

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
January 8, 2026

The Village of Blancheater Council met in regular session and held a regular meeting on January 8, 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 to remove item #11 public comment from the agenda and then approve it and it was seconded by Mrs. Brooker to approve the agenda with that amendment. Mr. Parks raised his concern with removing it. The solicitor stated that the current Resolution only states "Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business". If it is not on the agenda then we do not have to allow it.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to remove public comments.

Vote: Yea – Mrs. Brooker, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis  
Nay – Mr. Coffman, Mr. Parks

**Motion Passed**

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

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

**Motion Passed**

**Minutes**

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Coffman to approve the minutes from December, 29 2025.

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 Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to approve the Bills/Reallocations from January 8, 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 had discussed that Police Chief Houghton had brought to them the need to get Credit Cards for gas for each of the cruisers. Each cruiser will have their own credit card; which will remain in vehicle and secured.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to allow the chief to move forward with the credit cards for all cruisers.

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

### **Motion Passed**

**Safety & Service** – They are working on dates for this year and will have the dates by next meeting.

**Cemetery** –Nothing to report.

## **Old Business**

The Solicitor gave his opinion on allowing Russel Kidd remain on the Park Board, now that he will be the Street Department supervisor. He found no legal reason why he can not do both. It was decided that Mr. Kidd can hold both positions since there is no conflict of interest in the two positions.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve Mr. Kidd to reinstate him to the Park Board.

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

### **Motion Passed**

The continued discussion around Public Comments during Regular Council Meetings were discussed again. It was decided to move forward with eliminating them from Regular Council Meetings and move to having a “Town Hall” meeting quarterly. The solicitor will put together an outline to hold Town Hall meetings.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to allow the solicitor to amend Resolution 2017.019 regarding public comments/town hall meetings.

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

### **Motion Passed**

## **New Business**

Council's appointment of President pro temper of the legislative authority; Per ORC Section 731.10 "At the first meeting in January of each year, the legislative authority of a village shall immediately proceed to elect a president pro tempore from its own number, who shall serve until the first meeting in January next after his election." The floor was opened for nominations; the only nomination was for Mr. Reilly Hopkins. By a show of hands Mr. Hopkins was unanimously appointed President pro temper for 2026.

Resolution 2026.001 – A Resolution Establishing Limits and Setting Amounts for the Fiscal Officer to Follow for Accounting Purposes for Fiscal Year 2026 was brought forward. Changes from the previous year were discussed. Adding EBS and BWC to monthly recurring bills. In accordance with the BPA Board's recommendation, the certification amount for Class I through Class III shall be increased by \$25.00 within the BPA pay scale.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to adopt Resolution 2026.001 as an emergency per Section 3.

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

### **Motion Passed**

Resolution 2026.002 – A Resolution Declaring it necessary to renew the Levy Tax in Excess of the Ten Mill Limitation and Declaring it an Emergency.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Brooker to adopt Resolution 2026.002.

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

### **Motion Passed**

## **Department Reports**

**Solicitor** – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

**Parks** – The Parks Dept. had nothing to report.

**Police** – The chief reviewed some numbers on what they have accomplished this year. He is still working on the final year-end report. He discussed the results of shop with a cop that happened in December. They participated in the Christmas Parade as well as the Special Olympics basketball game. They were involved in the Glen Thompson memorial food drive event again this year and it was a good event.

**Street** – Nothing to report.

**BPA** – Nothing to report.

**Zoning/Maintenance** – Chris Hilderbrandt nothing to report.

**Fiscal Officer** – Regina Johnson reported that the audit is still going on.

**Mayor** – The mayor reviewed a Code of Ethics for Village Council that Mrs. Brooker brought forward. There was discussion if it was legal and if council would sign it. It was tabled at this time.

**Discussion Item**

Mr. Coffman had asked to discuss DATA centers as he believes they would not be good for Blanchester. Mr. Coffman reviewed data he had as to why he felt this way. He believes they would put too much a strain on the electric infrastructure and that even with the new substation that it would still not be enough to handle what they would need. There was discussion from Mr. Hopkins in saying he would want to hear what they could provide before making a decision.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins that the meeting be adjourned at 7:38 PM. All agreed to adjourn.

Approved: 1-8-26

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina Johnson