

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 24, 2026

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on September 24, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

Ms. Marie Brooker	Present
Mr. Grant Coffman	Present
Ms. Stephanie Hanson	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Ms. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Late

Absence/Late

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Coffman to excuse Josh Parks from being late to the meeting. He arrived at 7:00 PM

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Josh Parks

Motion Passed

Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the agenda, with the addition of limiting item #10 (Council Members) to 1-2 topics per person.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Josh Parks

Motion Passed

Old Business

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Coffman to suspend the rules on Resolution 2026.026 – A Resolution Amending Resolution 2022.007 and the Village of Blanchester Public Comment Policy declaring it an emergency.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Josh Parks

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Lewis to approve Resolution 2026.026 – A Resolution Amending Resolution 2022.007 and the Village of Blanchester Public Comment Policy.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Josh Parks

Motion Passed

Public Comment

James Constable 135 Orchard View Lane - Wanted to discuss some safety issues at Veterans Park. 1st issue is the bleachers; have they ever been fixed per Insurance Co., issue #2 is concession stand that is now being used as a meeting room. Was there an occupancy permit ever issued or was it ever inspected? And issue #3 is the blue building, when it was built was there a building permit issued for its construction?

Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Hanson to approve the minutes from September 10, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Josh Parks

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the Bills/Reallocations from September 24, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Josh Parks

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Hopkins had nothing to report.

Safety & Service – Ms. Brooker reported that there was a pothole that needed fixed in front of the municipal building. This was fixed earlier in the week. Talked about the siren that was installed out by the high school. It is ready to go, and will be tested on October 3rd at 12:00.

Cemetery – Reported that mowing bids are still being accepted until 10/2/26 at 4:00 PM. Bids will be reviewed on 10/6/26. Cemetery clean-up day is 10/6/26 from 9-3. Still looking for volunteers.

New Business

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Lewis to approve Ordinance 2026.027 Amending 91.33 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Blanchester, Regarding the Confinement, Restraint, and Control of Dogs. 1st Reading

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Josh Parks

Motion Passed

It was moved by Ms. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to cancel the Village current Elevator Contract with American Elevator and for the mayor to enter a new contract with Murphy Elevator beginning November 3, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Josh Parks

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor reported that he was following up on the discussion of last meeting where it was stated we are responsible for the cost of taking citizens to the ER during an arrest. He looked into seeing if we are able to charge those costs back to the citizen during their trial for retribution.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Hanson to allow the solicitor to contact the Prosecutor about retribution of medical expenses over \$500 for people arrested and having to go to the ER.

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis
 Nay – None
 Late – Mr. Parks

He also spoke about nuisance properties. It was his recommendation that he and Chris Hilderbrandt (zoning) decide if it was an actual nuisance property.

Parks – Everyone was reminded of the Bluegrass Festival.

Police – The Chief presented his monthly report. He did report that his officers have done more OVI arrest. He states this is due to them being better trained to identify these individuals.

Street – The mayor stated that he attended an ODOT meeting and it was stated that St. Rt. 28 that runs through town is slated to be redone in 2028. It will however be with chip and seal. Discussion needs to be around how do we still get the brick out from under the streets. With the brick, nothing will never hold long term. St. Rt. 133 is on the books for 2031 for chip and seal. Also in 2031, they will be redoing the bridge on Broadway before you get to Orchard View.

BPA – had nothing to report.

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt reported that he gave all council members his list for procedures and how he would like it to be part of the zoning codes. The solicitor stated he will review all the zoning ordinances and make sure that we have one set of clear rules. He also stated that we have a vacant home where the owner has passed away and there is no family left. The mortgage company is the one paying everything. He would like to get the property cleaned up.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Brooker to approve Zoning to clean up a vacant property at a cost of \$1,250.00

Vote: Yea – Ms. Brooker, Mr. Grant Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

He also stated that there is a nuisance letter on our web page. You can go online and fill it out and send to Chris if you have a concern. Next, he talked about curbside recycling. Right now, there is a survey online asking about the curbside recycling. The curbside recycling is an all or nothing program. Everyone in the Village either gets it, or no one gets it. Chris will be following up with this next meeting.

Council Members – Ms. Lynn Lewis brought up that she wants council members to limit their comments during this section to 1 or 2 topics so that all members get time to speak. She feels the residents want to hear from all members and that the information they are sharing needs to be correct. Mr. Grant Coffman brought up the discussion of Flock cameras. He would like the contract to be canceled. He does not like that a private for-profit company is being given our residents information, and we have no control over what happens to it. For liability and safety reasons he would like us to discontinue their usage. Mr. Reilly Hopkins then stated he would hate to see the Village lose \$10,000 of reimbursable money that we are still due to get just to cancel the contract. He also stated canceling grants once received is looked down upon, and can make it harder to receive future grants. Mr. Josh Parks asked about the recycling program, and why was Wilmington looking into getting rid of theirs. The mayor stated that they are now building recycling plants to help sort these products. Mr. Reilly Hopkins discussed why he is opposed to the recycling program. He does not want the Village to absorb the cost for the next 2 years.

Fiscal Officer – had nothing to report

Mayor – The mayor talked about a letter from RITA, in which they are asking how we now want to handle late fees and penalties. He asked council to come to next meeting with an answer on how to handle this moving forward. He spoke about the TAP Grant for \$320,000 that would be used for sidewalks around the municipal building. The Village match for the project would be \$80,000. We would have to start budgeting for the match next year, however the grant would not be available until 2030. He then spoke about getting quotes for the ADA accessibility at the front and back door. To do all doors would cost around \$10,500, with our electric department doing the electric work that is needed. The mayor also stated he met with One Stop signs about the Welcome Signs, and reviewed location with them. Lastly, the mayor discussed the Outside Kilowatt Tax that we are giving 50% back to the BPA. He reviewed how much we should have given back to the BPA. This was an Ordinance from 2001 that was never enforced, and given the time and the BPA trying to build the new substation, he feels this is the right thing to do.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Brooker that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: Regina Johnson

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Regina Johnson