

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on September 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

All Present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and had Opening Prayer

Mr. William Garner	Present
Mr. Don Gephart	Present
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

Agenda

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

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

Motion Passed

Officer Ty Smith was sworn in by Mayor John Carman and Chief Robert Houghton.

Guest Speaker

Public Comment - Wayne Clifton 215 South Broadway, Blanchester. Is very disappointed in the work being done by Alta Fiber and how they are repairing the roads after they make cuts in the streets. He was very concerned at how they were refilling the holes and how they would stand up in the future. He wanted to know who was inspecting this street work being done. The mayor informed Mr. Clifton that our Street Supervisor, Paul Daniels oversaw that. The mayor also stated that himself, Mr. Daniels, and people from Alta Fiber had just meet over this exact topic and they insured that they are there for the long term and everything would be put back per specifications. Mr. Clifton also wanted to know about the cleanup that was suppose to happen on South Broadway. Again, the Mayor informed Mr. Clifton that as soon as all legalities were taken care of, we would be moving forward on getting the area cleaned up.

Mr. Parks wanted to be on record as to say if we are going to have a public comment go longer than our 3 minutes we allow in Public Comment, they need to be set up as a Guest Speaker in the future.

Mr. Gephart wanted to make sure that all repairs were being made per state specifications.

Mr. Hopkins made a motion to raise cuts in the roadway from \$150 to \$500 and Mr. Gephart second the motion for the solicitor to look in to changing the zoning ordinance to increase the street cutting fees.

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

Motion Passed

Approval of Minutes and Reallocations

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the Minutes from the September 12, 2024.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the Bills and Reallocations for this month.

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

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Gephart had asked that Regina Johnson (Fiscal Officer), Carla Flannery (Asst. Fiscal Officer) and Lynn Lewis (Council Member) attend the training in Columbus on October 30, 2024. The mayor confirmed Regina and Carla would be attending, but would check with Lynn about her attending.

Safety & Service – Mr. Hill confirmed that the sidewalks had been installed in front of CVS and Dollar Store as well as across from the Post Office. He discussed the concern the school has about large groups of school aged children crossing Cherry Street to get to the BP station. It is being said that a cross walk is needed there immediately. Mr. Hill will check into getting pricing to install a crosswalk in that area.

Cemetery – Nothing to report at this time.

BPA – Donna Johnson wanted to let the community know that the BPA has developed a Facebook page for all citizens to use to keep up to date on the happenings of the BPA. With the winds predicted from Hurricane Helene, please use this to keep up to date on outages. She wanted to let everyone know that with our system we can now see outages and know about them

before we even get phone calls, so we will be working to get everything back up as quickly as possible.

Old Business

The third and final reading of Ordinance 2024.013 which is an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2021.013 titled “an Ordinance to Establish benefits for employees responsible for the safety and security of the citizens of the Village of Blanchester.”

Mr. Hopkins moved to approve and Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passed

Ordinance 2024.018 An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2018.022 titled “An Ordinance for the Establishment of Curfew for the Village of Blanchester.”

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis to approve this ordinance as a second reading and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve Ordinance 2024.018.

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

Motion Passed

New Business

It was moved by Mr. Hill to allow the mayor to sign the bid to Clearcreek Coating, LTD for the Vine Street Water Tower for the amount of \$341.450.00. This included base bid and both options, the motion was seconded by Mr. Parks.

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

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to report

Parks – Blue Grass Festival for the weekend has been canceled due to the winds and rain from Hurricane Helene. A reschedule date was not available with the Bands.

Police – The Police Chief spoke on having a Police Chief meeting at our facility with all the surrounding Police Chief's, while concurrently running training for officers on the Milo training, which is the simulator, judgement training.

Street – Nothing to report

Zoning – Nothing to report

Fiscal – Nothing to report

Mayor – Nothing to report

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to go into executive session at 7:39 PM per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Mayor, Chief Houghton and Solicitor were invited.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to return from executive session at 7:48 PM.

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

Motion Passed

Action Taken:

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks that officer Thomas who was terminated not receive remaining vacation pay as per our Village of Blanchester Personnel Handbook.

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

Motion Passed

Discussion Item:

Ordinance No. 2023.025 - An ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, AND RETAIL SALE OF ADULT USE CANNABIS WITHIN VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER, OHIO. "Council discussed; no actions were taken. A proper zoned location in a non-residential zoning area can be found. Discussion will be continued".

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart that the meeting be adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Approved: October 10, 2024

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Regina Johnson



