

May 26, 2022
Regular Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Meeting in Council Chambers

Harry Brumbaugh, William Garner, Don Gephart, Reilly Hopkins, Tyler McCollister and Josh Parks were present. Council President Pro Tempore Tyler McCollister presided over the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was presented to Council with a revision.

PARKS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to approve the agenda as revised. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from May 12, 2022 were presented to Council.

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to approve minutes. All voted yea.

POLICE OFFICER CEREMONY

Mr. McCollister swore in a new officer, Jonathan Petrey and auxiliary officer Fred Hampton.

APPROVAL OF BILLS & REALLOCATIONS

GEPHART/HOPKINS: Motion to approve bills and reallocations. All voted yea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee - None

Safety & Service Committee – Mr. McCollister reported the committee had just met prior to the council meeting. The skid steer will be arriving next week. Discussion followed regarding placement of no parking signs at Cherry and Broadway, and possibly Baldwin Street.

Cemetery Board – Mr. Lee reported the board had obtained a quote to remove trees and grind stumps in the cemetery. Also discussed was ongoing mowing. In addition, the volunteer clean-up day was huge success with the Eagles providing lunch. It is estimated there were over 100 volunteers in attendance.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Angela Veazey, Government Liaison from Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) – Ms. Veazey presented the process for tax collection via their non-profit agency. Several questions were asked and answered regarding the process and what is taxable.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 2022.017 – Income Tax to support the Police Department – Second Reading

HOPKINS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to place the ordinance on its second reading. The vote was as follows: Councilmen Brumbaugh, Gephart, Hopkins and McCollister voted yea. Mr. Garner and Mr. Parks voted no.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sollman stated the Dollar General being built outside the corporation limit would have to agree to be annexed into the village. Mr. Parks asked about an employee's raise being related to an income tax. Mr. Sollman stated Mr. Barbieri is working on that matter. Mr. Hopkins inquired about the examples provided for TIFs. Mr. Sollman said he was under the impression that the village owned the parcels submitted. Unless there is a developer or owner that has an idea for a development and inquires, it is difficult to provide an example. It does not make sense to place a TIF on a property that is not going to soon be developed. It is more difficult for a village the size of Blanchester to oversee the project. Even if it had as administrator, usually an entity's economic developer that is paid full time to manage the project. Further discussion followed regarding different types of TIFs.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

There were no department reports.

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DISCUSSION – SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PLAN

Mr. Sollman referred to information he had emailed to Council providing an example from Colerain Township. He discussed O.R.C. 729.01 stating he did not see a required process, however, it makes sense to follow a maintenance program that includes a public hearing and proper notice to residents making everyone aware of the requirements. Mr. Sollman said he would research and create a process for council to consider.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, said the income tax was not needed and claimed that appropriation information received by the auditor's office was wrong.

Bob Morgan, 324 E. Baldwin Street, accused council of lying to the residents about the income tax. He stated it was not for the police department.

Jim Setty, 406 E. Main Street, cautioned the village against utilizing RITA for the income tax collection.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Approved: June 9, 2022

Mayor: John McCann

Attest: Shirley A. Tracy

