

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 13, 2023

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on July 13, 2023, at 7:07 p.m. with the honorable Mayor John Carman, presiding.

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

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

Agenda

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

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

Motion Passed

Public Comment

James Constable – Mr. Constable stated that he was told that he could not submit a verbal public records request to the BPA. He also stated that he has been submitting requests for quite a long time and that he does not have to put them in writing. He said that he was told that the BPA was a separate entity and he does not think that is correct since the council votes on the BPA hiring and raises. Mr. Constable had some lingering questions regarding the pay scale but was told he would receive the answers to those at a later time.

Guest Speaker

Phil Blankenship – Health Insurance
Sherry Arnold - EBS

Ordinance No. 2023.008 – Resolution Renewing the Contract with Employee Benefit Service Center as the Village of Blanchester’s Third-Party Administrator

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve Ordinance No. 2023.008

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

Motion Passed

It was motioned by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister for the Council to give the Mayor permission to sign the Stop Loss Disclosure Form from CERTUS.

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

Motion Passed

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Brumbaugh and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve minutes from the June 8, 2023 regular meeting.

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

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve the current Bills and Reallocations with the correction of the \$200 dollar bill from Wildcat Port A Let moved from the Street Dept to the Parks Dept.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins
Nay – Mr. Parks
Abstain - Mr. McCollister

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – The committee discussed the meeting that Mr. Gephart and Mr. McCollister had at First National Bank concerning our account. During the Meeting the President of First National Bank spoke and explained the offer of a higher interest rate on our sweep account if we leave them there, a rate that would get us closer to what Star Ohio is offering. As the CD's come to term we will give the first option to First Financial to renew the CD at an increased rate if not we have the option to take the money to Star Bank or some other entity that will pay a higher rate. The Committee then discussed 3 different options for what the Village could do to try to increase the interest rates and make more money from our current funds. The Finance Committee discussed all options and voted to go with Option number 3, which for now would leave our funds at First National Bank with a new interest rate. So, the committee suggested to Council to vote on Option 3 and to have the Fiscal Officer to go to the bank and sign the new paperwork for our account.

It was moved by Mr. McCollister and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve Option 3 leaving the Village funds at First National Bank, pending the increase in interest rate, and giving the Fiscal Officer approval to complete the paperwork with the bank.

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

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Mr. Parks stated that there was a June 13 special meeting due to a couple areas of concern. Cross walks are needed at Cherry St. from BP to the School, at Broadway and Bourbon St. at the handicap ramp, and at Cherry and CVS. Yellow curbs need repainted and made the correct size. The committee asked that no parking signs be placed on residential side streets at yellow curbs. The committee thinks that there needs to be a 4 way stop at Center and Supinger. The Street Department stated that they have sat and observed that intersection and does not feel that is needed. The council stated that they think a professional study needs to be done for the intersections, and we need additional information regarding the crosswalks due to no sidewalks at the locations. Items were tabled for now until additional information can be gathered.

Cemetery – Some complaints about the way the Cemetery looked but the mowers have been in and it has been cleaned up

Old Business

New Business

Ordinance No. 2023.007 – Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 90.017, Titled “Zoning Ordinance of Blanchester”, “An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 90.002 (Zoning Ordinance), Article VI (Special Provisions), Section 625 (Fences, etc.), Pertaining to Height of Fences”

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve Ordinance No. 2023.007.

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

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to Report

Parks – July 21st is the next Party in the Park. The Parks Dept has started splash days on Thursdays they are renting some inflatables with water they are planning on doing it for a couple more weeks hoping to be able to do this again next summer.

Police – Chief gave a detailed report of all activities of the Police Department listing all of the different calls that the officers have answered. Chief also informed the Council of all the Community Service events that the Officers are trying attend and participate in to be involved with the citizens. The Police are constantly looking for new ways to be able to serve the community in the best ways possible.

Street – Since the Middle of March the Street Dept. has been working with only 3 people, and one of those people just gave their notice. Paul will be starting interviews soon for one full time and one part time employee.

Zoning – The Zoning committee met but they need to discuss items with the Solicitor before discussing these items farther. The committee had questions regarding burning in the village.

The suggestion was made to discuss this issue with the Fire Chief. There was also discussion regarding the cost and legal action options available to the Village regarding burnt structures or destroyed property clean up. Taco Bell has broken ground!

Fiscal – Freshbenies will be active August 1st and information for sign up will be going out with the August 3rd paystubs to employees.

Mayor – Updated Council on the Referendum against the Income Tax Ordinance, the needed amount of signatures was confirmed. So now the Income Tax will be put on the Ballot in November, and all of the Council needs to help and get behind this to help it pass. The Mayor discussed the remodel of the men’s bathroom and whether or not the bathroom was originally proposed as ADA compliant. After a lengthy conversation discussing a walk through that took place comparing the bathroom remodel to ADA specifications it was decided that the bathroom has some issues and does not meet ADA compliance. After discussing the issues in the bathroom it was decided that the bathroom was never planned as ADA compliant, and no drawings were submitted so the County will not come to the Village and inspect the work. The drain in the floor is too high and the water does not go to the drain. Questions were raised about the correction of the drain before we pay for the remainder of the work on the bathroom. The final decision was made to pay the contractors, but we want the drain corrected.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to pay the remainder owed to the contractor as soon as possible.

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

Motion Passed

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to move into Executive Session at 9:19 pm

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

Motion Passed

Present in the Executive Session was Mayor Carman, Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks, Chief Houghton and Jim Barbieri, Solicitor.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to end the Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 9:50 pm

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

Motion Passed

The following actions were taken following executive session,

Item 1. To consider the demotion of a public employee or official pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22 (G)(1) – **NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Item 2. To consider the appointment of a public employee or official pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22 (G)(1), for the Police department/position.

It was moved by Mr. McCollister and seconded by Mr. Gephart to hire Andrea Ostrowski as prosecutor for Police department effective July 14, 2023, and allow the mayor to sign the contract.

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

Motion Passed

Item 3. To consider the appointment of a public employee or official pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22 (G)(1), for the BPA department/position.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve step raises per the memo from the BPA.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister
Nay – Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister that the meeting be adjourned at 9:52 pm.

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

Approved: 8/10/2023

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Cynthia Vanderhaar

