

Police Department

Fiscal Officer

Street Department



John M Carman, Mayor

Parks & Recreation

Zoning Department

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

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on January 12, 2023 at 7:05 p.m. with the honorable Mr. John Carman, Mayor, 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. Tyler McCollister	Present
	Mr. Josh Parks	Present

**Amended Agenda**

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Public Comment**

Betsy Wellman – She received an Anonymous letter stating that the Council was attempting to legally change the Town Charter so that no one would have the right to vote regarding taxes. The Mayor stated in order to change a Charter a full board would have to be established and they would draft the Charter and it had to be voted on. Since there is already a Charter in place even an amendment would have to be voted on.

James Constable – Discussing carry over of 5.7 Million for BPA from last year and a 6 Million dollar carry over this year. Looking into the increase made to sewer rates last year that was not needed, as well as other carry over to Water and Electric. Mr. Constable is going to start a petition to hire a Village Administrator and do away with the BPA Board. Mr. Constable also questioned the number of signatures needed for a petition whether the number needed follows the Village Charter or Ohio Revised code. The Solicitor addressed Mr. Constable regarding this issue, the answer was that the Council and its Charter law has the power to reign over state local government issues and that the number of signatures required by the Village for petitions is based on the Charter language.

**President Pro Tempore**

Nominations for President Pro Tempore were Tyler McCollister and Riley Hopkins

Motion for Tyler McCollister

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

**Motion Failed**

Motion for Riley Hopkins

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

**Motion Passed**

**Riley Hopkins will act as President Pro Tempore**

**Minutes**

It was moved by Mr. McCollister and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve minutes from the December 29, 2022 meeting.

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

**Motion Passed**

Mayor made recommendation from finance committee report of December 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting moving Jack Kirby, Assistant Fiscal Officer, to full time from part time.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve moving Jack Kirby to Full Time.

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

**Motion Passed**

**Bills and Reallocations**

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

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

## **Motion Passed**

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Nothing to Report

**Safety & Service** – Nothing to Report

**Cemetery** – Nothing to Report

### **Old Business**

1. Ordinance 2022.033 Amended Mayor/Council Salary Ordinance (Second Reading)

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2022.033.

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

## **Motion Passed**

### **New Business**

1. Resolution 2023.001 - A Resolution Establishing Limits and Setting Amounts for the Fiscal Officer to Follow for Accounting Purposes for the Fiscal Year 2023

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve Resolution 2023.001.

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

## **Motion Passed**

2. Mayor brought up discussion and recommendation from finance committee meeting to add Compensation time to the handbook as follows – all employees may request that any and all of his/her hours of active pay status in excess of 80 hours within a 14-day work period to be paid in the form of compensatory time at a rate of 1 hour for salary employees and 1.5 hours for hourly employees. This will give employees an incentive to build some time up to 120 hours that can be taken up to a week at a time, or they can be paid out in January of the following year that the time is accrued. 120 hours is the maximum hours that can be given, no additional hours can be accrued until some of the hours have been used.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. McCollister to add the Compensation Time Policy to the handbook.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks

Nay – None

### **Motion Passed**

#### **Department Reports**

**Solicitor** – Nothing to report.

**Parks** – Nothing to report.

**Police** – Chief gave a presentation showing statistics in the crimes that happened in the village from the past year, locations and types of crimes. He also stated that the Department found and purchased a used Ford Explorer police vehicle for a good price which will be part of the update to the police vehicles. Within the next few weeks they should be receiving 2 of the new Tahoe's that the village purchased with Grant funds. The 3 vehicles will soon be in use replacing the current vehicles that are in very poor shape. Chief is hoping to purchase 2 new radars this year so all cars have a radar. They will also need to purchase some new computers for the vehicles as well. Chief has also applied for a Grant to try to be able to recoup some of the costs and maybe be able to give some incentive bonuses.

**Street** – Nothing to report.

Mayor recommended Paul Daniels as Street Commissioner.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister to appoint Paul Daniels as Street Commissioner.

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

### **Motion Passed**

**Zoning** – Nothing to report

**Fiscal** – Fiscal Officer discussed going to Jeffersonville to meet with their Fiscal Officer regarding end of year processes. Hoping to start meeting with departments to lock down permanent budget soon.

**Mayor** – Mayor recommended appointing Don Gephart as Chair of the Finance Committee, along with Council members Tyler McCollister and William Garner. He also recommended Josh Parks as Chair of the Safety and Service Committee, along with Reilly Hopkins and Harry Brumbaugh. Don Gephart will remain on the Fire Board, Emergency Management would be John, Josh Parks will remain on Solid Waste, Harry Brumbaugh will remain on Planning, Clinton County Community Action will remain Cindy Sutton, Chamber Representative will be Don Gephart, Paul Daniels will remain Street Commissioner, John will continue on the Clinton County Regional Planning Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins to keep the committees the same except for making Mr. Parks Chair of the Safety and Service Committee it was seconded by Mr. Parks.

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

**Motion Failed**

Mr. Brumbaugh stated to the Mayor he was willing to move to the Safety and Service Committee so that Mr. McCollister could be on the Finance Committee. The change was made to the committees.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Discussion on possible Ordinance to have Chickens in town. Wilmington has a similar Ordinance and have no issues at this time. Mayor requested to turn this over to Zoning and Planning to research this issue.

Mr. Hopkins made a motion to not pursue or research this issue seconded by Mr., Gephart

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

**Motion Failed**

Discussion on Garbage rates Mr. Parks thinks it would be a good way to raise money for the Police Department. It was brought to the attention of the Council by the Solicitor that you cannot raise rates without reasonable need. You cannot raise the rates just to raise money. Solicitor will research and bring more information to next meeting.

Discussion on Income Ordinance for Police – Mayor was asked if he thought we should add the Ordinance back on the ballot to be voted on. Once again question was asked about people who live in Blanchester but work somewhere else where tax is taken out, will they have to pay tax to Blanchester also. If you work in Blanchester you will pay the tax, but if you live in Blanchester and work in a town that takes out an income tax, they will not be required to pay the tax in Blanchester. Mayor thinks that we should put it back on the ballot, but be very specific about where the money will go. All Council members need to get out and help to get the word out about the levy. Everyone has to help and work to get this passed.

Mr. Hopkins made a motion to move forward with adding the 1% Income Ordinance for the Police back on the ballot it was seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins  
Nay – Mr. Garner, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks  
Yea - Mayor

**Motion Passed**

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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

**Motion Passed**

Approved: January 26, 2023

Mayor: John M Cannon

Attest: Cynthia J Voncken