

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 7, 2025

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on August 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

The Mayor read a proclamation with August being Suicide Awareness Month that we hereby declare August 29-31, 2025 as Overdose Awareness Days. As part of Overdose Awareness Days the Municipal Building will be displaying purple lights along our fence.

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

After some discussion Mr. Parks absence was not excused.

Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the Agenda.

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

Motion Passed

Public Comment

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester, OH 45107 reviewed some of the answers he got from the 13 questions he asked during last meeting. He also asked about the monies that was taken from the General Fund and put into the Credit Memo Fund.

Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the minutes from July 10, 2025 and July 31, 2025.

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

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the Bills from August 7, 2025.

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

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – The Finance Committee discussed the monies that were received from RITA thus far, and it is their recommendation that the last 3 supplemental payments that would be taken from the General fund, not be paid to the Police Department as discussed during budgets so that the monies could stay in the General Fund. This is not RITA money. This is supplemental monies the Village has given the Police Department for their budget. This is now monies that can be kept in the General Fund.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to allow the Fiscal Officer to make this adjustment.

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

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Mr. Parks was not present.

Cemetery – No one from the Cemetery Board was present.

Old Business

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mrs. Lewis that Ordinance 2025.014 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Prepare and Submit an Application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to Execute Contracts as Required. This is for Main St. Phase 1, to pass this Ordinance as an emergency.

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

Motion Passed

Mr. Hopkins would like to see us be able to use the brick underneath the roads in a project to preserve the history of Blanchester.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker that the BWC (Body Worn Cameras) Public Records Request Policy be approved. The purpose of this policy is to establish rules and guidelines for the Blanchester Police Department when preparing video records for production or inspection.

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

Motion Passed

New Business

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill that Ordinance 2025.016 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Participation form on Behalf of the Village of Blanchester to Participate in the New National Opioids Settlement with Purdue Pharmaceuticals and the Sackler Family be passed as an emergency.

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

Motion Passed

Discussion Item

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor reported an update on the wording for the zoning permits on how long the construction time frame should be.

Parks – The Parks has had several events. They had their last Splash Day of the year, movie at the Laurels, National Night Out and Party in the Park.

Police – Chief Houghton went over the July 2025 Police Report. They have done additional training the month and had National Night Out. It was a great event. He also discussed that Tina Fischer had proposed to him of the police department working with their organization to have a local support group for drug overdose/mental health/addiction.

Street – Paul Daniels nothing to report.

BPA – James Bowling reported that they would be having their next meeting at the water plant, to give all residents the opportunity to tour the facility and ask questions. James Bowling also brought up the request to get the KW tax back into the electric fund. James also brought up to council his need to transfer \$500,000 from the Electric Fund to the Water Fund. All legal documents are being prepared to move this money. This money is necessary to keep the water department running with a 6 month carry over of funds.

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt nothing to report,

Fiscal Officer – Regina Johnson nothing to report.

Mayor – The mayor reiterated that money received from RITA is 100% going to the Police Department. The only thing we would be looking to do is pull back on the supplemental funds that are taken from the General Fund to help support the Police Department.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis that the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 9/11/25

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Rizra Johnson