

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 27, 2023

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on April 27, 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

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins 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

Swearing in of New Police Officer

Johnathan Petrey as Sergeant

Public Comment

James Constable – Looking at Auditors website he thought it looked like we were building a new Sewer plant for \$447,000 and asked if so, why, where would it be and what would the cost from the engineering office be for that and a start and completion date. He also noticed \$167,000 was reduced from the Parks Revenue and inquired if that had been a mistake or where it had gone. Mr. Constable also stated that he did not think that we had ever approved the December 29, 2022 meeting minutes and wanted to know why.

Janelle Fatheree – Ms. Fatheree brought up the fact that she had spoken with Mr. Hopkins and she thinks that we should do something to let the community know about the good things that the Council has done. She suggested putting summaries of our projects on the bottom of the utility bills. She spoke of a few examples of things she thinks we should put on the bills and thinks that more people would be more support of the Council. She also suggested putting up short Bios on the Council members and the projects that they are working on. She was returning to the meeting to bring attention again to the issue of cars parking along East Main Street from the 300 block from 301 to 309 blocking sight for residence who cannot see cars coming from North High Street. The loss of vision makes backing out of driveway difficult and dangerous. She discussed her conversations with the Chief regarding this issue and he had asked her if she had spoken with the Safety committee at all about the issue and she responded that she did know she needed to so she again is asking for some resolution from Council on the problem.

Elizabeth Nichols and Terri Wolfe – Having an issue with parking on Main Street in front of the Biker Consignment store. That is their only parking for customers and their only place to load and unload items for the store. There is now a tenant who is renting a place down the street who is now parking in the space directly in front of the store every day. They have reached out to this new tenant and asked her politely not to park there during store hours in which she replied she can park there any time that she wants to. They are asking Council to consider a parking sign out in front of the store stating that is for customer of the store parking only during business hours. They asked to hear back from the Mayor regarding this issue.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve minutes from the April 13, 2023 regular meeting. The December 29, 2022 meeting Minutes were also approved again due to a citizen concern that they had never been approved. But the original minutes were approved at the January 12, 2023 meeting

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. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister 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 – Mr. Gephart stated that he is doing further research on Star Ohio and that he recently found out that Port Authority has switched to Star Ohio and that Blanchester Schools are planning to do the same. He will have more information after the next finance meeting.

Safety & Service – A resident had asked about putting 25 mph signs on Columbus Ave. near Municipal building.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins that four 25 mph signs be added to the street at the discretion of the Chief and the Street Department.

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

Motion Passed

Cemetery – There was a meeting on April 26th where the committee discussed that Lakeside should be done with the trees next week. M.E.L.S. has already mowed a few times and the cemetery looks nice. They discussed the equipment that needs repair and getting the parts needed to repair them. Clearing and leveling of ground was discussed so that they can begin laying out new plots to be able to sell. The Street Department and the Parks Department are going to assist in the measuring and marking of the new plots. Carla is working on coming up with a new numbering system for the new plots in the UAN system. The discussion of putting up no Trespassing signs at the lodge and the barn where the equipment is stored so that hopefully it will keep out anyone who might get hurt.

Old Business

New Business

1. Setting of Community Yard Sale dates. The dates discussed were May 11, 12 and 13, 2023 and September 7, 8 and 9, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve proposed 2023 Community Yard Sale dates.

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

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – Not able to attend

Parks – There will be a Circus in town performing 2 shows on May 9th. There will be a 5K run on April 15th to help raise money for the 4th of July celebration. May 19th will be the first the Party in the Parks for the summer with live bands and food trucks.

Police – Chief gave an update on the police activity of the past month, calls, arrests, investigations etc. Chief said that the Drug take back day on April 22nd went very well and we will now have a drug box drop off in the Municipal Building so that people will be able to dispose of expired and unused drugs more often than just the 2 Drug Free days they put on a year. Doing mock crash at the High School on Friday May 7th the day before the Prom hoping it will help the high schoolers to think about their choices Prom night and every night.

Street – The Phase II Cherry Street should start the week of May 1st. They may be closing down the street.

Zoning – There had finally been a permit issued to Taco Bell and they have been given their ok on their sign. Still just waiting for UDF to tear down the old building so the water and sewer lines can be split from McDonalds.

Fiscal – Nothing to report

Mayor – There will be an employee meeting held on May 2nd to discuss Freshbenies a telehealth option that will be discussed with us from our insurance provider that will give you the opportunity to be able to call and talk to a Dr. on the phone instead of having to go to the office or Urgent Care. Mayor reminded Council about the dinner at the Baptist church that we were invited to on April 30th. He also discussed a Community Cleanup Day Rumpke will be supplying 2 40-yard dumpsters, one will be at the Municipal building and the other will be at the roadside park. No appliances, Drywall or tires will be permitted. Village will supply the garbage bags if needed. There is signage to be put out with information regarding this cleanup day, we could use all the help we can get. It was suggested that we reach out to the school, girl scouts and boy scouts and ask if they would like to help.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Parks made a motion to hire a Village administrator the motion failed due to lack of second.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister that the meeting be adjourned at 7:48 pm.

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

Motion Passed

Approved: 5-11-2023

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Cyndi Vonderhaar