

May 12, 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. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was presented to Council.

HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to approve the agenda. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from April 28, 2022 were presented to Council.

BRUMBAUGH/PARKS: Motion to approve minutes. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS & REALLOCATIONS

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee - Mr. Gephart reported the committee met prior to tonight's council meeting. Mayor Carman recommended moving Robert Houghton and Carla Flannery from probation and giving a 1 step increase. Mr. McCollister asked where Chief Houghton was on the pay scale. Also discussed was renovation of the men's restroom which was tabled. If anyone wishes to obtain other quotes, the existing quote should be used for comparison.

GEPHART/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to remove Robert Houghton from probation and give a 2-step increase; to remove Carla Flannery from probation and give a 1 step increase. All voted yea.

Safety & Service Committee – None

Cemetery Board – Mayor Carman reported the board had met twice. A quote has been obtained with a contractor to mow the cemetery. A volunteer work day is scheduled for May 14, 2022. The day will begin at the Fraternal Order of Eagles (Eagles) location on Lazenby Street. Mr. McCollister recognized Rick Bowman for bringing his lawn mower and assisting, Katelyn Lewis assisted in the organization and Curless Printing for donating flyers for the event.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- 1) Susan Jacobs and Linda Mider from the Blanchester American Legion Auxiliary were present to promote the annual Poppy Drive on May 21, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be at the municipal building. The poppy funds are utilized solely for veterans and disabled veterans and their families. Mayor Carman read the Poppy Proclamation.
- 2) Phil Blankenship, agent of record, reviewed the health insurance usage through April, 2022. He also noted that renewal time is coming up and there will be a quote for the July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2022.015 – Direct Deposit requirement for employees and elected officials
HOPKINS/GEPHART: Motion to approve resolution. All voted yea.

Resolution 2022.016 – USDA Grant for Police Vehicles – 1st Reading
Mr. McCollister asked about the plan for vehicles and if there was a match. Mayor Carman said the village portion as a loan would be \$64,000.00. Discussion included the interest rate being fixed during the life of the loan. Also discussed was passing the resolution on an emergency. Mr. Barbieri, solicitor, recommended passing the resolution on 3 readings as this resolution is on a USDA form. Mrs. May added that the loan amount is based on a certain bond counsel fee. Any amount above the \$50,000.00 grant is the village's responsibility whether paid from current funds or rolled into the loan.

HOPKINS/PARKS: Motion to put resolution on first reading. All voted yea.

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

Mayor Carman introduced the ordinance and explained the additional expense of the cemetery and the police budget increasing. The tax will not affect social security, unemployment benefits, and retirement. A representative will attend the next meeting to explain the process of collection and cost. Mr. McCollister expressed concern over the wording. Mayor Carman stated that Blanchester is the only village in Clinton County that does not have an income tax. Mr. Gephart stated that it is important how the tax is explained. Mr. Garner stated he thought the issue should be placed on the ballot.

GEPHART/PARKS: Motion to place the ordinance on its first reading. The vote was as follows:

Councilmen Brumbaugh, Gephart, Hopkins, McCollister and Parks voted yea. Mr. Garner voted no.

Resolution 2022.018 – Consent to ODOT for project within the village

PARKS/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to approve resolution. All voted yea.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Parks – Mr. Lee reminded everyone that the first party in the park is scheduled for May 20, 2022.

Police – Chief Houghton distributed the newly designed patch for the police. He also presented plaques to Kaitlyn Lewis, Salon on Broadway and the Eagles thanked everyone for the successful fundraiser. Also, the police department received office furniture from Hamilton Township Police Department. There is now a new Facebook page for the department.

Street – Mr. Daniels reported he is still waiting on the LED bulbs for the traffic lights. Discussion followed about various locations being mowed including Fancy Street.

Zoning – Mr. Hurst reported that as of May 12th, he had issued 50 citations. There was discussion about vehicles near the former Allen Company property. Mr. Hopkins inquired about storage lockers. Mr. Hurst explained how the property is zoned. Other questions included how properties that needed mowed are handled and who was doing the mowing.

Fiscal – Mrs. May reported that the village had received a check delivered by Katelyn Lewis from the police fundraiser. The check was for \$27,022.18 and was directly deposited into the Police Operating Fund.

Mayor – Recognized Chief Houghton for all of the progress made in the police department. Council agreed. Mr. Hopkins inquired about Safe Routes To Schools project. Mayor Carman reported that work has begun. One of the residents asked about specific work being done through the right of way acquisition. The project is expected to be done before fall. Mr. Brumbaugh asked about sidewalks from the school to the library that would not be included in the project. Mayor Carman reminded council about prior discussion regarding sidewalks. Further discussion followed regarding various areas where sidewalks need to be repaired and the process to follow. The mayor repeated the Taco Bell update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, talked about the income tax. Mayor Carman stated time was up after over 5 minutes.

PARKS/GARNER: Motion to extend time by one minute. Councilmen Brumbaugh, Gephart, Hopkins and McCollister voted no. Councilmen Garner and Parks voted yea. Motion failed.

Johnson asked why the Planning Commission meeting was cancelled. He also talked about the storage units.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Approved: May 26, 2022

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: James A. May