

Regular Council Meeting  
07/12/2018  
7:00 PM  
Municipal Building

Gary Bauer, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, Reilly Hopkins, and Cindy Sutton were present. Mayor presided over the meeting.

**BAUER/HOLLON: Motion to excuse Lori Byrom from meeting. All voted yea.**

Mayor stated there were a couple of items he wanted to add to the agenda. Council agreed by common consent.

**HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to adopt revised agenda. All voted yea.**

Minutes from 6/14/18 were presented to Council. Chad requested the word “should” replace the word “could” on the drafted first page 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph to the last.

**HOLLON/GEPHART: Motion to approve minutes from 6/14/18 with recommended change. All voted yea.**

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Bills were presented to Council.

**HOLLON/SUTTON: Motion to approve bills as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Mayor introduced Mike Chambers, Utility Service Partners, Inc., who spoke on National League of Cities Service Line Program. Mike explained that many entities pursue his services due to aging infrastructures. He stated that many people believe that all sewer/water lines are covered by the Village, when some are to be repaired at the cost of the resident. It was explained this is a fully turnkey system at no cost for the Village to participate. Services would help the enrolled residents cover repair costs for broken and/or leaky lines on their property. He stated that all work is done by local contractors to ensure costs stay down and repair work is up to code. Cost for resident is \$5.75/water line/month. Sewer line coverage would be ~\$7.00/month. Mayor inquired about emergency services and if there would be an increased cost in an emergency. Mike Chambers confirmed there would be no additional cost incurred. He requested the Village Council would need to approve the company letter to be sent out to residents allowing participation if desired. There would be a 30-day waiting period to prevent those wanting to join the coverage solely for an existing repair cost. Discussion took place regarding specifics of the plan. Cindy stated she had seen some things in the local news regarding lead pipes. Mike declared lead lines are a full replacement cost. There would be no discount for paying the full annual bill.

**BAUER/GEPHART: Motion to allow Mike Chambers to draft a letter for Council review for the Village to allow residential participation in the National League of Cities Service Line program. All voted yea.**

Dan Mayo, Modern Woodmen health insurance broker, spoke on health insurance. He stated that Cindy had contacted him a few weeks prior regarding looking at different options for health insurance and said he is the representative for Clinton County and Chester Township insurances. He stated that in order to look at options, the Village needed to go ahead and renew their current insurance first. He stated he would love to work with our group. He couldn't present firm accurate numbers until the renewal takes place as he bases his quotes on the renewal rates. He recommended possibly running the renewal for one month. Discussion took place as to bidding process with health insurance.

Phil Blankenship, Employee Benefit Services (Avalon) broker, was present to answer Council's impending questions. Mayor briefed Council on the options that Phil had presented at the special finance committee meeting the night previous. Reilly inquired about possibly changing the employees' deductible amounts and if that would cause the Village to lose grandfather status. Phil was unsure of the exact amounts that could be changed before officially losing grandfather status. Lengthy discussion took place regarding not changing the employee's portions of the premiums and retention of employees. Cindy announced Council members owe it to the public to shop with other brokers. Ram alleged insurance proposals should be reviewed in a closed meeting. Phil stated that his compensation from a fully insured plan would be less than the self-funded plan, but if that's what's best for the Village, then that's what should be done.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Cindy gave special finance meeting report from 7/11/18 and the Planning/Zoning Committee Meeting. Planning Committee's recommendation to Council was to hire Jeff Hurst at Step A effective immediately contingent upon passing drug check and background check. It was decided to table decision until all Council members had the opportunity to review Mr. Hurst's resume.

Cindy asked if all Council members had received May and June's monthly financial reports. All confirmed they had reviewed them.

Mayor brought up the subject of parade ordinance permit applications. Chief stated he had reviewed 3 other applications for parade permits and had formed the drafted application. The application would apply fees for all parades outside of the 3 Village parades that were grandfathered into the ordinance. The application would also be attached to Ordinance 2018.018 as Exhibit A.

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to use proposed draft as the standard application for parade permits. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2018.024 was reintroduced to Council. Wayne stated there was a new owner that has a parking space that needed notification. Chad explained the owner had contacted him with concerns about this parking spot. Mayor stated they would still be able to park in the parking lot; the parking lot would be expanded. There will still be a walkway with pedestrian access, but not motor vehicle access. All agreed to table ordinance until next meeting. John Hill stated he would talk to the owner.

Resolution 2018.027 was introduced to Council. It was noted the deadline for Resolution 2018.008 for the advance repayment from Sewer to General Fund was in need of revision.

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adopt Resolution 2018.027, Amending and Repealing Resolution 2018.008. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Ordinance 2018.021 was reintroduced to Council. Don noted the Village must be able to meet future problems with positive actions and gave a detailed report of cash balances and those serving as elected officials during previous attempts to pass earnings tax. He stated that the police department is in need of funding and is operating on a limited staff and aging equipment. Mayor pointed out general fund revenue has been decreasing steadily and the Village needs revenue to allow the police department to operate as normal. Ram stated that the electric department had hoped to build funds in order to upgrade the infrastructure. The recent years have been dedicated to upgrading the sewer and water departments. A resident stated that he was going to give Council a history lesson to which the Mayor called point of order and reminded everyone there would be a public comment time at the end of the meeting. Mayor stated Council had tried repeatedly to offer the residents the opportunity to vote it in. This resident stated that the levies have passed. Point of order was called by Mayor again. Another resident stated that discussion was promised. Chad called point of order stating that if

residents cannot rant, neither can Council/Mayor. Chad stated the earnings tax hasn't passed since 1977; perhaps a different approach is needed. Resident said, "1% forever is wrong". Another resident read tax rates for different entities within Blanchester (library, school, etc.). Chad stated that other entities had to enact earnings taxes and when a referendum was put on, the tax was enacted again. Reilly believed a time limit should be placed on the tax and recommended 5 years and that he believed 1% to be unrealistic. Mayor reminded Council that it would take at least 3 years to feel the full effect of the revenue. Don stated he would be willing to go with a friendly amendment for .5%. Chad stated he would like the ordinance placed on the ballot to be effective for 5 years with three readings prior to filing. Jewellie, Andrew and RITA were asked to prepare a revised ordinance with the expressed changes for a special meeting to be held the following week.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor announced members of Council had now heard from 3 different brokers regarding health insurance. Chad stated he didn't think the Village had much choice in changing health insurance carriers. Mayor stated if Council wanted to renew with Avalon, a resolution could be drafted by Jewellie for the next meeting. Special Council Meeting was set for July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM after the finance and safety committees to discuss zoning inspector, health insurance and earnings tax ordinance.

Resolution 2018.026 was introduced and read aloud to Council. Mayor explained state auditors had suggested at the completion of the '15/16 audit that a resolution be passed to increase allotted time deposits under \$1,000 could be made to the bank due to short staffing.

**HOLLON/GEPHART: Motion to adopt Resolution 2018.026, a Resolution Enacting the Deposit of Public Moneys' Policy for the Village of Blanchester, Ohio. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Resolution 2018.028 was introduced to Council. Wayne stated that the cost of the project to be matched is from license tag revenue. Andrew was on vacation and unable to review this resolution prior to Council meeting, so passage was agreed to be contingent on Andrew's review and approval of the resolution. Mayor stated there could be changes to the project cost.

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adopt Resolution 2018.028, a Resolution Adopting Reconstruction of Dudley Road and in Conjunction with Marion Township and Permitting Application to Ohio Public Works Commission for Financial Assistance for Project, contingent upon Andrew's approval. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief thanked Don for his kind words about the police department. Chief stated there were multiple repairs to be made in the police department and inquired if the cost would be made out of the lands/buildings to which Mayor confirmed. Chief expressed he desired approaching the trustees of the trust fund to inquire paying ½ the cost of a full-time employee. Chief stated he had Jewellie to draw up figures regarding estimated total costs involved. Council recommended asking the trust to pay around \$35,000 to \$40,000 of the cost. Chief stated the friendship acres management has changed and had sought suggestions as to how to improve living conditions. There had been a number of meetings in which they had asked to hire off-duty police. He stated normally a cruiser would be charged \$10/hour, but he wanted to ensure Council was ok with donating the cruiser cost to that cause. Chief then requested executive session.

**GEPHART/HOLLON: Motion to recess to executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22 to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, inviting Chief, Ram and Mayor. Roll call was made. Council dismissed to Executive session at 9:17 PM.**

**Roll call was made. Meeting resumed at 9:51PM.**

Cindy stated Council recommends moving BPA employee, Mike Shaw, from W-4-I to W-3-G.

**HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to accept salary recommendation as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

**STREET**  
None.

**PARKS**  
None.

**BPA**  
Ram stated BPA had obtained traffic light poles and if Street Department was willing to cut concrete and pour foundations, the new poles could be installed quickly. He said that welcome banners may possibly be hung between the new poles and street lights installed on each pole. Reilly would love to see Street Department and BPA work together to make our downtown look better.

Ram also gave updates on Phase 3 Water Treatment Plant project.

**SOLICITOR**  
None.

**FISCAL OFFICE**  
Jewelie presented adjustments to Council.

**ADJUSTMENTS 07/12/2018**

FUND/DEPT	UAN ACCT #	FUND
GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS OUT	1000-910-910	\$ 10,500.00
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND</b>		<b>\$10,500.00</b>
POLICE OPERATING FUND CAPITAL OUTLAY	2906-110-500	\$ 10,500.00
BLANCHESTER PLAYGROUND CONTRACTUAL	4908-310-300	\$ 1,650.00
BLANCHESTER PLAYGROUND SUPPLIES	4908-310-490	\$ (1,650.00)
SOLID WASTE SALARIES	5601-561-100	\$ (25,000.00)
STREET SALARIES	2011-610-211	\$ 25,000.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND+OTHER</b>		<b>\$21,000.00</b>

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to accept adjustments as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Jewelie explained that open enrollments for both Ohio Deferred Compensation and Colonial Life (a new life insurance being offered by OPERS) were scheduled for employees in July and open enrollment for Aflac had taken place on June 19<sup>th</sup>. 2019 Budget preparation would soon be underway once Sacha is settled into her new position.

**MAYOR**  
Mayor stated that there had been a quote for the air conditioning unit for the building for \$24,000. The compressor had given out and the elevator is not working and is not able to be fixed unless an electrician comes to see it. Resident stated his son does a/c work. Mayor stated they were taking other estimates if one would like to be submitted.

Chad asked Chief to share details regarding a recent police department situation. Chief gave a brief synopsis of a situation in which Officer Keller had paid for food for a man who was stealing food from UDF.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor read through the Public Comment Policy. He stated that Council is not required to allow the public to speak.

James Constable, 716 Cherry Street, would like for Council to look in to the KWH tax paid to BPA.

**BAUER/HOLLON: Motion to adjourn. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 PM.**

Approved: 8/9/18

Mayor: John M. Carrman

Attest: Julie Castel