village Card is used.

Parks – No comment

Police – The Chief reviewed the Police activity report that was given to everyone. Training done for places of worship.

Street – Nothing

BPA – James Bowling reported that their first meeting would be on Thursday the 15th at 6:30.

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt thanked the volunteers he had with painting of the hallways. The hallways are almost complete.

Fiscal Officer – Regina Johnson reported that the audit is still in progress, but hopefully coming to an end soon.

Mayor – The mayor stated we will have a Public Hearing at 6:15 pm prior to our Regular meeting on 12/29 at 6:15. He then addressed comments made by Councilman Parks on social media. He discussed how this type of social media is tearing our community apart instead of bringing the town together. The mayor stated social media is not how we should be handling our business, Mr. Parks has been asked previously to stop this type of activity, but it continued.

Executive Session

1. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of items under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 G1 – 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 of official.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to enter Executive Session at 7:20pm.

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

Motion Passed

Present in Executive Session: Mayor Carman, Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins. Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks, Solicitor and Paul Daniels.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to return to regular Council meeting from Executive Session at 7:34 pm.

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

Motion Passed

It was decided that Paul Daniels would transfer to the electric department.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Brooker that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 12/29/2025

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Regina Johnson