

Public Hearing  
01/25/2018  
6:45 PM  
Municipal Building

Ordinance 2018.005 – Alley discussion

Mayor opened the public hearing and stated it was to discuss the vacation of the alley in question. Mayor asked if anyone knew if the village has ever checked for easements behind the property. Mayor asked if anyone had any discussion. Wayne asked for the reason to vacate. Mayor stated there was no way to access it currently. Mayor called the hearing closed.

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Regular Council Meeting

01/25/2018

7:00 PM

Municipal Building

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from 1/11/18 were presented to Council.

**HOLLON/SUTTON: Motion to approve 1/11/18 minutes as presented. All voted yea.**

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Bills were presented to Council.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor mentioned the Ordinance 2018.005 regarding the alley that the public hearing had taken place over earlier this evening. He read the ordinance aloud. Andrew said once vacated, property would be split down the middle of the alley. Owner asked about property owner behind her. Andrew stated that the alley would be hers to the center of the alleyway. He stated that if she wanted to pursue further action to speak to an attorney. He stated that all Council could do legally is to vacate the alleyway.

**BAUER/GEPHART: Motion to place Ordinance 2018.005, An Ordinance to Vacate Alley Running Perpendicular from Carr Street to Burroughs Street Running in a General North-South Direction Behind Lots 1,2,3,4, &5 of the Burroughs Heirs Addition, on first reading. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor introduced Resolution 2018.006 requesting sewer aging project funds to be transferred to sewer bond retirement funds.

**HOLLON/SUTTON: Motion to accept Resolution 2018.006, A Resolution Declaring the Necessity for a Transfer of an Amount Not to Exceed \$32,074.84 from Aging Project Improvement Funds to the Sewer Bond Retirement Fund of the Village in Accordance with ORC §5705.14, as presented. All voted yea.**

Mayor introduced Resolution 2018.007 requesting water aging project funds to be transferred to water bond retirement fund.

**HOLLON/BYROM: Motion to accept Resolution 2018.007, A Resolution Declaring the Necessity for a Transfer of an Amount Not to Exceed \$94,799.50 from Aging Project Improvement Funds to the Water Bond Retirement Fund of the Village in Accordance with ORC §5705.14, as presented. All voted yea.**

Mayor introduced BPA Resolutions 2018.008 and 2018.009. Mayor asked if Ram would like to speak on behalf of the proposed resolutions. Mayor explained that due to debt payments and audit fund balance adjustments, the sewer fund has been placed in jeopardy. Ram stated that last year there was a similar situation at the beginning of 2017. He stated that they would like to request \$40,000 to be advanced

from General Fund to the Sewer Fund. He stated that they do not like to be in this type of situation, but due to mandated projects, they are currently in the situation, which is burdening the fund. Ram stated that he had given Andrew information to review. Mayor asked if the advance wasn't paid by May, could the date be extended. Andrew stated it could, but this is assuming the other transfer would go through. Chad stated that it has to be funded. Don stated the date should be moved out to the end of June. Chad stated he'd like to let the motion to stand as it was stated with the previous date.

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adopt Resolution 2018.008, A Resolution Declaring It Necessary to Advance \$40,000.00 to the Sewer Fund (5201) from the General Fund (1000). Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Resolution 2018.009 was introduced regarding a possible transfer from the electric fund to the sewer fund. Mayor read through the resolution. Ram reminded Council that this was discussed during the December 2017 meeting. Ram thanked Council for their help.

**HOLLON/BYROM: Motion to adopt Resolution 2018.009, A Resolution Declaring a Necessity for and Authorizing the Transfer of \$100,000.00 from the Electric Fund to the Sewer Fund of the Village of Blanchester to Comply with the Request of the Board of Trustees of the Public Affairs, as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Mayor introduced Resolution 2018.011 to Council proposed by the Safety Committee to maintain a police department for the village. Don stated he did not want to allow the police department a false sense of protection. He read reasons he was against the resolution and multiple reasons why he supports going with the sheriff's department. Out of the many reasons mentioned by Mr. Gephart, he pointed out that the Sheriff's Department had K-9 units, which Chief corrected and said that they did not. Don stated it would be financially irresponsible to support this resolution. He stated that by going with the sheriff's department funds could be saved. Gary stated that during their safety committee meeting there had not been a vote. Reilly stated that he had no problem taking a vote on this. He stated that it was his understanding when he left the safety committee meeting that there was full support of this resolution.

Chief approached the podium. Don called point of order. Mayor stated that the resolution had been addressed and he would allow the Chief to speak.

Chief laid a \$20 bill on the podium and promised it to anyone who could go to the sheriff's office to find a police dog that was used. He reminded Council that the trust fund pays the fees for the Miami Valley Services. He stated 5 years ago the mayor asked if there were services that could be cut in order to save money. At that time, there were several services cut. Without his knowledge, the sheriff stepped up and picked up some of those services. Chief stated he was hired to give the village the best police department possible. He stated that he was proud of the team that has taken 11 years to build. He stated that the one thing the village could give the police department was stability. He informed Council some of the most experienced village police officers were now watching the want ads due to the instability of the past months. He requested to know that the Council was committed to seeing a police department in the village. "Now is the time for sober thought and clear expression. I cannot operate an effective police department if its existence is temporary."

Cindy confirmed that the village does have a great police department, but each Council member is responsible to find ways to save money. She stated that John was not the first mayor to go to the sheriff department and would most likely not be the last. She stated that it would be irresponsible to not examine other financial options. She mentioned that when the earnings tax was on the ballot, the BPA Board was not informed that they might be dissolved due to the passing of the earnings tax. Chad expressed that he was sorry to hear that after being on Council for 30 years, Cindy did not understand the importance of a resolution. Don stated that he had a South Lebanon resolution of a contract with the sheriff's department. He said that this contract has been renewed for many years. "As you can see, South Lebanon is very pleased with their arrangement with the Sheriff." Chad motioned for a roll call vote. Lori stated that she has always had a great relationship with the police department, but she was not in favor of the resolution because in any job, you would not receive any such confidence as to not lose your job. Chad stated that the resolution could be rescinded at any time. Lori stated in her position in the job she holds, she could not see giving this resolution to any employee. Mayor read through the resolution.

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adopt Resolution 2018.011, A Resolution Expressing the Intent of the Legislative Authority of the Village of Blanchester to Retain a Municipal Police Department, by roll call. Gary Bauer-no, Lori Byrom-no, Don Gephart-no, Chad Hollon-yea, Reilly Hopkins-yea, and Cindy Sutton-no. Resolution failed to pass.**

Mayor stated that he does believe they have a good police department, and the village has demonstrated time and time again their support. He did not believe a resolution was necessary to show support. "We would hope they would stay, but again if it means us putting something in writing to keep an employee...I don't think that's the type of business we should be in for any employee of any department."

Mayor mentioned at last council meeting there had been language mentioned for the special committee meeting notifications. Andrew elaborated on discussion already stated in previous meetings. He stated there is no requirement to do so, but best practice was to set a regular committee meeting schedule.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Cindy read some of the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting minutes. Habitat for Humanity homes are to be built, and it was voted to allow them to waive their fees. Mayor stated that Dan had resigned effective the 19<sup>th</sup> of January and that he had done a great job as Zoning Inspector. Discussion took place regarding proper procedure of fee waiver.

**GEPHART/BYROM: Motion to waive Habitat for Humanity permit fees. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief stated it was devastating what had happened tonight. He expressed his disappointment in Council's decision.

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to include comments from this meeting to be attached. All voted yea.**

#### **STREET**

Wayne stated there was 100 tons of salt used to date, but plenty of salt remains. Lazenby, Wright and John Street intersections need repaired from weather damage and potholes and alligator cracks. Chad inquired how many miles of streets there were in the village. Wayne stated 22 miles.

Mayor stated there was a traffic light in town where the module had gone bad, and it was thought to be fixed. However, there are still issues that need repair. New module is ~ \$3,000.

**HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to not exceed \$3,500 to have above mentioned traffic light repaired and replaced. All voted yea.**

#### **PARKS**

Tom spoke on the Parks Board desire to complete the concessions building and requested \$10,000 to budget out of the Curless Fund. Permits are needed in order to complete the project. Chad confirmed it would be completed to commercial code. Tom stated Parks had taken over the scheduling for the reservation of the cafeteria with an online email [blanchesterparks@gmail.com](mailto:blanchesterparks@gmail.com) or residents may call the municipal building to schedule a reservation. He stated that Krista was taking care of this scheduling. Location of Parks Board meetings are in room 212 upstairs. Tina stated that Easter egg hunt preparations would be starting soon.

#### **BPA**

Ram thanked Council for passing the resolutions. He thanked Andrew for helping with the transfers and Jewelie for keeping BPA informed from time to time regarding the fund conditions.

#### **SOLICITOR**

None.

#### **FISCAL OFFICE**

Adjustments were presented to Council.

**ADJUSTMENTS 01/25/2018**

FUND/DEPT	UAN ACCT #	FUND
PD OHIO POLICE & FIRE PENSION FUND	1000-110-215	\$ 4,529.00
PD OPERS	1000-110-211	\$ 241.56
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND</b>		<b>\$4,770.56</b>
CURLISS RECREATION CAPITAL OUTLAY	2041-310-500	\$ 10,000.00
POLICE OPERATING FUND OHIO POLICE & FIRE PENSION	2906-110-215	\$ (4,529.00)
POLICE OPERATING FUND OPERS	2906-110-211	\$ (241.56)
STATE HIGHWAY SALARIES	2021-620-100	\$ (100.00)
STATE HIGHWAY OPERS	2021-620-211	\$ 100.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>		<b>-\$4,770.56</b>
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND+OTHER</b>		<b>\$10,000.00</b>

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

**MAYOR**

Mayor stated that the 2018 yard sale dates needed to be approved. May 10-12<sup>th</sup> and September 13-15<sup>th</sup> dates were proposed.

**SUTTON/BAUER: Motion to set 2018 yard sale dates for May 10-12<sup>th</sup> and September 13-15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All voted yea.**

Mayor stated that the pricing for inspections for fire extinguishers had been shopped out. He presented two quotes and stated he would copy them to all of Council. If any questions, they can be presented to Stephanie who had been obtaining the quotes. Wayne asked if the companies were local. Mayor stated the names and locations of each company. Current inspectors are out of Cincinnati. Russ Kidd stated John Erwin does inspections. Mayor stated he would look into it.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

James Constable, 716 Cherry Street, passed out handouts to Council. Stated displeasure with police department decision and gave recommendations on how Council should spend money. He then proceeded to continue to his next subject when Chad called point of order and pointed out that the Village's Public Comment Policy states a speaker can only speak on one topic of discussion.

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adjourn. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.**

Approved: 2/8/18

Mayor: John M. Carran

Attest: Julie Cartel

## CHIEF REINBOLT'S REMARKS 1/25/18 MEETING

11 years ago I was hired to give this community the best police department possible. I've done that to the best of my ability. I'm proud of our little police department.

We have assembled a team of police officers who are talented and skilled. But there is more to police work than talent and skill. There is character and strength of heart. I believe all of our officers possess, and display, both of those attributes. We are a team that took 11 years to build. It would be tragic if that team was broken up. It would take another decade to replace it.

Our people are our greatest asset. There's not a lot of glory in being a policeman in Blanchester. The young men and women who serve in our department will never get rich. But the one thing we can give them is stability: you'll have a job here as long as you want one. Now that stability has been called into question. Twice in the past 13 months there has been talk of outsourcing police services in Blanchester. As a result, some of our best and most experienced people are polishing their resumes' and watching the want ads.

Each of you, every one, has at one time or another told me privately how much you support the police department. I thank you for that, it has been appreciated. However, it's no longer enough. I need to know you are committed to having a police department here. Our officers need to know you are committed to seeing that our police department remains in operation.

I could have filled this room with citizens voicing their support for our police department. I could have asked the officers, their spouses and their children to attend. But now is not the time for theatrics or political posturing. Now is the time for sober thought and clear expression. It's time for everyone to lay their cards on the table.

I cannot operate an effective police department if it's existence is temporary. Our officers cannot be expected to do their jobs effectively if the very existence of the department is in question. Our police officers are committed to our community: now I'm asking you to demonstrate your commitment to them.