

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 25, 2026

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session and held a regular meeting on March 25, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

Mrs. Marie Brooker	Present
Mr. Grant Coffman	Present
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Absent
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to excuse the absence of Lynn Lewis.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the agenda.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Coffman and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the minutes from March 12, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Coffman and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to approve the Bills from March 25, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Ms. Lewis

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Hopkins had nothing to report

Safety & Service – Mrs. Brooker said they had a meeting the night before, with Paul Jackson and Russ Kidd as guest as Mr. Coffman reviewed a 5-year/7-year plan on how to get local streets paved. Paul Jackson finalized the sidewalk committee and they will start identifying the sidewalks that need repair the most. Also discussed was the traffic that backs up in front of McDonalds and causes traffic delays. They are hoping to sit down with the owners to see if there is any solution to relieving the back up.

Cemetery –The mayor is working to get quotes on repairing the building that is there, and Mr. Kidd did get a quote to do work on the roads in the cemetery. That quote came in at around \$65,000. The mayor has also submitted the paperwork to have the cemetery as tax exempt. If this goes through, we should get the taxes back that we just paid.

Old Business

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to approve Ordinance 2026.009, An Ordinance levying a \$5.00 Motor Vehicle License Tax as Authorized by Section 4504.173 of the Ohio Revised Code. Second Reading

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

New Business

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve Ordinance 2026.010, An Ordinance approving the 2026 Permanent Appropriations. This is the final Reading as it was presented as an emergency under section 3., due to time constants.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the Community wide Yard Sale dates scheduled for May 7, 8, 9 and September 3, 4, & 5, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve to approve for new gutters in the back of the building and some tuck pointing not to exceed \$6,000.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

Discussion Item

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

Parks – The Parks Dept. nothing to report.

Police – Chief Houghton let us know he did receive the grant for the 2nd phase of the body worn cameras. We now have the money for this year and 90% of next year monies needed. We are still waiting to hear if we got the 2nd grant for the flock cameras, however with the government shut down it is slowing things down.

Street – The mayor reported on the work that has been going on at the culvert/guardrail going on across from the cemetery. Its turning into a bigger job due to how big the hole is.

BPA – Nothing to report

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt is working with Marie Brooker and the downtown business owner to try and come up with ways to brighten up and clean up downtown. They will be holding a meeting on April 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria to start discussing these items.

Fiscal Officer – Regina Johnson updated everyone on her trip to LGOC and the importance of getting the cybersecurity policy in place. She also announced the moving of the records room which will give more needed room to organize and keep our records.

Mayor – Mayor Carman said he is still waiting to hear back about the 2nd tornado siren.

Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Coffman and seconded by Mr. Parks to move into Executive Session at 7:05 pm

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

Present in the Executive Session was Mayor Carman, Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks. Mr. James Bowling and on the phone was Jim Barbieri.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to end the Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 7:20 pm

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mrs. Lewis

Motion Passed

No action was taken at this time.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Brooker that the meeting be adjourned at 7:21 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 4/9/26

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina Johnson