

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2023

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on November 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. with the honorable Mayor John Carman, presiding.

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

Roll Call	Mr. Harry Brumbaugh	Present
	Mr. William Garner	Present
	Mr. Don Gephart	Present
	Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
	Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
	Mr. Josh Parks	Present

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve agenda.

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

Motion Passed

Swearing in of New Police Officer

Logan C. Robinson

Guest Speaker

Josh Roth – Port Authority

Public Comment

James Constable – Mr. Constable brought his opinion to the Council in regards to voting that took place on some of the Ordinances and Resolutions during this past year. He feels that Council needs to be more diligent going forward when voting on issues for the Village.

Joe Greeson – Mr. Greeson wanted to discuss the possibility of moving the City Limit sign at 133 and Fayetteville Road so it is not blocking the visibility of the oncoming traffic. He also asked about the Village website phone numbers being updated he was not able to reach the Street Department. The Solicitor will look into options for moving the City limit sign.

Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve minutes from the October 26, 2023 regular meeting.

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

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve the current Bills and Reallocations.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis
Nay – Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – The committee is recommending that the 1% Tax Levy back on the ballot, for a time frame of 6 years with a trigger that if the tax does not pass that the Police Department budget will be cut by 40% the first quarter of 2025. The committee also suggested that the Village cancel the contract that they currently have with Freshbenies due to the service not being utilized by any of the Village employees and, it is costing the Village a considerable amount each month.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Parks to give the Fiscal Officer permission to cancel the Freshbenies contract.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay –

Motion Passed

Mr. Gephart also mentioned that the Street Department has lost another employee and needs to look for one new person for now and another at least part time person in the very near future.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to give the Street Department permission to begin looking for candidates to fill the 2 open positions.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay –

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Nothing to Report.

Cemetery – It was discussed that by Ohio Revised Code a Cemetery Board should be in place consisting of 3 members, the Mayor has the authority to assign the board members. It will be a 3 year term to start, the 3 members that were assigned to the Cemetery Board were Carla Flannery, Paul Daniels and Tom Lee. There will be a Cemetery meeting held on November 16th at 4:30 p.m.

Old Business

1. Resolution 2023.018- Resolution Renewing the Lease Agreement Entered into by and Between the Village of Blanchester and Blanchester Senior Center (Second Reading)

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve second reading of Ordinance 2023.018.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis
Nay – Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

2. Ordinance 2023.019- Ordinance Prohibiting Parking on South Broadway Street in Front of Parcel 2201101010015VA (First Reading)

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve first reading of Ordinance 2023.019.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay –

Motion Passed

New Business

1. Ordinance 2023.020 - Village of Blanchester, (1%) Earned Income Tax to Fund the Police Department. (First Reading)

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve first reading of Ordinance 2023.020.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis
Nay – Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

A special Council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday November the 14th at 8:00 p.m. for the second reading of Ordinance 2023.020, and Wednesday November 15th at 7:30 for the third reading of the Ordinance.

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to Report

Parks – The Halloween Boo Bash was very successful had a great turn out. Breakfast with Santa will be on Saturday December 2nd.

Police – The officers responded to 262 calls in the month of October. Some of the Community events this month, there was a presentation at the Middle School where officers spoke to the students about bullying, earning tax information sessions were held, a very successful Drug Take Back Day. Sergeant Petrey attended ARIDE training, worked with Brightview on a Homeless Outreach event trying to reach as many people as we could, also participated in a mock crash with Farm Machinery at the High School. Also, the Cones with Cops event had a great turn out, they plan to do it again when School lets out this Spring. UDF supplied the ice cream and they estimated that approximately 1000 cones were handed out! We also passed out candy for Halloween the Officers drive around and not only keep an eye on things but stop and pass out candy! No shave November has started, any officers that want to participate can and at the end of the month we are donating to the Exchange. Chief wished every Veteran a Happy Veteran’s Day and wanted to tell the community if they know any Veterans they are struggling please let them know that there are Officers who are also Veterans and are always available and willing to talk or help in any way that they can.

Street – Leaf pick up is still going on, we ask for everyone to keep them out of the ditch if you can they would appreciate it. Panetta was in to camera the storm sewer on Orchard View before the project starts. Paul attended a webinar on Beat Heat the brine mixture we purchased last year for snow removal to learn the correct mixture to use on the streets. Sometime next week they will begin taking down the Veteran banners down before the weather gets bad.

Zoning – Taco Bell has passed all inspections and are ready to open.

Fiscal – Fiscal Officer brought to Council that we need to move money from the Employee Trust into the General Fund to pay our insurance claims and premiums for the remainder of the year. We have had some large claims come in that were not expected and were not in the appropriations. She is asking Council for permission to move the needed money.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart moved to approve the Fiscal Officer moving the \$70,000 needed now to pay Insurance claims owed from the Employee Trust with the option to move more if needed but not to exceed \$130,000.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis
Nay – Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Mayor – Taco Bell will be opening on November 16th at 10:30 a.m. and has invited the Council to the Grand Opening ribbon cutting.

Executive Session

1. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of items under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 G1 – 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 of official.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to enter Executive Session at 8:46 pm.

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

Motion Passed

Present in Executive Session: Mayor Carman, Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins.
Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks, Solicitor and Chief Houghton.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to return to regular Council meeting from Executive Session at 9:11 pm.

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

Motion Passed

No action was taken following executive session

The Mayor asked Council if they wanted to purchase hams again this year for our employees. After discussion with the Council members, it was decided that Kroger Gift Cards would be a better option than the Hams.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the purchase of \$30 Kroger gift cards for employees not to exceed \$1,300.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Gephart that the meeting be adjourned at 9:18 pm.

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

Motion Passed

Approved: December 14, 2023

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Colin Murray, Interim Fiscal Officer

