

03/11/2021

Regular Council Meeting

7:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom teleconference and streamed live on the Village of Blanchester Facebook page

Gary Bauer, Harry Brumbaugh, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, Reilly Hopkins, and Richard Simpson were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor requested one addition: *8. Old Business: B. Police Officer Recruitment.* Reilly requested adding the topic of the guest speakers under Old Business: *8. Old Business: C. Parking Lot Project Discussion.*

**BAUER/HOLLON: Motion to accept agenda with proposed additions. All voted yea.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from 02/25/2021 meeting were presented to Council.

**BRUMBAUGH/SIMPSON: Motion to approve minutes from 02/25/2021 meeting as presented. All voted yea.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS/ADJUSTMENTS**

Bills and adjustments were presented to Council.

**ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS**  
**PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 03/11/2021**

FUND/DEPT	UAN ACCT #	FUND
LANDS/BUILDINGS CONTRACTUAL	1000-730-300	\$1,500.00
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND</b>		<b>\$1,500.00</b>
DRUG FINE TRUST CONTRACTUAL	2091-110-300	\$500.00
DRUG FINE TRUST SUPPLIES	2091-110-420	(\$500.00)
WATER CONTRACTUAL	5101-531-300	\$500.00
SEWER CONTRACTUAL	5201-541-300	\$500.00
ELECTRIC CONTRACTUAL (LANDS/BLDGs)	5301-519-319-0010	\$500.00
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS SIDEWALKS RENTS/LEASES	4912-670-330	\$5,158.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>		<b>\$6,658.00</b>
<b>TOTAL GEN FUND+OTHER</b>		<b>\$8,158.00</b>

**HOLLON/HOPKINS: Motion to approve bills/adjustments as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Mayor introduced Ron Johnson and Robert Richman, Blanchester business owners. Ron voiced he didn't see any reason to shut the parking lot down for proposed Parking Lot Project or spend "that kind of money for a small park". Robert (owner of Blanchester Jewelry/Collectables) stated he had forwarded some photos to Council show that the street parking was almost completely full during a time that was typically not busy. Robert announced that when Broadway Street was repaved there was already one handicap parking spot lost. He expressed concerns and shared stories from customers regarding not having enough parking downtown without shutting down the remaining parking for a proposed park. He proposed there would be businesses lost with the prospect of removing existing parking downtown.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Reilly stated there was a failure to have a quorum and therefore Safety/Service Committee was unable to execute meeting.

Chad briefed that at the most recent meeting, the Finance Committee had agreed to make the recommendation to Council to table the Parking Lot Project until 2022 and discussions had taken place regarding how to best fund a possible maintenance personnel or hire certain maintenance building assignments out to contractors.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor reintroduced Resolution 2021.007. He reminded Council this particular resolution had been tabled until this meeting for adoption to allow Council to review the plan outlined by the county in detail.

**HOLLON/BRUMBAUGH: Motion to adopt Resolution 2021.007, Approving the Adoption of the Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan, February 2021. Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Chief Reinbolt shared he and Katie had drafted a few proposal options attempting to retain Police Department personnel longer term. Katie reviewed each proposal in detail: 1) Village paying monthly student loan payments on the officer's behalf for as long as the officer is employed; 2) Training reimbursement plan with one-time payment after 24 months; 3) hourly pay increase plan (Wilmington's pay scale was proposed as an reference point). Katie offered insight and pros/cons to each proposed plan, and speculated that Option 1 would most likely be the most complex for the Village. Chief restated the urgency of the problem with lack of personnel, and only one applicant currently. Reilly said Safety/Service Committee had been supportive of option 2 for some time. Chief speculated that the Village could possibly be on the cutting edge of this proposal if passed. Don asked if option 1 could possibly be considered on a sliding or graduating scale. Katie speculated this may create contractual problems within the department personnel with different contractual incentive amounts. Harry confirmed he would like to see option 3 discussed for future consideration and if an earnings tax were proposed, public meetings to better inform the residents. Chief confirmed option 2 could be currently paid by the PD's 2021 budget.

**HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to allow Chief to implement option 2 Training reimbursement plan for retaining officers (reimburse 50% of officer's cost of basic certification training after 24 months of employment, up to \$3,500). Roll call was made. All voted yea.**

Chief offered an opinion in light of a maintenance personnel discussion; he would like to see Council look into possibly constructing a new modular Municipal Building for approximately the same cost of proposed maintenance personnel.

Reilly thanked Ron and Robert for joining the Council meeting to speak on the subject of the proposed Parking Lot Project. Reilly agreed that he had noticed there was an increase in parking downtown particularly on the street. He listed several ideas for parking and handicap parking spots. He reiterated the idea of food trucks to come into town to offer more options in Blanchester. Gary recommended the Roadside Rest Area for a food truck location as a way to eliminate the reduction of downtown parking. Reilly expressed concern with the Roadside Rest Area possibly being repossessed by the state. Tom suggested doing an experiment of placing a food truck in Dewey Parking Lot before starting to spend Village money. Reilly said he was open to the experiment if Parks would agree to coordinate proposed experiment. Tom affirmed that the Roadside Rest Area had been recently deeded to Blanchester, so it would not be repossessed by the state as proposed. Discussion took place regarding ideas to test this proposal. Harry proposed waiting until after UDF was completely built and operating and also proposed using the UDF lot (area where old building used to be). Don said he would like to see the food trucks to be placed downtown to bring additional shoppers to the downtown area. Chad stated to shut down the middle of downtown is virtually impossible since the location is 2 state highways. He also mentioned handicap areas on the side of the street would not be conducive to trying to get wheelchairs and such out of a car with passing traffic. Robert Richman observed you couldn't shut down the roads if the intent was to get shoppers to walk to the businesses. Robert also noted while UDF is being constructed, all of the previous Save-A-Lot parking has been moved temporarily to the street limiting parking downtown. Reilly offered to reach out to Lebanon to see how their downtown area is allowed to shut down a

state route every Friday. Dick recommended taking more time to look into all of the presentations and arguments before making any final decisions on the matter. Harry proposed getting the cooperation from all involved if project was to move any further (i.e., business owners, Parks Department, Council, etc.).

**HOPKINS/SIMPSON: Motion to table discussion until next Council meeting. All voted yea.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor introduced Resolution 2021.008 to Council. Mayor affirmed the proposed advance would be used to pay property owner easements which would thereafter be reimbursed by ODOT.

**HOLLON/BAUER: Motion to adopt Resolution 2021.008, Declaring it Necessary to Advance \$5,158.00 to the Safe Routes to School Project Fund (4912) from the General Fund (1000) as presented. Roll call was made. BAUER, GEPHART, HOLLON, HOPKINS - YEA; BRUMBAUGH-ABSTAIN/SIMPSON-NO. Motion passed.**

**SOLICITOR**

None.

**FISCAL OFFICE**

None.

**MAYOR**

None.

**HOPKINS/: Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.**

Approved: March 25, 2021

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

*John M. Carran*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Shelbi Corbett*

