

07/08/2021

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/BAUER: Motion to excuse Richard Simpson. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Reilly moved to strike Ordinance No. 2021.016 (An Ordinance Establishing Rules, Regulation, and Penalties for Failing to Control or Confine an Animal within the Village of Blanchester) from the agenda due to a desire to conduct further review with Chief Reinbolt and the Village solicitor (Katie Wilkin). Don moved to strike Resolution No. 2021.015 (A resolution declaring it necessary to relinquish the right to give Single-Step Raises to Board of Public Affair Employees to the Board of Public Affairs Trustees) from the agenda due to a desire to further confer with Council members and others on the issue. Mayor then moved to strike all topics for New Business from the agenda to allow Council time to review before the next Regular Council Meeting on 8/12/2021.

HOPKINS/BAUER: Motion to accept agenda with New Business topics stricken. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 06/10/2021 and 6/21/2021 meetings were presented to Council.

BRUMBAUGH/HOPKINS: Motion to approve minutes from 06/10/2021 and 06/21/2021 meetings as presented. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/ADJUSTMENTS

Bills and adjustments were presented to Council.

GEPHART/HOLLON: Motion to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Phil Blankenship & Sherry Arnold, Employee Benefit Services – Sherry reviewed/recapped insurance plan parameters and rates; claim amounts from plan year beginning 9/1/2020 to present were shared. Overall, Sherry stated that plan renewal rates/costs would remain the same going forward. Don and Harry promoted renewal of the plan. Mayor said he would have documents ready for renewal sign-up at the next Regular Council Meeting on 8/12/2021.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Community Entertainment District Roadmap – Property Owner Applications
- B. Application by Property Owners for Proposed Community Entertainment District to be Designated
- C. Food Pantry Storage

tems A/B: Mayor stated that Council needs to determine the application amount. Katie suggested that once Council made determination on documents to use to publish on Village’s website to make it accessible for community members who want to apply. Reilly expressed a desire for Council to view and approve the map of the proposed district. Katie advised Council that the map in proposed district has to be based on the criteria in the application and must be brought forth by the community business owners involved in order to comply with Ohio Revised Code. Mayor confirmed it had to be 20 contiguous acres; Katie concurred adding that it has to include businesses that are appropriate under the definitions of the entertainment district. Reilly was unsure what fee amount would be appropriate and proposed brainstorming on who could be consulted. Mayor suggested reaching out to Lebanon as they may already have a similar district in place. Katie suggested the best course of action would be to have qualifying business owners within the proposed district fill out the

application collectively. Reilly asked for Council's thoughts on the entertainment district. Chad was unsure about how the Village would benefit from it. Harry approved of it, citing a good turnout at an event the weekend prior at Dewey Park featuring live music and food trucks and touched on the possibility of Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas (DORA) in the Village. Don believed the district would have benefits, citing the success of neighboring municipalities (e.g. Loveland) and asked for Tom Lee's thoughts. Tom mentioned Milford as an example of a district with DORA allowances but wasn't sure what the Village could do with DORA with so few establishments to participate. Reilly pointed out that even if an establishment didn't serve alcohol themselves, they could, being part of an entertainment district, have a vendor bring alcoholic beverages to the district. Katie reiterated that an entertainment district doesn't in and of itself, even if granted, allow alcohol in the district; it allows that district to apply for a certain permit.

Item C: Mayor said Harry Brumbaugh wanted to have a discussion about food storage for the Food Pantry with the Parks Board. Harry acknowledged that the gymnasium may not be available to the Food Pantry much longer for storage purposes. He hoped to work something out with the Parks Department on a new area for long-term storage. Tom mentioned there were no plans to do anything with the gymnasium and that it would cost at least \$300,000.00 to repair it. Don inquired about the empty food locker in front of the Village building and if there were plans to restock it. Mayor said he would inquire as to a restocking schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

None (stricken from agenda).

SOLICITOR

None.

FISCAL OFFICE

None.

MAYOR

Mayor commended Paul Daniels on his efforts in his position as Street Commissioner. Don thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their coordinated efforts toward the July 4th Festival in Blanchester; Mayor commended the Police Department for their work in maintaining safety during the festival.

BRUMBAUGH/GEPHART: Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Approved: August 18, 2021

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Shirley A. Gray