

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 25, 2023

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on May 25, 2023 at 7:05 p.m. with the honorable Mr. John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

All Present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and had Opening Prayer

Roll Call	Mr. Harry Brumbaugh	Present
	Mr. William Garner	Absent
	Mr. Don Gephart	Present
	Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
	Mr. Tyler McCollister	Present
	Mr. Josh Parks	Absent

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to excuse Mr. Garner from the meeting. Mr. Parks was not excused.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve agenda.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Public Comment

James Constable – Mr. Constable presented the Board with a petition to hire a Village Administrator, he is getting signatures for it to be put on the November Ballot. Mr. Constable discussed that hiring an Administrator would not do away with the BPA employees, just the BPA Board. The Administrator would oversee spending and hopefully stop some of the wasteful spending that has been done, for example the \$23,000 bathroom and the trip to Washington. The Administrator would oversee Revenue and the Budget.

Guest Speaker

Phil Blankenship discussed our Health Insurance expenses and where we are on the year for spending. He also stated that he would be back in July to discuss renewal of our insurance plan. EBS is gathering information for the renewal. The meeting with the employees regarding Freshbenies went well and the employees all seemed positive about the program. The Mayor

stated he had heard all positive things about the meeting and asked the Council if they wanted to move forward with the program.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve going forward with the Freshbenies program.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister
Nay – None
Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

David Gardner – Spoke to the Council about possible ways the Village could make money by holding events or possibly renting out rooms for people traveling to see the total Eclipse that will take place on April 8th 2024.

Poppy Flower Proclamation

Susan Jacobs from the Women’s American Legion Auxiliary #179 spoke about Poppy sales, where they would be available, and that you can get one for any donation no matter what the amount of the donation is. The Mayor read the Poppy Flower Proclamation and declared Saturday May 27th, 2023 Poppy Day to honor all of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their Country.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Brumbaugh to approve minutes from the May 11, 2023 regular meeting.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister
Nay – None
Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks

Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. McCollister to approve Bills and Reallocations.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister
Nay – None
Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Gephart asked about the paperwork for Star Ohio and the Mayor said that he would get that taken care of right away.

Safety & Service – Nothing to report

Cemetery – Nothing to report

Old Business

1. Income Tax Ordinance 2023.006

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. McCollister to enact the Income Tax Ordinance 2023.006 as of September 1, 2023, as an Emergency necessary to help support the Police Department for the safety of the Village of Blanchester and it's the Citizens.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins
 Nay – Mr. McCollister
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks

New Business

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to Report

Parks – The Circus brought in \$3,000, and the Party in the Park was a success with a good turnout, the next one is in June. Mr. Hopkins asked about lighting for the basketball courts for the kids who come to play basketball, and was told that the BPA put a new light up a short time ago that stays on 24 hours a day. Mr. Gephart thanked the Parks for the new basketball nets.

Police – Keep Chief in your prayers for healing.

Street – The milling of Cherry Street, Grove, Brown and High. Then hope to back to pave by June 5th.

Zoning – Jeff and the Mayor signed the Mylar for the Taco Bell lots to be combine into one. The permits have been signed for the Taco Bell sign. Taco Bell is finally signing papers on June 6th to take over the property. After that UDF will come in and flatten the building and hopefully we will start seeing progress.

Fiscal – Nothing to report

Mayor – The Legacy Grant application and letter have been done for the Gym renovation. There was only one bid submitted it was for \$149,682.81. The request for the Grant is \$120,000 with an additional \$15,000 from both the Village and the Parks added. We are hoping to get as much as we can through the Grant. The project can be done in phases, and some of the work could be done by us to lower some of the cost, the most important thing is to make it safe, and then go from there.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Brumbaugh, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. McCollister
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner, Mr. Parks

Approved: June 8, 2023

Mayor: John M. Carman

Attest: Cynthia J. Vonderhaar