

01/27/2022

Regular Council Meeting

7:00 PM

Meeting in council chambers and streamed live on the Village of Blanchester Facebook page

Harry Brumbaugh, William Garner, Reilly Hopkins, Tyler McCollister and Josh Parks were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

HOPKINS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to excuse Don Gephart. All voted yea.

Mayor Carman welcomed the new council members and cautioned the public that the meeting was council's meeting and all comments should be held until the public comment portion.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was presented to Council.

HOPKINS/PARKS: Motion to accept agenda with addition of agenda format. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 1/13/2022 were presented to Council.

MCCOLLISTER/HOPKINS: Motion to approve minutes as presented. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were presented to Council.

HOPKINS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to approve bills. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2021.042 – Further discussion ensued regarding the ordinance. Mr. Parks noted he had information for Mr. Hopkins. Mr. McCollister inquired as to how the ordinance would be enforced. Mayor Carman noted that a permit would be required through zoning. Various comments followed including tree root systems, assessments and ownership of property.

HOPKINS/PARKS: Motion to table the ordinance. All voted yea.

RESOLUTION 2021.043 – Village Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Carman introduced the resolution for its second reading and noted it is a vision and not binding on the village. Mr. McCollister again stated he would not support anything related to annexed property into the village without utilities.

MCCOLLISTER/HOPKINS: Motion to approve the ordinance for second reading. All voted yea.

REPORTS

FISCAL OFFICER

Mrs. May introduced Ordinance 2022.003 – Permanent Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022

Appropriations were reviewed and exceptions noted such as unclaimed monies and transfers from the General Fund to the Police Fund. She pointed out the total appropriations exceed estimated revenue.

This has been done historically, but spending has not exceeded revenue for the past 5 years. Also, to show the movement of spending, there are several appropriations which appear twice. Mr. Parks asked if it would be voted on for three readings. Mrs. May asked council to pass as an emergency so that it could be completed for the year. Mr. Parks said he thought there should be a public hearing and the public should be able to view it.

MCCOLLISTER/HOPKINS: Motion to suspend the rules for three readings. All voted yea except Mr. Parks.

HOPKINS/MCCOLLISTER: Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022.003 All voted yea.

MAYOR

Mayor Carman reminded everyone that Chief Reinbolt is retiring and his last day will be January 28, 2022. The village has an agreement with an interim chief, Robert Houghton.

Discussion Items

- A. Quote for Men’s Restroom in Main Hallway – Mayor Carman presented an additional itemized quote from JSL Homes Repair. Mr. McCollister asked if asbestos testing had been done. The mayor reported there is none in the bathroom and the halls are to be tested. Paul Jackson made a suggestion to change the doorway. He also suggested providing a scope of work with specifics so that all quotes received are comparable.
- MCCOLLISTER/HOPKINS: Motion to table. All voted aye.**
- B. Light Replacement Update - Mayor Carman reported that he reached out to the BPA regarding paying 33%. Ram Reddy did a walkthrough and employees from the BPA will install the lights on hand. Discussion followed regarding lights upstairs.
- C. Mr. Parks said he thought the village would benefit from having a Village Administrator and shared various salaries. He read a list of responsibilities for the position. Mr. McCollister asked Mr. Parks what he thought an administrator would do to relieve Council of some responsibilities. Mr. Parks said the position would be in charge of all departments such as zoning, police department. Mr. McCollister said it is his understanding that the police department would still fall under the responsibility of the mayor. Mr. Parks made a motion to hire an administrator. Mayor Carman advised it had to be on an ordinance. Mr. Parks said he also had a termination settlement agreement with the BPA. Mayor asked how that was related to hiring an administrator. Mr. Parks stated the salary would come from the savings of the termination. Additional discussion followed. Mayor shared election costs. Mr. McCollister reported that Blanchester Schools will be placing a levy on the ballot.
- D. Mr. Hopkins requested to add a portion under the mayor’s section on the agenda for council to be able to ask questions received from the public during meetings. Mayor Carman requested to know the questions in advance so he could be prepared.
- E. Mr. Parks talked about Ordinance 2021.045. He stated that no one came from the BPA and requested an increase and he hasn’t seen any figures showing it is needed. Mr. McCollister disagreed, stating that he was sworn in the night the Utilities Director explained why it was needed. Mayor Carman suggested Mr. Parks attend the BPA meetings and ask questions. Mr. Parks questioned 2021.033 also.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marie Brooker, Ash Lane, suggested to Mr. Parks to get his facts together. She said she was very confused about what he said. She asked what the vision is to deal with the drug problem in Blanchester. She stated she was excited to hear there is a new police chief. She has purchased more security equipment and that she does not feel safe. She has spoken to 1015 people in town and all but one has expressed fear. Mr. McCollister stated Council has never had support for more funding for police and the village is doing what it can. Mr. Hopkins suggested meeting with the new police chief.

James Constable, 716 Cherry Street, spoke about ORC 705.17, financial worksheets and budget concerns.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Approved: February 10, 2022

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Shirley A. May