

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on September 28, 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	Absent
	Mr. William Garner	Present
	Mr. Don Gephart	Present
	Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
	Mr. Tyler McCollister	Absent
	Mr. Josh Parks	Present

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Gephart to excuse Mr. Brumbaugh from the meeting.

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

Motion Passed

Mayor stated that he received a resignation letter from Councilman McCollister, effective immediately removing himself as a member of the Council. Mayor recommended that an announcement be put out that anyone interested in sitting on the Council for the remainder of Mr. McCollister’s term should submit a letter to the Council for review by October 6, 2023. The Council can then decide who they will appoint to sit in Mr. McCollister’s place.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to follow the process suggested by the Mayor, for filling Mr. McCollister’s place on Council.

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

Motion Passed

Agenda

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

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

Motion Passed

Public Comment

Janelle Fatheree – Presented list of questions for the Police Dept. and Council to answer for the October 16th open forum meeting taking place at the High School. She asked that there be a flyer made to answer these questions as well as spell out the needs of the Police Department for the Income Tax Levy.

Dwayne Dearth – Mr. Dearth has been a part of the community for a very long time. Mr. Dearth visited the Cemetery and found it a mess. The people taking care of the Cemetery are damaging the grave stones they are being knocked off their foundations and being treated poorly. Decorations are being destroyed and the damage happening to the headstones is horrible. The issue needs to be addressed immediately

James Constable – Mr. Constable commented he has spent the last week going through month end reports. He printed out the information he received through public records request regarding the CD's the Village has he does not believe we have that much, but if we do, we should explain why that money is not used to support the Police Department.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve minutes from the September 14, 2023 regular meeting.

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

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

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

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

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Gephart told the Council that the Fiscal Officer was able to speak with First National Bank and 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 – Safety meeting took place at 6:30 and they discussed the yellow curb painting, the 6 signs that Paul had replaced and new crosswalks. The committee also discussed the parking spots in front of UDF and how they should be removed due to them interfering with the line of sight trying to get out of UDF.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Gephart to remove the 3 parking spots on the east side of Broadway in front of UDF.

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

Motion Passed

The Mayor asked for the Solicitor to research what action needs to be taken to remove the parking spots and present it at the next meeting.

Cemetery – Have received several complaints on the condition of the Cemetery headstones vandalized, decorations mowed over and headstones knocked off their base. This matter is being investigated so that we can get it taken care of. There was discussion of getting an official committee put together according to the ORC to deal with this. All tree limbs that had fallen have been taken care of and thankfully there was no damage to the headstones. Carla has come up with a new deed for the lots to be able to give to families.

Old Business

New Business

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to Report

Parks – The next event will be the Fall Fest on September 30, there will be vendors, food trucks and Bluegrass bands.

Police – Nothing to Report

Street – Rick Jones has officially retired as of Friday. Paul asked to look for a parttime person to replace Ricky. 6 different signs were replaced most of them behind Dominos due to graffiti. Paul has not been able to get a response back yet from ODOT. Paul attended a meeting County Engineers office and received some good information on abbreviated funding that may be available. This was Paul's first time attending the meeting and he was told that the state route signs will be supplied by the state at request we do not have to pay for them. Paul also found out that testing needs to be done on our signs to test reflectivity of the signs this needs to be done annually.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to allow the Street Department to hire a part-time person to replace Mr. Jones.

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

Motion Passed

Zoning – BP is putting the tanks in the ground and Taco Bell is progressing.

Fiscal – Nothing to report

Mayor – Discussed an item from the Zoning committee meeting that need to be addressed regarding an area from Center St. to Baldwin St. that is not zoned residential. He asked that a public hearing to held on November 9th at 6:45 pm prior to our normal Council meeting to address this.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to set a Public Hearing regarding Zoning on November 9, 2023 at 6:45 pm.

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

Motion Passed

The Mayor stated that the Village received a grant in the amount of \$79,682.81 for the Community Gym project. With the amount we have already received we are only about \$350 short of our original goal. The Parks department has been working with the contractor we have a priority list of things that need to be done first. The Mayor also stated that the Police have also received multiple grants this year as well and the new Police vehicles have been completely paid for by Grants. No Village money was spent on the purchase of New Police Cars.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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

Motion Passed

Approved: 10-13-2023

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Cynthia Vanderhaar