

Police Department

Fiscal Officer

Street Department



Parks & Recreation

Zoning Department

John M Carman, Mayor

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2023**

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on January 26, 2023 at 7:08 p.m. with the honorable Mr. John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

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

Roll Call	Mr. Harry Brumbaugh	Present
	Mr. William Garner	Absent
	Mr. Don Gephart	Absent
	Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
	Mr. Tyler McCollister	Present
	Mr. Josh Parks	Present

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

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart

Motion Passed

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve agenda.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart

Motion Passed

Public Comment

James Constable – Gave a handout of a portion of the Appropriations for 2023 commenting that only a portion of the appropriations were discussed at a previous meeting and he felt that since only approximately just over \$1,500,000 of the appropriations were discussed the remainder of the appropriated funds should be discussed. Mr. Constable commended on an employee receiving a 4.25% raise this year in his contract bringing his salary up to \$192,837.00 this year.

Also, if 1% Income tax increase was passed that employee would be paid an additional 1% pay each year. No other employee in this Village receives that kind of pay and asked where the money comes from. Council is going to ask for an \$450,000 Income tax for the Police and you are saying that they want to give a 3% raise to all departments and 5% to the Police Department, a 100% pay increase to Council and a 70% increase for Mayor. One Part time employee was moved to full time, and there is a new position in the Police Department. Mayor commented that the raise for Council was done in 2021 the change we are proposing it to take away the \$30,000 for Mayor.

Janelle Fatheree – Discussing the issue of cars parking along East Main Street from the 300 block from 301 to 309 blocking sight for residence who cannot see cars coming from North High Street. The loss of vision makes backing out of driveway difficult and dangerous. She was asking about the possibility of adding no parking signs in that area.

Guest Speaker

Phil Blankenship – Health Insurance Summary

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve minutes from the January 26, 2023, meeting.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve Bills and Reallocations.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Previously the Finance committee had recommended that Cyndi Vonderhaar be moved to Step D on the Fiscal Officer pay scale but no action was taken at that time, so it was brought back to council for a vote.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve moving Cyndi Vonderhaar to Step D on the Fiscal Officer pay scale.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – A suggestion was brought to the committee regarding the possibility of purchasing solar crosswalks for the Village. After discussion of the cost of the crosswalk, Mr. Daniels brought attention to the fact he had previously purchased new crosswalk signs to be installed. After reviewing the pictures of the signs that were purchased, and some additional discussion, it was decided that the village would use the signs that were already purchased and see how they work rather than purchasing the overly expensive solar crosswalk signs.

Cemetery – Nothing new to report at this time.

Old Business

1. Ordinance 2022.033 Amended Mayor/Council Salary Ordinance (Final Reading)

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve Ordinance 2022.033.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart

Motion Passed

New Business

1. New Cleaning Service for building and Police Department.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the hiring of a new cleaning service for the building and the Police Department.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to report.

Parks – Nothing to report.

Police – Chief stated \$149,000 worth of grants had been awarded to the Police Department in 2022. The Chief was also presented with the 4C award on January 25 for Government Service.

Street – Purchasing Brine to use on the roads along with the salt. A large holding tank has been purchased to store the brine in as well as tanks for the trucks. One truck is having the tank installed now and the other truck will be sent to have the tank installed as soon as the first one returns. The brine mixed with the salt will work better in colder weather to help with the roads. Mr. Daniels also discussed the crosswalk signs again showing Council what they look like and where they will be.

Zoning – Nothing to report.

Fiscal – Fiscal Officer reported all reports and documents needed by the Auditor’s office had been turned in, as well as all W-2 and 1099’s had been distributed.

Mayor – Nothing to report

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Legacy Grant – We are looking into the possibility of applying for a Legacy Grant, application date needs confirmed. This needs to be a joint effort with the Parks and Village to work to add to the possible Legacy Grant to help will repairs to the Gym. Looking to confirm the date for application, checking to see if we will have to pay to have the application written. Reilly will write the letter of intent that will need to be turned in before March 1, 2023.

Income Ordinance for the Police – After discussion regarding placing the Income Ordinance for the Police back on the ballot in the spring the Mayor provided the Council with information from the Board of Elections stating that if we were to put the Ordinance back on in the Spring we would have to pay the majority of the cost up to possibly as much as \$10,000. The Spring election does not have as many issues on it so there would be no one to split the cost with. It would be cheaper if we waited until Fall to place the Ordinance back on the ballot.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart

Motion Passed

Approved: March 9, 2023

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Cynthia J. Vonderhaar