

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
February 12, 2026

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session and held a regular meeting on February 12, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

Mrs. Marie Brooker	Present
Mr. Grant Coffman	Present
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

**Agenda**

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Guest Speaker** – Thomas Breckel – Clinton Co. EMA director spoke about adopting the Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He reviewed the entire plan.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve Resolution 2026.003, A Resolution Approving the Adoption of the Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan, November 2025.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Minutes**

It was moved by Mrs. Brooker and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the minutes from January, 22 2026.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Approval of Bills and Reallocations**

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the Bills/Reallocations from February 12, 2026.

Vote:    Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Nay – None

**Motion Passed**

**Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Hopkins had nothing to discuss the Police Department getting a second grant for the body cameras, talked about Mr. Coffman would like to see a forecast for projects coming up. Mr. Hopkins stated he will work with the mayor on this. No new update on the audit. Approval was given to the Fiscal Officer to attend LGOC training in March in Columbus Ohio. He discussed that the finance committee discussed the proposed sewer rate increase, and the finance committee decided to send it to council for approval with the change that the effective date be moved to Oct. 1, 2026. Lastly, they discussed allowing the mayor to look into the license tax so the Village could possibly get an additional \$5 per vehicle.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve Ordinance 2026.004, An Ordinance Adjusting the Sewer Rates.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Safety & Service** – Mrs. Brooker had her first meeting discussed old business first which was the tree on Columbus Street, the lights at the smoke shop (citation by Warren Co was issued), sidewalk committee was formed. New business they discussed tornado sirens, and one which is needed at the school, storm drains were also discussed because there are a few that are too low. They discussed having a crosswalk at Chubbys pizza, then discussed fawn lane flooding issues. Chris with zoning is trying to help with some of the issues.

The mayor discussed the grant he applied for through Vallee Fund for new tornado sirens. He applied for \$60,000 and received \$20,000. He is working to get a couple donations so that we could at least purchase 1 tornado siren at this time which they would put at the school bus barn. He would like approval to move forward with the grant.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve Resolution 2026.005, A Resolution Establishing New Fund 2912 Vallee Fund – Tornado Siren

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

**Motion Passed**

**Cemetery** –Nothing to report.

**Old Business**

The Solicitor discussed his research on having Townhall Meetings. Said they need to be done with a quorum and minutes do not need to be taken. Be sure all meetings are disclosed at the first meeting. It was still being discussed if an Agenda with topics would need to be published. Timing of how long a person could talk was also discussed.

The mayor discussed the effect of Data Centers in our area and brought to Councils' attention an online webinar that were going to discuss them and recommended council attend. It is February 18, 2026 from 11:00 am to Noon.

### **New Business**

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026.006, An Ordinance Amending Speed Limits throughout the Village.

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

### **Motion Passed**

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026.007, An Ordinance Imposing a Moratorium on Data Centers.

A discussion followed about annexing properties into the village. You can't pick and choose which properties to annex and the land owner would have to agree to be annexed in.

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

### **Motion Passed**

### **Department Reports**

**Solicitor** – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

**Parks** – The Parks Dept. reported that their next event was the Valentines Dance for those in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or younger. The Dance will be held on February 14, 2026 from 6-9.

**Police** – The Chief discussed his 2025 year in review. The report can be found online for those wanting to review it thoroughly.

**Street** – Russ Kidd discussed getting a wood chipper for the street department, working on getting a grant to purchase new portable traffic signs to help with traffic control while doing street work, water work etc. All departments are willing to help fund any local match.

**BPA** – James Bowling reported that the landlord sub committee was meeting one final time. They will let council know the outcome after the final meeting. He also clarified that some of our service does go beyond the village corporation line, but if we have facilities in our territory the resident does have to hook up to them. We do not have capacity in the electric infrastructure to support a Data Center.

**Zoning/Maintenance** – Chris Hilderbrandt nothing to report.

**Fiscal Officer** – Regina Johnson had nothing to report.

**Mayor** – Mr. Hopkins asked the mayor about annexing again. One of the big reasons, the mayor discussed, was annexation is not always beneficial because we have to take over the maintenance of any roads in that annexation. To start annexing does not seem beneficial with the number of

roads we would have to take responsibility for. Mr. Hopkins believes we should annex anything that we can to help with future growth of the village. Mr. Coffman would like to see properties outside the limits who have BPA service be annexed in if they want to, so they could have a voice about what goes on in the Village. The mayor stressed that it is important to remember you can only annex property that is contiguous to the corporation limits, you cannot skip areas. The discussion was tabled at this time.

**Discussion Item**

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 2/26/26

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina Johnson