

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 11, 2025

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on September 11, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

Mrs. Marie Brooker	Present
Mr. William Garner	Present
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

Agenda

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

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

Public Comment

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester, OH, wanted to talk about the \$500,000 that Council approved to move from the Electric Fund to the Water Fund.

Janelle Fatheree, 304 E. Main St., Blanchester, Ohio, wanted to ask if the BPA would post their minutes on Facebook.

Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the minutes from August 7, 2025, and August 28, 2025, with the correction on the August 28th minutes to reflect that the motion to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2025.017 actually failed. (This motion was actually not needed)

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the Bills from September 11, 2025.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – We had a couple of recommendations from the Mayor and Chief Houghton. The Mayor recommended to the council that Chris Hilderbrandt be removed from probation and be moved from step A to step B. He also recommended that Cheyenne Helton be removed from a provisional status and removed from probation, and moved to Admin/Records Keeping on a part-time basis at Step A.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the Mayor's Recommendation for Chris Hilderbrandt and Cheyenne Helton.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

Also, per the Chief's recommendation, move Lindsey Ahrmann from step H to step I. He also recommended that Ty Smith be moved from Step A to Step C.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the step raises recommended by Chief Houghton for Lindsey Ahrmann and Ty Smith.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Abstained – Mr. Hopkins
Nay – None

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Mr. Parks discussed that their meeting was spent reviewing sidewalks and grants. They also discussed the residents' drainage issues. Mrs. Brooker gave an update on the crosswalk at the school and the work being done. The tree on Columbus Street that was in question, Frontier was contacted, and we were given a work ticket for them to look at it.

Cemetery –The Cemetery Board has a meeting on 9/18/25 at 10:00 AM.

Old Business

None

New Business

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins that Resolution 2025.019 – A Resolution for Supplemental Appropriations be passed as an emergency.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill that Resolution 2025.020 – A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission be passed as an emergency.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks that Ordinance 2025.021 – An Ordinance Authorizing the mayor to Execute the Contract with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation to Replace the Superstructure of Bridge CLI 133-0211 be passed as an emergency.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

Discussion Item

Mr. Parks asked to discuss the hiring of a Village Administrator. Mr. Parks gave a report as to why it would be beneficial to hire a Village Administrator. Mr. Bowling (Chairman of the BPA) spoke as to why now is not the time to bring one on. No action was taken at this time.

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

Parks – The Parks wanted to remind everyone of the Rocky Morris Fishing Derby that is being held on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the reservoir. The Bluegrass Festival is on Saturday, September 27th.

Police – A copy of the Police activity report was given to everyone.

Street – Paul Daniels stated he is working with Capital Electric on the RFB for the crosswalk that the Street Department will install at the BP station.

BPA – James Bowling reported that they would be having their next meeting on September 18th at 6:30 PM. He also showed pictures of the new tanker that was purchased for the Sewer Department to haul sludge.

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt requested that the Building Permit document be updated to include start and finish times.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis that Residential Building Permits have a 60-day start date and a 1-year finish date, and that Commercial Building Permits have a 6-month start date and up to a 2-year finish date.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

Fiscal Officer – Regina Johnson Nothing to report.

Mayor – Planning Committee met and would like to make a recommendation to allow the Solicitor to draft a waiver form to start addressing the old signage around town, along with some property maintenance.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins that we allow the Solicitor to create a draft.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 9/25/2025

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina Johnson