

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 28, 2024

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on March 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with the Mayor Pro Temp Reilly Hopkins presiding.

All Present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and had Opening Prayer

Roll Call	Mr. William Garner	Present
	Mr. Don Gephart	Present
	Mr. John Hill	Present
	Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
	Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
	Mr. Josh Parks	Present

Agenda

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

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Guest Speaker

Wayne Moore – The US EPA has mandated that all water departments take an inventory of all water service lines, both customer and utility side. We have attempted to do this. We have posted fliers and things around town. We are asking the community to help us. Starting the 1st of April RCAP will be in town helping us do this well. They will be knocking on doors and bringing in equipment to help identify the lines. The Water Department will be working alongside them to try to speed up the process. They are looking for galvanized pipe that may have been downstream from lead which will need to be removed. All lead pipes must be identified by October 24, 2024.

Phil Blankenship – Gave an update on Health insurance. The renewal process starts in July and will end in September. Right now, we are running higher than we have in the past. Will be back in a couple months to discuss again.

Old Business

Public Comment

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester. There is an initiative petition being circulated, filed with the fiscal officer on the 14th of May and if there are enough signatures it will put the issue of hiring and Administrator on the ballot in November. He would like to thank the police chief for all the work he did to get the levy passed. He expressed concerns with our General Fund. Expressed greater concern over the Police Budget and that we are overspending in this area.

Marie Brooker, 103 Ash Lane Blanchester. She wanted to congratulate council on the Police Levy Passing. It took a village to get this passed. She believes our village came together as one to get this passed.

Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve minutes from the February 22, 2024.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Gebhart to approve the March 14, 2024 Bills and Reallocations.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Gebhart to approve the March 28, 2024 Bills and Reallocations.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Don Gephart reported that the finance committee had nothing to report. We asked for an extension for the Permanent Appropriations. We will be having it completed by 4/5/24.

Safety & Service – John Hill reported that they are still looking at the crosswalk at 100 S. Broadway. He would like to see us get rid of this crosswalk and the handicap ramps.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to remove the sidewalk and repair to add additional parking and alleviate traffic concerns in front of UDF. Strange and Sons will perform this work.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

The Safety committee also is looking at sidewalks in front of BP and Goldstar. Paul Daniels is looking to get Grants to perform this work as it might fall under safe sidewalks for schools.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Gebhart to further look into the possibility of Grants for this, and see if this is even possible or is this a state issue.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Cemetery Board – Tom Lee stated he has started mowing and weed eating. They are looking at getting bids to clear land in the rear of the cemetery where they could add more graves. They believe they could add 600-800 more sites.

BPA – Phase 1 of Orchard View and Orchard Circle is going out for bid at the first of April, and will be ready to be opened by the end of April.

New Business

Sherriff's department has asked us to pass Resolution 2024.003 Clinton County 911 Plan which would be used in a widespread emergency.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to pass this resolution as an emergency.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

The mayor would like to purchase the services of S & H for license and back-up for the village.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis enter into this agreement with S & H consulting for one year term.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Village Yard Sale dates have been established for 2024. The dates will be May 9, 10, 11 and September 5, 6, 7 of 2024.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to accept these dates.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – The solicitor looked in to what would we need to do to have food trucks in our area. He did do this, gave cost of what Columbus charges for their permits. He will move forward on drafting an Ordinance for any Food Truck that would like to come in to the Village. There will be special permission for Food Trucks setting up for special events.

Parks Dept – Paul Jackson reported that Saturday is the Easter Egg Hunt. Starts at 10:00-11:30, and the Girls Highschool Softball along with others are helping volunteer. The gym work is coming along very well. The flooring will start 4/11. By the end of April, we should be completed with the work. With all this rain they have been up surveying the roof above the gym. There are many places that are bad and in dire need of repair. They have a way to repair the work and protecting the gym and that cost is around \$8,000. The cost will be 50% Recreation and 50% Lands and Building.

It was moved by Mr. Park and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve these repairs.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Police – Chief Houghton nothing to discussed

Street Dept. – Paul Daniels nothing to reported

Zoning – Jeff Hurst reported that O'Reily's Auto Parts will be coming into town.

Fiscal Officer – Regina Johnson spent the last 3 days at LGOC (Local Government Official Conference) in Columbus for training. The update from Perry and Associates is that they are looking to have our Proof of Cash for 2022 completed by the end of April.

Mayor – The new Tax table from RITA has been released. These are a suggested timeline.

Mr. Reilly Hopkins discussed the opportunity to apply for the Historical Society Grant. This Grant is from 2-20K if you are awarded it. They would like to apply for this Grant to do tuck pointing on the building.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks that the meeting be adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Approved: April 11, 2024

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina Johnson

