

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on September 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. with the honorable Mayor John Carmn, presiding.

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

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

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Agenda**

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Public Comment**

James Constable – Mr. Constable commented that the public should be able to make comments during the Finance meeting. Mr. Constable also stated that he thinks that the Village should do a property tax not an income tax to help fund the Police Department. Mr. Constable does not believe that the Village has enough money to continue much past the beginning of next year due to the additional spending that is taking place. He suggested that the Village cash in some of the CD's that we have to help with expenses.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve minutes from the August 10, 2023 regular meeting.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Bills and Reallocations**

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Finance discussed what to do with the money from the CD's that had matured in People's Bank the recommendation was to place the money back into CDs at Peoples due to the current interest rates.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve placing the money from the matured CDs into another CD at People's that will pay 5.3% up until 3/12/2025.

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

**Motion Passed**

The committee also discussed the additional CD that had matured at First National Bank. The Fiscal Officer had asked that the Bank wait until after the Council meeting to do anything with the money but the Bank rolled the money over into a 3-year CD at 2.35%. The Committee recommended that we go back and find out the penalty for cashing in the CD and moving the Money to Star Ohio. The Committee would also like to investigate having the Emergency Warning Sirens around the Village looked at to see what it would take to fix them.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve removing the current \$100,000 that was placed in the 3-year CD and moving it to Star Ohio.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Safety & Service** – Nothing to Report

**Cemetery** – One of the larger trees lost a big limb, it fell on some headstones. The removal of the tree will begin tomorrow. The tree will be taken down to just a trunk so it will lessen the threat of this happening again.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

1. **Resolution 2023.012** - Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor

It was motioned by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve Resolution 2023.012

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

**Motion Passed**

2. **Resolution 2023.013** – Resolution to Make Return of Nuisance Property Mowing to the County Auditor

It was motioned by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve Resolution 2023.013

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

**Motion Passed**

3. **Resolution 2023.014** – Resolution to amend Resolution 2055.08 Titled “A Resolution by the Council of the Village of Blanchester Adopting a Personnel Policy”

It was motioned by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve Resolution 2023.014

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

**Motion Passed**

## **Department Reports**

**Solicitor** – Nothing to Report

**Parks** – The Fishing Derby brought out about 35 additional kids this year for a total of over 130 it was a great turnout. The Police came and passed out things to the kids, and ODNR was there as well and talked to the participants. The next event will be the Fall Fest on September 30, there will be vendors, food trucks and Bluegrass bands.

**Police** – Chief gave a report of the activities of the Police Department in August stating there were 221 incidents in the last month, with 1689 calls for the year so far. The Department made 17 arrests in the month of August. The Chief brought a fine schedule to Council for their review in order to start charging for parking tickets, handicap parking violations and charging for police reports.

It was motioned by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to adopt the fine schedule presented to Council along with the fees to be charged for crash report copies.

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

### **Motion Passed**

The Chief brought up the open forum that is going to take place on October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm for the public to come and ask any questions involving the Income Tax Levy that will be on the ballot. Mr. Hopkins added that he has been looking into other Municipalities the size of our Village and they all have an Income Levy that was not just 1% some were 1.5%, and they all have at least 10 officers. Mr. Gephart thanked the Chief for everything the department has done and is doing for the Village everyone seems to work well with each other, are happy and they are doing a great job.

**Street** – Paul heard back from ODOT regarding the RRFB's they have started the ordering process but have no idea how long they will take to get here, hopefully within a couple months. Paul stated that Rick Jones is still out, and not sure when or if he will be able to return, so Paul spoke with Dylan Perry and he is willing to stay on to help the street department. Paul asked for a pay step increase for Dylan from G to H. Paul also mentioned that he along with Dylan and the new hire Connor Daniel have been out painting crosswalks, curbs, and parking spaces to brighten up the Village. Paul commented on how well Connor and Dylan work together they make a great team.

It was motioned by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve the pay step raise from G to H for Dylan Perry of the Street Department.

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

### **Motion Passed**

**Zoning** – Jeff has been speaking with a gentleman on the phone regarding bringing an O’Reilly’s Auto Parts store to town. Also, the BP station has started putting in their fuel tanks, and Taco Bell is making progress.

**Fiscal** – The Auditors were here on Tuesday and Wednesday auditing fiscal years 2021 and 2022. Overall things went well there were a couple issues that we had to work through but for the most part considering there have been 3 Fiscal Officers and 2 Assistant Fiscal Officers during that time I think it went ok. After speaking with the State Auditor’s Office, we were finally able to get someone from the Legal Government Service to come and meet with us, we discussed funds and placement of monies in those funds. There are a few we need to look at due to them having been set up prior to us coming here and she felt that we need to move some things around. In speaking with the Auditors, and after researching the Cemetery fund it was discovered that there was never a motion by Council that states the funding for the Cemetery will come from the General Fund. It was asked that Council vote for that funding and it be retro active back to May 22, 2022.

It was motioned by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the funds for the Cemetery be paid out of the General Fund retroactive back to May 22, 2022.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Executive Session**

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to move into Executive Session at 8:03 pm:

1. To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee or official Ohio Revised Code 121.22 G 1

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

**Motion Passed**

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

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to return to regular session at 8:25 pm

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

**Motion Passed**

It was motioned by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh that Ricky Jones be moved to Provisional part time at Step J on the pay scale.

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

### **Motion Passed**

**Mayor** – Moved into discussion items

1. Creating an ordinance for doing business with the village more strict – Mr. Parks would like to have something in place more than just the Ohio Revised Code for Councilman or Public Official doing business in the Village. He asked that we make an Ordinance to change how things are dealt with regarding the above-mentioned people. Mr. Parks asked that any bids that are presented to any department to be brought to Council for review, he was told that those bids are available at the department meetings or that he can request a copy of the minutes or bids after the meeting. The departments are given their budgets which are approved by Council and they can decide on which bids they choose.

It was motioned by Mr. Parks to make a Resolution to have all bids be brought to the Council Meetings for review. There was no second.

### **Motion Failed**

2. Biker-Biker consignment permit parking – Mr. Parks stated that the owner of Biker-Biker had reached out asking for an answer to her previous request to Council for a special parking sign in front of her store. As discussed at the prior meeting when this subject was brought up, Council cannot make exceptions for one business they would have to do it for every business. The Council feels that there is ample parking on the street and in nearby parking lots signage is not needed. Mr. Parks asked the Mayor to follow up with the business owner.
3. Sidewalks – Discussion about sidewalks and where we would start to install sidewalks that are needed. The suggestion was starting in the center of town and repair existing sidewalks and survey the need for additional ones. Mr. Jackson suggested a committee be put together with members of the Community and Council to get the opinions of where the need is for additional sidewalks. Mayor is going to put together a committee to get this done volunteers at the meeting were Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Hill and the Mayor.
4. Paving East Fancy Street – Mr. Parks was asking about the paving of East Fancy Street and was updated and told the project was complete.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks that the meeting be adjourned at 8:48 pm.

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

Approved: 9-28-2023

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Cynthia J. Vanderhaar