

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2026

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session and held a regular meeting on May 14, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

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

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to excuse Marie Brooker.

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

Motion Passed

Agenda

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

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

Motion Passed

Mayor John Carman read the resignation letter of Councilman John Hill effective May 1, 2026. John moved out of the Village, therefore, is no longer able to serve.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to accept Mr. Hills resignation.

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

Motion Passed

Executive Session

1. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of items under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1)
 - To consider the appointment, employment, of a public employee or official.
2. **Present in Executive Session:** Mayor Carman, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks, Solicitor and candidates to fill vacant seat on council. Those who will be

interviewed will be Ms. Nicole Ross, Ms. Stephanie Hanson, Mr. Conley Wolfe, Ms. Terra Ficke.

3. Ms. Heidi Creager and Mr. Jeff Dimario were unable to attend and therefore was not considered to fill the vacancy.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to enter Executive Session at 6:38pm.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to return to regular Council meeting from Executive Session at 7:41 pm.

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

Motion Passed

The mayor thanked all those that submitted letter of interest and went through the process. He did let them know we were only filling one seat tonight, but two seats would become vacant in 2027.

The mayor opened the floor up for nominations for the vacant council seat.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to open the nominations for the vacant seat.

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

Motion Passed

Those nominated were Terra Ficke and Stephanie Hanson.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to close the nominations for the vacant seat.

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

Motion Passed

A vote was taken by council for the vacant seat. All votes were unanimously given to Stephanie Hanson.

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

Absent – Marie Brooker

Motion Passed

Ms. Stephanie Hanson was then sworn into office my mayor Carman, and she officially assumed her duties as the newly appointed council member.

Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the minutes April 23, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Nay – None

Absent – Marie Brooker

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the Bills/Reallocations from May 14, 2026.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Nay – None

Absent – Marie Brooker

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

The mayor submitted to make the following committee changes due to the resignation of Mr. John Hill and the swearing in of Ms. Stephanie Hanson.

The mayor would like to move Mr. Grant Coffman to finance to fill Mr. John Hills spot. It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Ms. Lewis to approve the change.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Coffman, Ms. Hanson, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Nay – None

Absent – Marie Brooker

Motion Passed

Finance Committee –

Mr. Hopkins discussed the presentation given by Mr. Coffman on his plan on how to start getting streets repaved. The plan would be contingent upon being able to secure grants and financing.

Mr. Hopkins brought to council the following items that were approved during the finance meeting.

To give Jude Huston a step raise from Step C (\$16.75) to Step D (\$17.50), Jerrod Mandelstein a step raise from Step A (\$15.00) to Step B (\$15.90) and William Stevenson a step raise from Step C (\$16.75) to Step D (\$17.50) effective May 31, 2026.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve the step raises

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

Motion Passed

It was brought to council to approve the handrail installation at the main entrance to the municipal building for a cost of \$3,700.00.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the installation.

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

Motion Passed

To give Russell Kidd a step raise from Step B (\$2,060.00) to Step C (\$2,121.80) and remove him from probation effective May 31, 2026.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the step raises

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

Motion Passed

Mr. Hopkins discussed the survey that the fiscal officer discussed about putting on the website for the cemetery. This will be done withing the next week.

Safety & Service –

The mayor would like to move Ms. Stephanie Hanson to the Safety Committee to fill Mr. Grant Coffman's seat. It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the change.

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

Motion Passed

Cemetery – Nothing to report

Old Business

Cybersecurity training for all employees and elected officials is in place and needs to be completed by June 1, 2026.

New Business

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins that Ordinance 2026.013 – A Resolution Declaring It Necessary to levy a Tax in excess of the Ten Mill Limitation. (Cemetery). First Reading

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

Motion Passed

Discussion Item - none

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

Parks – The Parks Dept. reported that the Cruise through the decades has been postponed until October due to the weather.

Police – The Chief reviewed the monthly police department report for April. They had active aggressor training at the school, had the Havercamp 5K run, had the chemical spill training along with the first training flight of the drone, drug take back day was done at Kroger, we had the color run, click it for coney and cones and had the home schoolers do a tour. They also have cones for cops coming up.

Street – Nothing to report

BPA – Reminded everyone that the next BPA Board meeting is 5/21/26 at 6:30.

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt will be moving from full-time to part-time. The mayor showed the mural that will be going on the side of the Broadway Grill in town to celebrate America's 250 years. They also received an application to rezone the area where CCP1 is at currently, and to move it from an I-1 to an I-2. A public meeting will be held at 6:10 on 6/11/26 for this rezoning.

Fiscal Officer – Nothing to report.

Mayor – Nothing to report.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Coffman that the meeting be adjourned at 8:37 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: Regina Johnson

Mayor: John M. Cannon
Attest: 6/1/26