

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

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on April 13, 2023 at 7:05 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	Present
	Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
	Mr. Tyler McCollister	Present
	Mr. Josh Parks	Absent

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

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

Motion Passed

Agenda

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

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

Motion Passed

Public Comment

James Constable – Disappointed in the finance committee and council for approving the Permanent Appropriations with over a \$400,000 deficit. Commented on staff raises and bathroom remodel approval that took place at the beginning of the year and now we are discussing possible cuts due to lack of funds. He feels that we need to do a better job at looking at our budget and spending and that we cannot use money from the solid waste account to help the General fund.

Guest Speaker

Brett Rudduck, nominee for Municipal Court Judge

Clinton County Commissioners – Discussed what the Commissioners have been working on for the past couple years working to improve Clinton County. One of the projects is Wide Broadband for Clinton County, getting fiber internet out to the county especially the areas that have no internet availability at all. The Commissioners discussed their move into the old

Southern State College building that they purchased. The move will be taking place beginning April 24th. The building has been completely remodeled. Along with the Commissioners the Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Tax Map GIS, Title Office and BMV will be moving to the new building. They will Also be moving the Solid Waste, Coroner, EMA and HR/Insurance departments from the Sugartree building to the new campus. The Courthouse will remain a court only building. They discussed the possibilities of the new economic development they are working with Port Authority to help bring more companies and housing to Clinton County to enhance our local economy.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to excuse Mr. Garner and Mr. Parks from the March 28th Special Meeting.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve minutes from the March 23, 2023 regular meeting and the March 28th special meeting.

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

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

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

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

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Gephart stated that the finance committee discussed a hiring freeze for the remainder of the year for the Village, and also a freeze on step raises. Phil Blankinship was here discussing Health Insurance and possible ways we might be able to save some money. Mr. Blankinship discussed a teledoc program that would cost \$13.99 a month per employee that would give them an option of being able to call and talk to a doctor over the phone or on the computer without having to have an office visit. Mr. Gephart is continuing to look into our CD investments and will bring more information to the next meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister to recommend going forward with the teldoc program providing Phil comes down and meets with the employees to explain it to them.

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

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Nothing at this time.

Cemetery – Lakeside has started on the trees that need removed. Mr. McCollister is working with the Eagles to possibly have another clean up day to work in the Cemetery.

Old Business

New Business

1. Resolution 2023.002 – Resolution Authorizing the Village of Blanchester to Participate in the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program

It was moved by Mr. McCollister and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve Resolution 2023.002.

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

Motion Passed

2. Ordinance 2023.004 Permanent Appropriations

It was moved by Mr. McCollister and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve Ordinance 2023.004 as an emergency action bypassing the need for three readings.

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

Motion Passed

3. MOU for Search and Rescue Team Assistance for Police if needed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve Chief Houghton signing the MOU for Search and Rescue Team Assistance if needed.

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

Motion Passed

4. Removal from Probation

It was moved by Mr. Brumbaugh and seconded by Mr. Gephart that Cyndi Vonderhaar be removed from her 6 month probation period.

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

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – Senior Citizens Center building agreement is a 99-year lease. A small change which is stated in Resolution 2023.005 saying that the Senior Citizens be responsible for any damage to the building caused by them. The Senior Citizens asked for a letter from the Village to allow them to be able to update their insurance. The discussion will be had a later date if any additional changes need to be made to the lease but this issue is of importance due to insurance coverage.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister that we approve Resolution 2023.005.

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

Motion Passed

Parks – The Easter Egg hunt was a big success they put out approximately 10,000 eggs and estimated approximately 400 children attended. Mr. Lee said a special thank you to the high school girls that came out to help as well as the Eagles for their donation to help with the Easter egg hunt. There will be a Circus in town performing 2 shows on May 9th. There will be a 5K run on April 15th to help raise money for the 4th of July celebration. In May the Party in the Parks will be starting back up with live bands and food trucks.

Police – Chief gave an update on the police activity of the past month, calls, arrests, investigations etc. Officers and K-9 safety and security check came out and went through the schools, there were 5 K-9 unit as part of the check. Discussed Officer trainings that have been going on. Showed map of criminal activity and where it is happening. The last 2 new police cars have arrived. The Chief also mentioned that they would be holding another Drug take back day on April 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm at Kroger. Discussed new drug drop off box that will be installed here in the Municipal building so that people will have an option to drop off expired drugs anytime not just on Drug take back days. Doing mock crash at the High School on Friday the day before the Prom.

Street – RLA started working yesterday up on Orchard Circle, and on Monday the East Fancy Street project will begin. The Phase II Cherry Street will possibly start up the end of May still waiting on information.

Zoning – Nothing to report

Fiscal – The Fiscal Officer stated that the conference in Columbus that she attended was very educational and felt that she had made some good contacts for help in the future.

Mayor – Taco Bell is sending over drawings the hold up right now is that UDF still has to bring the building down, which is supposed to happen this month. Taco Bell construction should start in June. The BP Station has broken ground got the forms up for concrete have met with utilities and they are working on the sign.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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

Motion Passed

Approved: April 27, 2023

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Cynthia J. Vanderhaar