

09/23/2021

Regular Council Meeting

7:00 PM

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

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

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to excuse Chad Hollon from meeting. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was presented to Council.

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to accept agenda with addition to New Business to discuss purchase of fence to place around playground on Main Street. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 9/9/2021 were presented to Council.

BRUMBAUGH/SIMPSON: Motion to approve minutes from 9/9/2021 as presented. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/ADJUSTMENTS

Bills and adjustments were presented to Council.

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to approve bills and adjustments as presented. All voted yea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: None.

Safety & Service: Reilly reported discussions about traffic light replacement, a request from the police chief for an additional full-time officer; revising the curfew ordinance; preparation work for municipal parking lot to be done by the street department followed by sealcoating with a \$2,500.00 quote from Gradeco.

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to accept repairs for the municipal building's parking lot not to exceed \$2,500.00. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Reilly also mentioned discussing with Chief Reinbolt the installation/replacement of exterior lights for the Village Police Department and presented material/installation costs for the repair.

HOPKINS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to purchase two light fixtures for the improvement/repair of exterior lighting for the Village Police Department. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Reverend Paul Crisp from the Blanchester Church of the Nazarene gave a presentation on the church's new program that ministers to Spanish-speaking residents. He requested that Blanchester residents help share this information throughout the community.

Dirk Garriott of Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) discussed the current status of IMPA's energy sourcing and the request for an 8-year extension (extending from the original expiration year of 2042 to 2050) on the wholesale power provider contract for the community. He recommended changing from a 10-year to a 30-year termination notice to reduce the cost impact on residents. The Mayor referenced Ordinance 2021.033 to Council; a discussion proceeded regarding the removal of the Ordinance from emergency status in favor of placing it on the first of three readings.

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to remove Ordinance 2021.033 from emergency status and to place on the first of three readings. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2021.011, A Resolution for Allowing the Fiscal Officer to Create New Fund 2053, American Rescue Plan Act Fund

BAUER/GEPHART: Motion to approve Resolution 2021.011 with amendment for fund number for American Rescue Plan Act. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

- B. DORA Roadmap

Village Solicitor Katie Wilkin discussed in detail the DORA Roadmap, reiterating the five stipulations required to establish a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) within the Village of Blanchester.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Temporary Expansion of Liquor Permit Premises (Matt Thompson) – Tom Lee cited a “no alcohol” provision within a Parks Ordinance and that this provision would need to be amended to permit the requested expansion. He also cited insurance liabilities Parks personnel could encounter as a result of this expansion. Don expressed the same concerns, citing the undesirable risk level for the Village by expanding the liquor permit premises upon Village-owned property. Chief Reinbolt suggested the need for security, including hiring special detail officer for the event. After discussion, the item was tabled pending additional information from Mr. Thompson.

- B. Resolution 2021.030, Resolution accepting the 2022 Alternative Local Government Fund Formula, Exhibit A – Annual resolution where numbers are received from the auditor’s office and Council votes to accept their portion.

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to accept Resolution 2021.030. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

- C. Resolution 2021.031, Approval of Supplemental Appropriations, Exhibit B

BAUER/SIMPSON: Motion to accept Resolution 2021.031. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

- D. Resolution 2021.032, Resolution Approving the Posting of Load Limits for Bridge Number CLIS MIL-0001, Located at S. Mill Street over Branch of Second Creek, for the Village of Blanchester

BAUER/HOPKINS: Motion to accept Resolution 2021.032. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

- E. Ordinance 2021.034, Ordinance Authorizing the Release of Special Assessments for Clinton County Land Bank Reutilization Corporation Owned Properties

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021.034. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

- F. Approval of signage for Mak’s Bakery

BRUMBAUGH/BAUER: Motion to approve signage for Mak’s Bakery. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

- G. Fencing for Village Municipal Building – Don proposed fencing to surround the playground, dumpster, and generator on municipal building property with a contingency to pay the original proposed quote for work. Contract proposes to pay 50% of cost upfront and other 50% upon completion. Proposed fence features were a 4-ft. high flat-top black iron fence. Mayor pointed out our existing fence ordinance specifies a maximum of 42 inches. Our ordinance pertaining to fence height would need to be revised to request change of size to the fence. Don advised to change the existing ordinance for fence length to 48 inches in addition to proposing that the cost of the fence be paid out of the general fund. Tom Lee questioned the necessity of the expense for the proposed fence, citing the lack of a recommendation from an insurance agent who inspected the Village playground; his inquiry as to the cost of the fencing was answered with the Mayor citing a rough estimate of \$12,800. The Mayor stated he believed the project should be contingent upon contractor

holding quoted price, securing Village funding and amending existing zoning ordinances. Reilly stated that the cost for the fencing should not concern the Parks Department as funding would not come from Parks; Tom countered by emphasizing that the Parks Department would be tasked with maintaining the fence once it is in place.

GEPHART/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to approve fencing contingent on current contractor holding quoted price, ability to securing funding, and making amendments to zoning ordinance for fence size. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

POLICE

Chief Reinbolt discussed the continued staffing shortage situation within the Police Department. He indicated that a considerable amount of money had been spent this year on advertising and that there had been only one applicant in the last three months despite long-standing vacancies in the department. He stated that he had been in contact with Robert Lyon, a Goshen resident and current enrollee in the police academy, every month since March to recruit him once he graduates in November of 2021. He stated that Robert is interested in taking a full-time position with Blanchester PD and he cautioned hiring only part-time when the need for a fully-staffed department is of utmost importance; hiring Robert would restore the PD to a fully-staffed status. He requested that Council approve the hiring of Robert as a full-time officer at Step A contingent upon the completion of his background check and psychological evaluation.

The Chief also mentioned he had been distributing preventative literature about distracted driving to community youth.

BAUER/SIMPSON: Motion to approve the hiring of Robert Lyon as a full-time police officer at Step A following approved background check and psych evaluation. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

STREET COMMISSIONER

Fawn Lane – Paul confirmed that Panetta would be delivering culvert boxes on 10/6/2021 and that they would begin work soon after. He obtained a quote for Panetta’s portion of the Fawn Lane project, including stone, labor, and asphalt costs to repair the road. He had notified residents via Facebook that Gradeco would begin resurfacing the portion of Cherry St. next to UDF between Broadway and Wright Streets on 9/24/2021 (these repairs are part of the OPWC project). Regarding the traffic lights in town, Paul said replacement bulbs would be LED bulbs, as incandescent bulbs are no longer being manufactured. He cited that some of the sockets in the traffic lights are becoming faulty as well. The Mayor suggested reaching out to ODOT to obtain replacement lights via the Safety Grant.

SOLICITOR

None.

FISCAL OFFICE

Tammy mentioned that the 2019-2020 Audit had been extended again to October 15, 2021. Reilly inquired as to when 2022 Budget Meetings would be scheduled. Tammy stated that the chosen days for those meetings were set for October 5th, 6th, and 7th.

MAYOR

The Mayor mentioned that he had spoken to Tim Kling, a representative with UDF, and that they are very happy with the new store and had a successful soft opening which broke several records for store openings. The Mayor mentioned that the UDF’s grand opening would be held on October 9th and expressed gratitude for all the repairs that were done around town at UDF’s cost.

The Mayor mentioned the potential hiring of a full-time hourly maintenance position and expressed concern about fitting another full-time salary with benefits into the Village budget. Don impressed the importance of having a maintenance person on staff full-time for the ongoing needs of an aging building.

The Mayor and Reilly briefly discussed three quotes obtained for the replacement of windows in the Police Department.

Tom Lee and Reilly discussed locations for hosting Boo Bash. There was indecision as to whether to hold it indoors or outdoors; Tom stated he would seek guidance from county sources in regards to ongoing COVID safety protocols.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Constable, 716 Cherry Street, expressed a desire for more transparency regarding the Village's annual budget.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Approved: October 14, 2021

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Denard S. Gray