

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2023

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on October 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. with the honorable Mayor John Carmn, 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
	Mr. Josh Parks	Present

**Agenda**

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve agenda.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Swearing in of New Police Officers**

Alexander J. Bouton

**Guest Speaker**

Thomas Breckel – Clinton County EMA

Phil Blankenship – Health Insurance

**Executive Session**

Interview of candidates for vacant positions on council:

Lynn Lewis

Marie Brooker

Verona Sester

Rebecca Campbell

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Parks to enter Executive Session at 7:39 pm.

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

**Motion Passed**

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to return to regular Council meeting from Executive Session at 8:46 pm.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Vote for Council Member Assignment to Replace Former Councilman McCollister**

Don Gephart - Lynn Lewis

Reilly Hopkins – Lynn Lewis

Harry Brumbaugh – Lynn Lewis

Josh Parks - Becky Campbell

William Garner – No Vote

Lynn Lewis sworn in as new Council Member

**Public Comment**

James Constable – Mr. Constable commented on the Income Tax that will be on the ballot. People working in the village will pay a 1% earned income tax. Mr. Constable also questioned the date on the Ordinance being August 1, 2023 and asked if the Village will be collecting back taxes due to that date. He also asked about his question from the prior meeting regarding the over \$7,000,000 that the Village has in CD's and what the Village plans to do with it.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve minutes from the September 28, 2023 regular meeting.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Bills and Reallocations**

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

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

**Motion Passed**

## **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Gephart told the Council that we were able to work with First National Bank to get the CD that had been rolled over to a 3-year CD at 2.35% changed to a 6-month CD at over 5%. The Bank did agree to wave all fees for the change.

**Safety & Service** – No Safety meeting. Mr. Parks did bring up that at the last meeting there was a discussion about parking at a residence regarding a safety issue of street parking from the driveway of the resident to the corner. Mr. Parks asked the Solicitor about the legality of what the Village can do. The subject was tabled until the next meeting.

**Cemetery** – Nothing to Report. Carla is trying to get a meeting scheduled.

## **Old Business**

1. Resolution 2023.015- Resolution Renewing the Lease Agreement Entered into by and Between the Village of Blanchester and Blanchester Senior Center

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve Resolution 2023.015.

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

## **Motion Failed**

2. Resolution 2023.016 – Resolution Establishing New Fund 2903, USDA Loan, for Purchasing Vehicles, Equipment and Technology Updates for the Police Department, for the Village of Blanchester

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve Resolution 2023.016.

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

## **Motion Passed**

## **New Business**

1. Orchard View Project update and Engineering approval for Orchard View Project.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve Engineering for Orchard View Project.

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

**Motion Passed**

2. Resolution 2023.017 – Resolution Declaring Nuisance and Ordering Abatement

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve Resolution 2023.017.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Department Reports**

**Solicitor** – Nothing to Report

**Parks** – The new light machine has arrived they just have to hook it up. The Fall Festival was a great success there was approx. 300 people in attendance.

**Police** – The event for questions on the Tax Levy will be on Monday October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the High School. Our new Officer Logan Robinson was not able to attend tonight due to a family emergency hopefully he will be able to attend the next meeting. The Police attended an event at the Senior Citizens Center and passed out weather radios. If anyone did not receive one that wants one, please contact Lindsey the Police clerk she can help you with that. The Homecoming parade was a success. All officers completed fire arms training this month. One of our new Police cruisers was entered in the Light Ohio Blue contest, we did well and came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Police Officers were present at the Fishing Derby, the Parks Department did an amazing job again this year with the Derby. The Boy Scouts Troop 47 in teaching them about dangers of drugs and alcohol to help them earn their new badge. There were High School/Middle School lock down drills that we participated in. Today the FFA had asked us to come out and participate in another type of mock crash involving a combine. Chief stated that the last time he spoke to Council he mentioned that he was waiting on word regarding a grant that we had applied for. He received word that we have been awarded the Edward J. Byrne \$100,000 Grant. The Grant will be used to reimburse any money put out by the Village to purchase Police vehicles. This makes all 4 of the new Police cruisers paid for in full with no cost to the Village. We also received a \$21,000 donation from the Eagles that will go toward putting equipment and computers in the cruisers. We also received a \$1,700 donation as well so things are going well. In the past 2 years we have raised \$332,000. Brightview will be holding an event this Tuesday to try help the homeless by having a cookout and people on site who are available to offer help to anyone in need.

**Street** – Nothing to Report

**Zoning** – Jeff wanted to thank the Solicitor for his help on getting the information needed for the abatement. Jeff also heard back from O'Reilly Auto Parts and they are going ahead with purchasing property and going ahead with plans on opening a store here in Blanchester.

**Fiscal** – Nothing to Report

**Mayor** – Nothing to Report

Mr. Gephart brought up the signs coming into town for the Athletes that have faded needing replaced and possibly adding an additional name. Mr. Hopkins added that the area around those signs is in terrible shape it is overgrown and looks horrible. Mr. Hopkins feels that the condition of the area surrounding the signs be addressed before any new signage is added. Mr. Gephart said that he will bring it up at the next Chamber meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks that the meeting be adjourned at 9:31 pm.

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

**Motion Passed**

Approved: 10-27-2023

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regatha Vanderhaar