

05/13/2021

Regular Council Meeting

7:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom teleconference and streamed live on the Village of Blanchester Facebook page

Gary Bauer, Harry Brumbaugh, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, and Reilly Hopkins were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

**HOPKINS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to excuse Richard Simpson from meeting. All voted yea.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor reviewed the proposed agenda. Chad pointed out that there was no formal recommendation by the Finance Committee as listed on the proposed agenda, but rather it was stated in the last committee meeting as an action that might need to be taken. Mayor suggest moving the item under Old Business. Reilly announced that Katie had a copy of the proposed entertainment district and requested that she elaborate on the topic during the meeting.

**HOLLON/GEPHART: Motion to accept agenda with proposed revisions. All voted yea.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from 04/22/2021 and 05/03/2021 meetings were presented to Council.

**HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to approve minutes from 04/22/2021 and 05/03/2021 meetings as presented. All voted yea.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS/ADJUSTMENTS**

Bills and adjustments were presented to Council.

**ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS  
PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 05/13/2021**

FUND/DEPT	JAN ACCT #	FUND
LANDS/BUILDINGS CONTRACTUAL	1000-730-300	\$1,262.00
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND</b>		<b>\$1,262.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND+OTHER</b>		<b>\$1,262.00</b>

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Reilly announced there had been good feedback lately from residents about being pleased with trees being cleaned up and other nuisance areas. He thanked the Mayor for working with the utility company to arrange for the cleanup of said areas.

Chad mentioned the Bicentennial Fund Resolution 2020.019 was discussed in the most recent Finance Committee meeting. There was no formal recommendation agreed upon within that meeting.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor reintroduced Resolution 2021.009 for Council discussion. Harry affirmed he was supportive of the resolution, and believed it to be important to remind the federal government of all 50 states and their legislation and ability to make decisions. Mayor asked Council if there was interest in holding a special meeting as suggested by Viva Goorian in the last regular Council meeting to discuss the resolution more in depth. Don reported he had reached out to Senator Bob Peterson who confirmed the resolution was presented last year, but not passed. Bob affirmed he would vote for the resolution if presented again. Don noted he had spoken with Shane Wilkin as well on the matter who in turn vowed to look into the topic further. Don encouraged Council to adopt the proposed resolution after sharing some personal background research.

**BAUER/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to adopt Resolution 2021.009, Resolution Urging the Ohio State Legislature to Take All Necessary Action to Add Ohio to the Roll of States Which Have Adopted Resolutions to Trigger an Article V Convention of States. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Mayor stated he would reach out to Viva to let her know this action was taken.

Mayor reintroduced Resolution 2020.019. Katie explained after speaking with Jewellie and researching the matter herself, the appropriated steps for approving the proposed Bicentennial Fund were taken by the Fiscal Officer and it had been denied by the state. She stated because the fund had not been approved and also because of how the funds were proposed to be applied to the fund, the resolution would no longer be valid in order to accomplish the goal desired. She advised exploring other options to reach the goal if Council still wished to move forward. Don expressed he'd like to see a new resolution drafted in which money was set aside in a line item for the event from the General Fund only.

**GEPHART/HOPKINS: Motion to rescind Resolution 2020.019 and new replacement resolution drafted by Katie at the earliest convenience. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor introduced Resolution 2021.011 to Council. He explained there was no fund number for said fund to date as the Village was awaiting a decision for fund number for American Relief Plan Act from UAN officials.

**GEPHART/BAUER: Motion to adopt Resolution 2021.011, Resolution Allowing Fiscal Officer to Create New Fund \_\_\_\_\_, American Relief Plan Act Fund. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

## **SOLICITOR**

Katie announced that she did have a "map" process of creating an entertainment district. However, she urged Council to review the steps and to remember this to be a property owner driven application. She stated the first step would be for the Village to generate an application for property owners to complete. After that time, there would be multiple steps the property owners would need to complete before the Village would be involved further.

Katie also proposed in light of the fact that there was a number of new case laws coming out regarding municipalities, extra time and attention needed to be applied to drafting compliant resolutions up front rather than rushing to pass new resolutions and ordinances before thoroughly researching feasibility and law prior to adopting by Council. She stated she understood the urgency of wanting to pass new local legislation documents, but she advised extreme caution and attention to compliance as the first priority over expediency as part of legislation drafting process.

Katie announced there had been a recent case involving executive session in the 12<sup>th</sup> District which urged additional particularity. She explained that going forward there would be specific citing of executive session motions and taking steps to ensure Council was keeping track of executive session discussion topics. She confirmed the Mayor would be completing a checklist for each executive session as formal documentation.

## **FISCAL OFFICE**

Jewelie acknowledged she would be willing to discuss her report during executive session.

## **MAYOR**

Mayor recognized 2021 National Police Week, May 9-15, 2021, as a time to remember fallen officers and a time to honor those who serve in public safety capacity. He stated the Village was fortunate to have a strong police department and he wanted to take a moment to recognize the local police staff.

Mayor confirmed that the Village had secured additional funding for the Cherry Street Phase 2 Project from OPWC. He reported Phase 1 should be starting soon.

Mayor noted the UDF sidewalks were currently being repaired and the intersection of Cherry and Wright Street would be widened.

He also had received the long-awaited Center and Broadway safety study. The conclusion recommended the following short-term countermeasures:

- Converting the Center Street intersection to an all-way stop-controlled intersection with LED flashing stop signs and overhead flashing beacons.
- Installing “Truck No Turn” signs at Center Street.
- Optimizing the signal timing and clearance intervals at Main Street.

Medium-term countermeasures included:

- Replacing the span-wire signal at Main Street with mast arms.
- Installing signal head backplates at the Main Street signal.
- Updating the pedestrian indicators at Main Street to include countdown timers.

Mayor indicated he was working to obtain funding for these countermeasures. Paul Daniels was also working to obtain quotes for the recommendations. Reilly inquired about utilizing the light poles at the Water Treatment Plant. Mayor said Capital had come to look with Paul Daniels to review the light poles and were currently reviewing possibilities. Plan is to use what the Village currently has to reduce costs.

Reilly inquired about the parking lot lighting for Dewey Park. Ram stressed that due to the departments working on South Wright Street to extend new services to new UDF, they have not been able to proceed with the Dewey Park Project. After current projects were completed, BPA would be looking into said project.

Mayor announced Parks would be having food trucks and music at the Dewey Parking Lot the following evening (05/14/2021) and encouraged residents to join the event.

**BRUMBAUGH/HOPKINS: Motion to recess to executive session pursuant to 121.22(G)(1):**

- **Matter 1) to consider the compensation of a public employee or official from the fiscal department/position;**
- **Matter 2) to consider the employment of a public employee or official for the police department/position;**
- **Matter 3) to consider the compensation of a public employee or official from the Board of Public Affairs.**

Roll call was made. All voted yea. Meeting recessed at 7:38 PM.

Roll call was made. Meeting resumed at 8:04 PM.

**HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to approve step raise for Fiscal Officer Assistant from Step C to Step D effective next full pay period (pay period beginning May 23, 2021). Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

**BAUER/HOLLON: Motion to hire Cody Lee full-time Patrolman Step A effective immediately. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

**HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to approve BPA Board recommendations (Exhibit A) for step raises effective next full pay period (pay period beginning May 23, 2021). Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.**

Approved: May 27, 2021

Mayor: John M. Carrman

Attest: Shirley Carbel

# EXHIBIT A

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2021  
To: The Honorable Mayor and the Village Council  
From: The Trustees of the Board of Public Affairs  
Subject: Employee Pay Raises

At the May 6, 2021 meeting, the Board of Trustees of Public Affairs (BPA) approved and voted to recommend the Council:

To approve a pay raise for the following employees as shown below:

1. Glen Faulkner from Step: W-3-G to W-3-H
2. Rusty Hampton from Step: E-1-L to E-1-M
3. Michael Hutchinson from Step: W-4-I to W-4-J
4. Frank Rineair from Step: S-2-F to S-2-G

With the Council's approval, these pay raises will become effective from the next full pay period following the date of approval by the Council which is May 13, 2021.

Respectfully,

Board of Public Affairs

