

Regular Council Meeting  
04/12/2018  
7:00 PM  
Municipal Building

Gary Bauer, Lori Byrom, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, Reilly Hopkins, and Cindy Sutton were present. Mayor presided over the meeting.

Mayor requested a change to the agenda to allow speakers to make presentations prior to Old Business. There was no objection.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from 3/22/18 were presented to Council. A change was suggested under the Parks section: "Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 31, 2018."

**HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to approve 3/22/18 minutes with change as presented. All voted yea.**

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Bills were presented to Council.

**HOLLON/SUTTON: Motion to approve bills as presented. Roll call was made. Byrom- abstained; all others voted yea.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dan Evers from Clinton County Port Authority was introduced. Dan stated that the Port Authority has been working toward assisting potential developers and businesses and their mission is to facilitate economic development county wide. He announced Brownfield grant money is still available, so if there was some land in Blanchester that needed help with a Phase I development and possibly a Phase II environmental assessment, Council should inform Port Authority so they can provide assistance. Cindy invited Dan to the next Planning Commission meeting in an effort to obtain advice for Blanchester development. He stated he welcomed the opportunity and would be happy to attend any meetings. Mayor asked for more information regarding the Brownfield grant program and if there was a deadline for applying for the funds. Dan stated there was no deadline with funds available to fund a number of assessments. Dan informed that the Port Authority Board meets once a month (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 9AM).

Mayor introduced Lauren Bowen from the Ohio Treasurer's office. Lauren stated Blanchester's Ohio Checkbook was ready to go live and the Ohio Treasurer's hope is that Council as well as the public will have a better understanding of how public funds are spent through this program. She thanked Jewelie and Mayor Carman for their support and help in setting up the program and gave a brief history of the Ohio Checkbook program. Because of the launch of Ohiocheckbook.com, Ohio went from a ranking of 46 in the nation to number 1 in government transparency becoming the national leader. She commended Council for their support of the program, and demonstrated the projected website for all in attendance. Mayor stated that Council desires this program will help to clarify misunderstandings about Village spending.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2018.018 was reintroduced to Council. Mayor noted Andrew had added a few sections following the last meeting's request by Council. Applications submitted for parades must be given to the Chief to ensure he has officers scheduled to cover the event, where after the Mayor will sign off on the application. A question was asked regarding parking signs being displayed. Chief stated as long as he knows about parking signs in advance of a parade, he wouldn't have an issue with event parking signs.

**BAUER/GEHART: Motion to suspend rules and place Ordinance 2018.018, an Ordinance of Regulation of Parades and Assemblages, on emergency reading. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

**SUTTON/BYROM: Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018.018. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Don announced Andrew was working on the Earnings Tax ordinance for proper legal language to ensure people understand that 100% of the funds would go to support the police department. Ordinance must be passed 90 days prior to November election to be included on ballot. Mayor explained how the earnings tax would work theoretically. Chad declared he believed ½ million dollars was twice what he feels Council should be trying to request.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 018.019 was introduced to Council. Tina Fischer explained there was \$31,589 available in NatureWorks grant money available. The grant money would be requested to replace the Municipal Building's playground equipment (25 years old). Application is to be submitted by May 1<sup>st</sup>. There would be a matching portion required by the Village. Tina voiced that First National Bank has affirmed they would donate toward this project.

**BAUER/GEPHART: Motion to adopt Resolution 2018.019, a Resolution Authorizing John Carman, Village of Blanchester Mayor, to Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio NatureWorks Program and to Execute Contracts as Required. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Ordinance 2018.020 was introduced to Council by Mayor. BPA Board had made recommendation to provide free utility service to the library and fire department. Ram stated free utilities have been provided to the library and fire department for at least 50 years if not longer. He stated that the board reserves the right to review this ordinance if it serves the public better.

**GEPHART/SUTTON: Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018.020, an Ordinance Authorizing the Continued Provision of Free Electric to Both the Blanchester Public Library and the Blanchester-Marion Join Fire District, Affirming and Ratifying Past Provision of Electric to the Same and Declaring an Emergency. Roll call was made. Hollon and Hopkins voted no; Byrom, Bauer, Gephart, Sutton voted yea.**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Cindy stated the finance meeting would be changed to April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief stated one of the full-time military reservists in the police department will be deployed soon. He stated he would like to hire a second part-timer to cover crucial hours in the meantime. He stated he had spoken with a candidate believed to be a good fit and was looking for permission to hire this officer contingent on medical exam and background check at step B on the pay scale.

**BAUER/HOPKINS: Motion to hire part-time officer at Step B following background check and medical exams. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Chief estimated that about 41% of PD's vehicle maintenance appropriations have been spent to date, mainly due to vehicle aging. He concluded the 2018 vehicle maintenance budget would be very tight.

Chief stated that for 2 years the police department had needed a file cabinet in which to store small forms. This cabinet had a \$1,300 price tag at Staples. He was able to find one on an auction site and paid ~\$30 for the cabinet.

Chief requested an increase in appropriations for the police department salaries.

**HOLLON/BYROM: Motion to increase \$2,500 in salaries for PD. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Andrew stated that the Ordinance 2018.020 vote failed to pass as an emergency ordinance. He stated that an emergency ordinance is required to pass by a yea vote from ¾ of Council. He stated that if the emergency portion was eliminated, the ordinance could be placed on a 1<sup>st</sup> reading with a roll call vote. Ram stated that the library pays part of their electric bill currently for air conditioning, and the fire department helps with blocking the roads free of charge for the BPA during repair and maintenance work. Don stated he fully supports the library as they help with the school system and offers summer programs for the children. He stated he believed the ordinance to be beneficial. Chad stated striking the emergency reading portion of the ordinance appealed to him.

**GEPHART/BAUER: Motion to place Ordinance 2018.020 on its first reading. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

#### **STREET**

Wayne did research for the traffic signal controls. He stated the controls were fine, but they needed new lights (24 at a cost of \$6,282.00). Mayor asked if this included pedestrian crossings; Wayne stated it did not. Chad asked what was wrong with the existing lights. Wayne stated they weren't as bright as they could be. Wayne reported floor inside library is sinking in on pipe causing problem on sidewalks. He also noted the need for 25 new American flags. Lori stated the Laurels would buy as many as they did last year. Wayne expressed the Street Department would like to purchase \$999 trailer to haul mower.

**BAUER/GEPHART: Motion to allow permission provided funds are appropriated in the budget. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

#### **PARKS**

Tom stated the Easter Egg Hunt was a big success. He wished to thank all the volunteers and the turn out for the event.

#### **BPA**

Ram provided IMPA's 2017 annual report for Council's review and presented recommended adjustments to Council approved by BPA Board at their April meeting (Attachment A).

**HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to accept BPA adjustments as requested. All voted yea.**

Ram announced a new meter reader would be hired pending change to current BPA pay scale and would be placed somewhere in the W-4-I to W-4-L range (Attachment B). The hope is that the hired person would be able to assist in office as well. Chad asked if the BPA had someone in mind yet, and Ram stated they were going to open the position internally and externally. Don stated that he had attended the BPA meeting and all was explained well to those present.

**GEPHART/BAUER: Motion to accept BPA recommendation of meter reader new hire proposal. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

#### **SOLICITOR**

Andrew disclosed the village was named as a defendant in a quiet title action involving an alleyway of which a Blanchester resident has an interest in claiming. Andrew stated he had filed an action on behalf of the village, but there was no claim for damages. Mayor thanked Andrew for working on behalf of the village in this matter.

#### **FISCAL OFFICE**

Adjustments were introduced to Council.

**ADJUSTMENTS 04/12/2018**

FUND/DEPT	UAN ACCT #	FUND
ELECTION EXPENSES	1000-735-345	\$1,975.00
ZONING SALARIES	1000-410-100	-\$1,975.00
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
PARK LEVY ADVANCES OUT	2042-920-920	\$10,000.00
PARKS TAX COLLECTION FEES	2042-740-344	\$4,500.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>		<b>\$14,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND+OTHER</b>		<b>\$14,500.00</b>

**HOLLON/BYROM: Motion to approve adjustments. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

**MAYOR**

Mayor announced the Ohio Municipal League is offering beneficial training for new council members to attend if desired. Mayor promised to provide information to anyone interested.

Mayor thanked Jewellie for all of her hard work on the Ohio Checkbook project behind the scenes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

James Constable, 716 Cherry Street, stated Council owes it to residents to have PUCO investigate BPA rates. He requested Council consider his recommendation.

**HOLLON/BYROM: Motion to adjourn. All voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.**

Approved: 04/26/18

Mayor: John M. Carrman

Attest: Jewellie Constable

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: April 5, 2018  
To: The Honorable Mayor and the Village Council  
From: The Trustees of the Board of Public Affairs  
Subject: Amendment to 2018 BPA Budget

At the April 5, 2018 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Public Affairs (BPA), the board members voted to recommend that the BPA 2018 Budget be modified as follows:

1. Reduce the Water distribution capital improvement fund line item by \$1,000.00 and establish a \$1,000.00 travel expense line item.
2. Reduce the Sewer distribution capital improvement fund line item by \$1,000.00 and establish a \$1,000.00 travel expense line item.
3. Reduce the Electric distribution capital improvement fund line item by \$5,000.00 and establish a \$5,000.00 travel expense line item.

Your prompt attention to this issue will be appreciated.

Respectfully,  
Board of Public Affairs

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** April 5, 2018  
**To:** The Honorable Mayor and the Village Council  
**From:** The Trustees of the Board of Public Affairs  
**Subject:** Approval of Hiring and Establishing Wage Scale for New Meter Reader

At the April 5, 2018 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Public Affairs (BPA), the board members voted to request Village Council's approval to establish a proposed wage scale of \$15.12 to \$17.50/ hour to hire a new employee as a meter reader.

Your prompt attention to this issue will be appreciated.

Respectfully,  
Board of Public Affairs