

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 25, 2025

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on September 25, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

Mrs. Marie Brooker	Present
Mr. William Garner	Present
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Absent

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve Josh Parks absence.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis,
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the agenda.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis,
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Public Comment

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester, OH, addressed council about identifying who is the chairman of the sidewalk committee? He asked about the status of his complaint against the police chief. He explained he has two public records requests from August 21st. that require a response in writing if records are unavailable per Sunshine Laws. There were several emails going back and forth, but without a reason for not getting them. He would like to see the budget posted and allow public comment.

Grant Coffman, 305 N. Broadway, Blanchester, OH, addressed the council about public service engagements and leadership. Blanchester deserves a government that works for the residents. He spoke about the daily operations of the duties of the proposed hiring of a Village Administrator and the best practices that this person would be in charge of.

Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the minutes from September 11, 2025,

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis,
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the Bills from September 25, 2025 with the change to move line 19 parks to streets.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis,
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee –Nothing to report.

Safety & Service – Nothing to report.

Cemetery –

Paul Daniels announced that Tom Lee resigned as Chairman of the Cemetery Board. The mayor would like to make a new appointment to the Cemetery Board.

The mayor confirmed Tom Lee's resignation, and it was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to accept Mr. Lee's resignation.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis,
 Nay – None

The mayor would appoint Lindsey Ahrmann to the cemetery board and make Paul Daniels the Chairman.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis,
 Nay – None

Motions Passed

Old Business-

Super Structure Bridge 133 ODOT Detour Routes Construction to start April 26, 2026, and the anticipated completion date is October 2026. We'll post the detour map on the village webpage.

Village Administrator

The mayor proposed that the council give direction to the solicitor to create an ordinance to hire a village administrator. He asked if there was any discussion. Mrs. Lewis stated she would like the people of Blanchester to speak for themselves.

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Garner to allow the solicitor to create an Ordinance to hire a Village Administrator

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins,
 Nay – Marie Brooker, Lynn Lewis

The solicitor stated the ordinance would have to be voted on again.

The mayor mentioned that the salary of the village administrator would have to be decided upon, and how we should draft it. All budgets will be affected except for the police department. Mr. Hopkins noted that it should be drafted from the general fund, which can be edited. Mrs. Lewis questioned whether we are going to be able to find a village administrator for less than the board.

The solicitor recommends that the amount needs to be identified and where it is coming from. Mr. Hopkins stated he wasn't sure, but it was between \$60k-\$130k.

Motion Passed

New Business - none

Discussion Item - none

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

Parks – Paul Jackson invited everyone out to the Bluegrass Festival

Police – Mayor reported for Chief Houghton that K-9 training starts next week. The drones have been ordered. Officer Smith completed field training classes for FTO. On Saturday, October 25, there will be a Drug Take Back Day at Kroger's. They raised \$3k for Shop with a Cop, and donations can still be made at the office.

Street – Nothing to report.

BPA – James Bowlings thanked Chris Hilderbrandt for accommodating the BPA by setting up the council chambers and equipment for their meeting. He shared good news about the transformers that were voted on for the substation project. Ram Reddy, our director of utilities, negotiated for an additional discount that increased from 1.5% to 3% which totaled \$85k in savings. Ram and Rusty Hampton met with AMP Ohio and other municipal electricity organizations to discuss the financing of substations. The next BPA meeting is on October 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the BPA conference room.

Zoning/Maintenance –

Can you give an update on the nonconforming properties? One owner stated he would have the property cleaned by the deadline. The mayor asked what happens after 28 days. Solicitor stated there would be a case management meeting with the judge, the property owner, and himself. A hearing would take place, and if he doesn't respond within the 28 days, then it is called a default. A motion for default judgment to secure an order against the property owner, then a contempt court motion so someone can assess all costs against the property.

The mayor shared that Chris is continuing the paint the back stairway.

Fiscal Officer – Nothing to report.

Mayor –

With the recent passing of Jim Burroughs, we have a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Fred Jones has agreed to fill that vacancy on the BZA Committee. The mayor would like to appoint Fred Jones to fill that vacancy. It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to accept this recommendation.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 9/25/25

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina D. Cannon