

Police Department

Fiscal Officer

Street Department



Parks & Recreation

Zoning Department

John M Carman, Mayor

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

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on March 9, 2023 at 7:03 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	Absent
	Mr. Don Gephart	Present
	Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
	Mr. Tyler McCollister	Present
	Mr. Josh Parks	Present

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to excuse Mr. Garner from the meeting.

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

Motion Passed

Agenda

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

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

Motion Passed

Guest Speaker

Mr. David Henry, nominee for Municipal Court Judge

Public Comment

James Constable – Gave a handout of a paperwork that had been submitted to the county auditor office. Mr. Constable then played a voicemail from the Fiscal Officer asking him to bring any

future questions he had regarding any public records requests to the council. Mr. Constable then began explaining what he saw as mistake regarding the general fund.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Brumbaugh and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve minutes from the January 26, 2023, meeting.

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

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

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

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

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Finance Committee discussed the plan for the Gym renovation, Mr. Hopkins wrote a letter to start the process with the Legacy Fund for a grant to help pay for the renovation in the amount of \$120,000. It was also discussed that the Village and Parks Department would contribute \$15,000 each into the project. Mr. Lee said that after closer investigation the gym will not need a new ceiling which will be a considerable help with the cost, but he is still waiting on estimates on the additional work needed to get the Gym back into usable condition.

It was moved by Mr. McCollister and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to move forward to try to attain a Legacy Grant to help with the Gym renovation, with the Village and Parks each contributing \$15,000 toward the project.

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

Motion Passed

The Mayor brought to the attention of the Finance Committee that the current contract for the Solicitor was about to expire and that the Solicitor had send him a copy of a new contract stating that only Mr. Barbieri will be representing us going forward.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve the New Solicitor contract between the Village and Mr. James Barbieri.

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

Motion Passed

The committee looked over and discussed the Liability Insurance quote for the new year.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve the Liability Insurance quote and give the Mayor permission to sign and move forward with it.

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

Motion Passed

The committee also discussed looking into other options for the villages CD's and investments to make sure we are doing what is in the best interest for the Village money.

Safety & Service – Nothing new at this time

Cemetery – Paul has reached out to Lakeside Tree Service again for a quote on some additional trees that need taken care of. The street department and the parks department have been working together to do some clean up along the creek side clearing out brush and debris. Cleaning up the area will allow for additional plots to be sold. Several requests have been made about purchasing plots but the research is still in progress trying to locate the currently owned plots and what ones have been used. Mr. Gephart and Mr. McCollister stated they have had many positive comments made to them on how nice the Cemetery is looking.

Old Business

New Business

1. Ordinance 2023-002 – Ordinance Allowing the Keeping of Chickens in the Village of Blanchester, Ohio

It was moved by Mr. McCollister and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to reject Ordinance 2023.002

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister that there be no further discussion regarding Ordinance 2023.002 or any future conversations regarding chickens in the Village.

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

Motion Passed

2. Hylant Liability Insurance Premium Quote Breakdown
3. New Solicitor Contract
4. Ordinance 2023.003 – Urging the Legislative Branches of the Federal Government as well as the State of Ohio to enact legislation to further protect the citizens of the Village of Blanchester Ohio from the inherent dangers of a train derailment on the tracks located at or near our Village and declaring an Emergency

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to approve Ordinance 2023.003

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

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to report.

Parks – The wind ripped off the dugout roof on field 1 and threw it into the fence they have only received 1 bid due to contractors being so busy and that was for \$3,300. Due to the Insurance deductible being \$1,000 they will be turning it into the Insurance company. The Easter Egg hunt will take place on April 8th the eggs are filled and ready to go. There will be a Circus in town performing 2 shows on May 9th. There will be a 5K run on April 15, and all bands have been scheduled for the Party in the Park events. Also there was a thank you given to the BPA for the new lighting that was put up.

Police – Unable to attend due to work issues.

Street – Nothing new at this time. Mayor commented on the great job the street department did cleaning up all the trees and debris from the heavy winds.

Zoning – BP has broken ground and started construction. Also, Taco Bell has final had closing and gave drawings they are hoping to start construction June 1, 2023.

Fiscal – End of year 2022 is closed. She has been reaching out still searching for training opportunities waiting on answer back from local government services. Working on obtaining new plates for police and city vehicles.

Mayor – The Clinton County Commissioners would like to come to our April 13th meeting and have a joint meeting with Council. They just asked that they be given allotted time in case they have County issues to discuss and vote on. Everyone agreed that would be an honor to have them join our meeting. We are still researching placing cameras and microphones in the council room so that everyone will be able to hear what is discussed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Earnings Tax – Tabled for now

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. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Approved: March 23, 2023

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Cynthia J. Voncken