

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 12, 2026

The Village of Blancheater Council met in regular session and held a regular meeting on March 12, 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	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

Agenda

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

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

Motion Passed

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the minutes from February, 26, 2026.

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

Motion Passed

Approval of Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the Bills/Reallocations from March 12, 2026.

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

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Hopkins brought to council for approval two new hires. The first was a part time position for the Street Department. This would be for a provisional/part-time employee starting out at step A.

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

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

Motion Passed

The second part time position was for the Parks Department. This would be for a provisional/part-time employee starting out at Step C.

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

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

Motion Passed

Mr. Hopkins also discussed options for the cemetery. He would like the Cemetery Board to look into either selling the parcel where the current unused building sits so we could use the money for resurfacing, or either remodel the building and rent it out. Cemetery has an upcoming board meeting on the 26th so they will discuss it then.

Safety & Service – Mrs. Brooker asked the mayor to give an update on the tornado sirens. The mayor advised that we did receive one \$20,000 grant to purchase one. With the \$20,000 grant, \$5,000 from the Blanchester School, and hopefully another \$5,000 from a local business the Village would only be responsible for a little over \$8,166. This siren will go up at the High School. He also stated he applied for a second grant through Legacy to purchase one to be put up at Veterans Park, but we have not heard anything back on that one yet.

Cemetery –Nothing to report.

Old Business

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve Ordinance 2026.007, An Ordinance Imposing a Moratorium on the Authorization or Establishment of Computer Data Centers within the Village of Blanchester. This is the third and final Reading. Prior to the vote there was final discussion on the topic. The mayor was asked his opinion on the Data Centers coming into the Village. The mayor remained behind his stance, that he doesn't want to shut down the opportunity to bring in new business, and would still be open to having discussions with them and what they could do for the Village instead of just flatly turning them away. He also stated that as of right now, our electric grid could not handle the needs of a Data Center. Mr. Coffman spoke about the webinar he had attended on Data Centers and felt in was just a show because of how they skirted around questions being asked and felt they were being evasive to the questions the attendees were asking. Mr. Parks expressed his concerns on where they would be getting their energy from.

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

Motion Passed

New Business

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Coffman 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. This is the first Reading.

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

Motion Passed

Discussion Item

Department Reports

Solicitor – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

Parks – The Parks Dept. wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.

Police – Nothing to report

Street – Russ Kidd came to council to ask that Bill Stevenson be removed from probation. It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Brooker to approve his removal from probation.

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

Motion Passed

BPA – Nothing to report

Zoning/Maintenance – Chris Hilderbrandt was not present, but the mayor reported that they had a contractor come to look at area’s where we had water issues in the building. We are getting a quote for new gutter and tuck pointing on the back wall.

Fiscal Officer – Regina Johnson had nothing to report.

Mayor – Mayor Carman had nothing to report

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Brooker that the meeting be adjourned at 7:12 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 3/25/26
Mayor: John M. Carman
Attest: Regina Johnson

