

02/25/2021

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, Reilly Hopkins, and Richard Simpson were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Reilly requested to add Parking Lot Project under Old Business. Mayor noted that the discussion could be added, but there were business owners who had requested to attend the Council meeting to express concerns about the proposed project as well as a circulating petition about the project.

HOPKINS/SIMPSON: Motion to accept agenda with proposed addition. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 02/11/2021 meeting were presented to Council.

BRUMBAUGH/SIMPSON: Motion to approve minutes from 02/11/2021 meeting as presented. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/ADJUSTMENTS

Bills and adjustments were presented to Council.

**ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS
PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 02/25/2021**

FUND/DEPT	UJAN ACCT #	FUND
TOTAL GEN FUND		\$0.00
RESERVOIR 3 IMPRVMENTS ENGINEERING	4909-800-346	\$22,392.65
STREET CONTRACTUAL SERVICES (TREE TRIMMING)	2011-610-300-0007	\$725.00
STREET CAPITAL OUTLAY	2011-610-500	(\$725.00)
CURLESS RECREATION RENTS AND LEASES	2041-310-330	\$500.00
TOTAL OTHER		\$22,892.65
TOTAL GEN FUND+OTHER		\$22,892.65

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reilly stated there was a failure to have a quorum and therefore Safety/Service Committee was unable to conduct meeting.

HOLLON/GEPHART: Motion to recess to executive session pursuant to 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official inviting Mayor, Solicitor, Fiscal Officer, Chief Reinbolt to meeting. Roll call was made. All voted yea. Meeting recessed at 7:14 PM.

Roll call was made. Meeting resumed at 7:50 PM.

Chief requested permission to hire Justin Peel as an auxiliary officer effective immediately.

HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to hire Justin Peel as an auxiliary officer effective immediately per Chief Reinbolt's recommendation. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor reintroduced Ordinance 2021.003 to Council. Don asserted he would like to see the mayor's salary raised to an even \$20,000/year on the ordinance. Reilly announced he personally favored holding a mayor accountable for the hours he/she would be working. Chad expressed his satisfaction overall with the writing of the ordinance. Mayor reminded Council they should have had the chance to review the spreadsheets provided by the Fiscal Officer to detail the effects of the salary changes going forward.

HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to place Ordinance 2021.003, Establishing the Salary for the Mayor, Council and the Board of Public Affairs, on third and final reading, as presented. Roll call was made. BAUER, BRUMBAUGH, HOLLON, HOPKINS, SIMPSON voted yea; GEPHART voted no.

Reilly reintroduced the subject of the Parking Lot Project. He requested the Mayor could provide and update on the petition that's being passed around the town. Chad reiterated he still believed the project would be a waste of tax payer money especially in relation when Council was having to discuss options for PD salaries in a very competitive career field. Harry confirmed he believed the timing was not right for the project. Gary affirmed he agreed with Harry's remarks. Don shared he had spoken with some residents that were quite excited about the project prospect, but he also agreed it would be best to wait. Chad asked Reilly who would be maintaining the project once built. Reilly admitted he did not have an answer yet, but he suggested putting together a committee to discuss "micro-topics" of the project. Discussion was tabled.

Reilly asked the Safety/Service Committee members if they'd like to reconvene with monthly meetings virtually. Common consensus was to have virtual meetings going forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor introduced Resolution 2021.007. He explained he had received a letter from Tom Breckel regarding a potential Hazardous Litigation Plan in which each entity has to pass a resolution regarding the same. Common consensus was to take a little time to review the plan before voting on the resolution. Resolution was tabled until the next meeting.

Council Member Hopkins recommended purchasing a smart tv for the Council room for projecting information during meetings. He stated it could be used in place of the projector during Council meetings and budget planning meetings. He suggested purchasing through Amazon and/or Best Buy not to exceed \$1,000.

HOPKINS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to allow Mayor/Fiscal Officer to purchase smart tv with retractable bracket and supplies for Council Chambers use not to exceed \$1,500. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

SOLICITOR

None.

FISCAL OFFICE

Jewelie asked Tom if he wanted to mention the Curless Board being asked to pay the recreation fees with the school. Tom explained the fees had been increased to \$500 for the use of the school gym for practices. Appropriations were approved previously in the adjustments for the evening.

MAYOR

Mayor gave updates on Cherry Street Projects Phase 1 and Phase 2 grant funding status. He explained Blanchester didn't make the cut for the initial grant, so they were applying through Small Government grant funding. He thanked the BPA for their help with funding efforts.

Regarding the Safe Routes to Schools Project, to date there was 5 signed property owners, commitments from 2, and only 1 refusing to accept offer. Mayor stated the Solicitor would be

notifying the property owners verifying intent to move forward with the project. The Village will have 30 days for DunRobin to provide packets and then if there are still those who still refuse to sign, at that point, the Village would have to take the matter to court. Katie explained after packets were received back, the next step would involve an ordinance, after which time the matter would then be filed in court.

Mayor shared a quote from Tri-State Roofing regarding the 2 portions of roof still to be replaced (above the BPA and above the back entrance) also including tuckpoint along east end of building on police department, gym and around cafeteria windows. Material for over BPA Office is \$4,428, back entrance material is \$2,969.95. The bid dropped the labor price down to \$10,000 from original quote of \$12,000 (total material and labor \$17,397.95). James stated he felt it didn't make sense to only repair the roof 75% of the way, so he would be willing to work with the BPA Board for their support for cost to be split 50/50 with the General Fund. Tom stated the roof drain pan was currently leaking needs to be replaced or else the roof repair would be wasted efforts. Mayor confirmed he would discuss said repair with the roofer.

GEPHART/HOPKINS: Motion to allow Mayor to move forward with Tri-State Roofing proposed bid for remaining roofing repair. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

James Bowling acknowledged utilities had been running rather smoothly recently and the BPA was fortunate they had not had issues like Texas had been dealing with during the recent ice/snow weather.

HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Approved: March 11, 2021

Mayor: John M. Carrman
Attest: Katie Carsted

